

# What Works to support Indigenous boarding students



## COMMUNITY VISITS CHECKLIST

Visiting students in community serves many purposes, including relationship building and introducing host school staff members to life in community. A regular presence in community helps build healthy and trustful relationships between the host school, families and the local school.

Having a presence in communities helps to build a sense of recognition and familiarity. They demonstrate an honest interest in the students, their families, and their cultures.

The more interactions communities have with representatives of a host school, the more families will know about the boarding school, the process involved and help build trust within the community.

### What to do in Community

The following is a non-exhaustive list of activities or tasks that host schools should complete while visiting community.

- Before visiting be aware of, and comply with, community protocols.
- Give notice to community of the proposed dates of visit.
- Book accommodation in community if available.
- Staff should not bring alcohol into a dry community for any reason
- Take the time to visit the families of existing students.
- Meet community elders.
- Meet NGOs, transition support units and other agencies working in community.
- Meet the families of prospective students.
- Discuss expectations of boarding.
- Visit community school.
- Talk to current teachers for new students.
- Talk to the principal.
- Talk to other members of the community.
- Bring all interested parties together to talk.
- Answer questions and any other concerns that students and families may have.
- Share important information.
- Observe the students' sociability.
- Discuss any trauma backgrounds, behavioural issues, special needs.
- Help with new student applications for boarding school, scholarships, ABSTUDY.
- Discuss the boarding process – where to from here.
- Ask questions and be open to learning more about the community and their culture.
- Participate in community activities where possible/appropriate.