

## **TOPIC: IMPROVING SCHOOLS WITH PARTNERSHIPS**

### DESCRIPTION

Most schools have many relationships and collaborations with external businesses, organisations and associations. However, most schools have no or minimal formal partnerships with external groups. While many external groups welcome opportunities to support local schools, they also complain of being used and discarded quickly, with minimal opportunity to actually partner with the school to help teachers and students.

Partnerships that ultimately help students with their learning and develop their capacity to be responsible citizens within the community, need to be encouraged from both sides the school fence.

Improving Schools Australia can help school leadership teams to form and document their own processes for establishing purposeful and formal partnerships or identify potential partnerships that will help student achievement. We enjoy being the school-community bridge that saves time for school leaders.

### AREAS OF FOCUS

#### PARTNERSHIP PLANNING WITH THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Too often partnership planning is ad hoc, reactive and fragile. A more professional approach is required.

We all know that school leadership teams are stretched for time and that many on that team may not have the experience or skills to formalise partnerships with groups in the community. If school leadership teams want sustainable community partnerships, Improving Schools Australia can help.

#### PARTNERSHIP PLANNING WITH THE SCHOOL PARENTS AND CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

A Schools Parents and Citizens' Committee is a group of hardworking volunteers. Well-intentioned they work tirelessly for the benefit of the school, and ultimately the students within the school. Many P&C's do not have the time or skill set to identify, develop and sustain local partnerships with the range of businesses, organisations and associations that may want to support the local school in a formal partnership.

#### PARTNERSHIP EVALUATION AND REVIEW

All partnership must be developed with clear goals, actions and activities in mind. Partnership documentation needs to be built collaboratively. Essential in any discussion is a focus on sustainability, the need for adequate resourcing, a commitment to the partnership and its regular review, for the purposes of continuous improvement. Improving Schools Australia can manage this process on behalf of school or parent groups, and external entities.

### OPTIONS

Improving Schools Australia offers support in this topic through:

- Staff professional development days/sessions; Leadership team workshops; Individual and group mentoring; Parent seminars
- Cross faculty or faculty specific partnership

### FEE

Fees are determined based on preparation, travel, pre and post support involvement and resource provision.