Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural & Development Centre

Our Vision

Boys to Men – Learning to Live Their Dream
Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural & Development Centre

- 24hr voluntary residential program
- Houses 14 participants
- Program operates four terms a year
- Targets 12 – 15 year old Aboriginal males
- Targets “low” to “medium” risk participants
- Located in the Riverina area between Darlington Point and Coleambally, 40ks south of Griffith.
For over a decade, the local community had lobbied their ATSIC Regional Council representatives for the establishment of a Centre where young people could be taught that there is an alternative in life to the justice system. Successive Regional Council lobbied various governments for the funds to establish the Centre.
Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre opened in January 2006. It is an Aboriginal community managed centre, running a culturally-based residential program aimed at reducing future contact with the criminal justice system by strengthening the boys’ cultural identity, self-esteem and resilience.
Philosophy – Promoting resilience

- The Tirkandi Inaburra philosophy aims to empower Aboriginal youth to develop and draw on their own resilience in order to take responsibility for their own lives, develop strategies to deal with their problems and minimise the risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system. The promotion of cultural pride, self-identity and self-confidence in Aboriginal youth is seen as central to the development of resilient young men.
Resilience

The program constantly promotes resilience, by rewarding good choices and having consequences for poor choices. Tirkandi aims to help identify internal or external risk factors that they may face. These risk factors may include family, friends, community, education, health, drugs & alcohol, peer pressure, relationships, violence, grief loss and trauma.
Resilience

These strategies we teach include enhancing communication skills, negotiation skills, conflict management skills and anger management skills. Our case management begins from initial intake through to exit.
Guiding Principles

At Tirkandi we value & promote:

• strong relationships between Aboriginal elders and youths
• strong relationships between participants and other mentors &/or community members
• cultural relevance and involvement of elders
Guiding Principles cont.

- a safe, secure and challenging environment for young people
- active engagement of families / carers, schools and communities
- responsiveness to youth and community needs
- equity of access across communities in the catchment area
Guiding Principles cont.

• working in partnership with other government and non-government agencies such as DET, Community Services, Police, Aboriginal Land Councils and Community members

• empowerment of participants to return to their communities with goals and dreams
Expected outcomes

- to promote cultural pride, identity, sense of belonging and self-confidence in Aboriginal youth
- to keep Aboriginal youth from coming into contact with the Criminal Justice System.
- to develop the resilience of Aboriginal youth
- to empower participants to return to their school or communities and succeed
Expected outcomes

• to link participants and their carers to community based services and networks

• to develop and promote the education, training and employment potential of Aboriginal youth

• to empower Aboriginal youth to draw on their resilience in order to take responsibility for their own lives.
Tirkandi Catchment
Who can use Tirkandi

- 12-15 year old Aboriginal boys
- First offenders/non-serious offenders
- Boys who are ready to make the ‘shift’ Boys who live within the catchment area
- Boys who are dropping out/have dropped out of school/have a history of suspension from school
- Boys coming to the notice of police/involved in conferencing/making their first court appearance
- Boys who have support from either their family, community, or sponsoring agency
- They have to be currently enrolled in a school
Who cannot use Tirkandi

- Girls
- Non Indigenous males
- Repeat offenders/Serious offenders
- Boys with serious mental health problems
- Boys that are not enrolled with any school.
- Court referrals
The program has 4 core learning areas

1. cultural activities to promote cultural pride and identity and self-confidence which is essential to our participants becoming resilient young men.

2. sport and recreational activities designed to build self confidence and self esteem

3. life and living skills which encompasses activities designed to increase a participant’s emotional intelligence and thus his ability to better manage his own behaviors and to look after himself – i.e. to cook, clean, wash, and iron

4. school based education with a focus on numeracy and literature
Cultural Programs

- Aboriginal History
- Aboriginal Art and Mosaics
- Aboriginal Woodwork, Jewellery, Leatherwork
- Didgeridoo Playing
- Aboriginal Dance
- Aboriginal Language
- Men's Group
Sport & Recreation

- Swimming, Camping, Fishing and Boating
- Physical Fitness, Basketball, Football
- Rock Climbing and Abseiling,
- Horse Riding, BMX Bike Riding,
- Skate Boarding, Archery, Cricket, T-Ball, Pool,
- Table Tennis, Foosball,
- Guitars, Drums and Keyboard
- Board Games and Puzzles
Life & Living Skills

- Personal Planning and Goal Setting
  - Behavior Management
  - Awareness of unacceptable behaviors
  - Strategies for self control
  - Awareness of forms of assault and offensive behaviors
  - Self advocacy
- Cooking, Cleaning, Ironing, Washing, Personal hygiene
- Personal grooming,
Tirkandi Inaburra operates in partnership with the NSW Dept of Education. The participants are temporarily enrolled with Coleambally Central School for the term. The teaching staff consists of three teachers and two teachers aids. Subjects studied include but are not limited to:
Education cont.

- Numeracy
- Literacy
- Aboriginal History
- Science
- Geography
- Music

- Vocational Training
- Work Experience
In August 2008 monitoring of past participants suggests that, in the years following their time in the program, between 72 and 93 per cent of graduates remain in either full time school or full time study.
Deloittes Review Results

- Average cost per participant when Tirkandi is at capacity is $40,000.
- Figures in 2008 by NSW Department of Juvenile Justice indicated it costs between $278,860 to $298,935 per annum to supervise a young person in juvenile detention.
Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural & Development Centre

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