



Dear Parent/Guardian

Follow the Dream, Newman is an initiative of BHP, the Department of Education and the Graham (Polly) Farmer Foundation. It is designed to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to succeed in their education so they may achieve the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) and compete effectively for employment, apprenticeships and traineeships with local industry or progress to tertiary study.

The program caters for students from year 7 to year 12 with preference/priority given according to year level from the highest to lowest. There are limited places available therefore strict commitment criteria apply. These criteria are outlined below. If program obligations are able to be fulfilled, then an application is strongly encouraged.

The program offers the following support:

- The use of an Enrichment Centre where students can complete their homework and increase their skills with the assistance of a range of resources
- Provision of tutors to support students
- Access to role models and extra-curricular workshops
- The establishment of links between the community and schools
- Career guidance and pathway mapping
- Excursions and camps

All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students may apply, with the final selection of students being based on the following criteria:

- ✓ Potential to succeed at school (previous reports and teacher feedback)
- ✓ Student's commitment to own education (achievement and initiatives)
- ✓ Regular attendance at school (at least 80%)
- ✓ Family support and commitment to the program
- ✓ Potential to be a positive role model to peers

If you would like to be considered for inclusion in this program, please complete the attached application forms and address to **Mrs Debbie Douglass** through **the Front Office of your school**.

If the written application is successful, then the next stage of the selection process is an interview with the panel. You will be notified of a time and venue for that interview and it would be an expectation that a parent/guardian accompany the applicant. The Compact Agreement for the program will be explained in detail at the interview. Successful students and parents will have to understand and meet the obligations and conditions of the Compact Agreement to participate in the program.

If you have any questions, or you require assistance with this process then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs Debbie Douglass  
Program Coordinator  
Follow the Dream  
Newman Senior High School

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## Education Support and Enrichment Program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander School Students Background



The Newman Follow the Dream has been providing educational support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in the Newman area since 2003. This initiative was developed through a partnership with Graham [Polly] Farmer Foundation, BHP, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, government departments, Department of Education and local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members.

The goal of the program is to provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with educational support and other opportunities. This support is intended to assist them to achieving educational outcomes that are in line with other students in the state. It also provides support to lead to them acquiring the skills and knowledge needed to achieve their long term aspirations such as university entry, apprenticeships and other career options.

### About Our Project

At the Enrichment Centre students are provided with tutors to provide assistance with homework, extension work and support for topics being covered in class. The centre also provides specialist programs in study skills, online learning, computer skills, careers information and guidance, skills such as application writing and interview techniques, university information on courses and scholarships and information regarding health, nutrition and well-being. Students have the opportunity to participate in educational and engaging camps.

The Newman Follow the Dream also encourages parent/caregiver and community involvement throughout the year through events such as camps, celebrations and committees. Teaching staff from all schools in Newman assist by providing regular progress reports for individual students, including reference to academic performance and behaviour. Most tutors are qualified teachers and all have valuable expertise and knowledge.

While participating in the Follow the Dream students are required to attend the centre a minimum of two afternoons a week after school. The students are provided with afternoon tea, access to a variety of technologies including computers and transport home from the Enrichment Centre at the end of each day.

### Principal Sponsor

**BHP** is the principal Corporate Funding sponsor of the project.

In 2000, BHP Billion Iron Ore completed an internal review of its Aboriginal Affairs Program and specifically looked for areas where they could improve their performance. A key element of the review involved consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, Aboriginal groups and organisations, Government agencies and education providers within the region of BHP operations. As a result of this consultation and review, BHP's Investment in Aboriginal Relationships program was developed. The investigation and implementation of this education partnership is part of the education-based strategy inherent in the Relationship Program.



Proudly supported by

# BHP

# Application Form



1. *Personal details:*

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Male/Female**

**Current School:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year Level:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Achievements** – Academic/Sporting/Art/Other (Please enclose copies of evidence where possible e.g. certificates, reports etc)

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**Hobbies/Interests:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Out of School Commitments:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Education Goal:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Career Goals (if known):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Parent/Guardian Support

Please *tick* the appropriate boxes below to indicate the support you could provide for your student if he/she is selected to participate in the Program.

- Make sure she/he attends school each day.
- Show an interest in her/his progress at school and encourage her/him to succeed at school.
- Attend meetings of participants' parents.
- Provide a quiet place at home where she/he can do homework and study.
- Allow the Program Coordinator to access the student's school records.

**Name of Parent/Guardian:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Parent/Guardian:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_