

FC2.5 Program Sustainability

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Purpose of Partnerships

- To improve access to resources – being in a partnership is a key criterion for many funding applications
- To develop flexible, creative responses to needs identified by the community using the strengths of partners
- Improved service and working efficiencies
- Promotion of a shared responsibility and sustainability

Principles of Practice

- Define the purpose of the partnership.
- Articulate the outcomes that are needed for the partnership to be a success through an MOU.
- Allow organisations to each operate in their areas of strength.
- Clear, consistent communication is a must.
- Allocate time for the work needed to maintain a partnership.
- Trust in each other
- Respect for each other
- Seek partners with complimentary strengths
- Start with the end in mind - sustainability

Risk Management

- Rigorous evaluation of the desired outcomes
- Regular “Health Checks” of the partnership
- Document operational aspects of partnerships.
- Acknowledge that effective partnerships take time to build – allow this time
- Address issues of sustainability in developing MOU’s

Benefits

- Sharing of resources and responsibility “it takes a whole village to raise a child”
- Multidisciplinary/cross agency approach to addressing complex issues and needs
- Endorsement of funding applications
- Increases community capacity building
- Targeted approach to addressing issues
- Outcomes are more achievable
- Learning from successful partnerships is able to inform policy for systemic change

Learnings in partnerships

- Clusters of schools** need to actively engaged in partnerships to establish robust regional programs
- Support is required from all levels of the Education Department to affect the desired **local change**
- Partnerships need to establish and adhere to **contracts/MOU's** to ensure that there is shared responsibility in achieving the desired objectives
- Schools working in partnerships **across agencies** are better able to support the health and well-being needs of students.
- **Detailed contracts** with key stakeholders promotes respectful and honoured mutual obligations required to achieve positive outcomes
- Programs that start with the '**money in mind**' and not the 'end in mind' struggle to achieve their agreed objectives
- **Joint funding/cross agency** (plus in kind) arrangements need to be detailed and engaged in in good faith of the agreed objectives to maintain and develop long lasting partnerships
- All funding partnerships with local, state and federal funding bodies require **rigorous reporting and accountability**
- Partnerships with community facilitates **flexibility and diversity** in supporting young people develop their unique pathways