

Driving students to want to finish school

Codi – Student – SEDA College SA

Pilot 1 - December 2022

Codi is a Narangga and Wirangu, student at SEDA College SA, a pilot school involved in the Recognition of Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge and Learning project in semester 2, 2022.

When asked about any impact the project might have had, Codi recognised a change in school participation: "I think the attitude towards coming to school has changed since the project. I have personally spoken to some young Aboriginal girls in the netball class about it and they've definitely been keen on [the recognition project]. I think it's definitely a way to lift Indigenous participation in schools. There's a few people in my class in particular who don't usually come in, but at the end of the year I did notice there was an increase."

Whilst Codi believes her school already had a strong sense of community, she explained how the school approached learning differently: "The school definitely took a different approach to how they looked at learning, which is actually really interesting because SEDA College generally is a different learning school so for them to go 'there's *another* set of learning we can incorporate into our classrooms' is really exciting. I also spoke to some teachers who are keen on getting more cultural learning in the classroom generally not just for Aboriginal students but for non-Aboriginal students as well."

And for the families involved, Codi believes it comes down to supporting students achieve their goals: "I think a lot of the families are just keen for anything to help their kids get over the line or succeed. I know a lot of Indigenous families are always keen for their kids to have cultural learning in their life and for it be included in their school learning. I think to have it not only acknowledged but also acknowledged in your school certificate I think that's incredible and I think it definitely will drive students to want to finish school."

After the Recognition of Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge and Learning pilot, Codi acknowledged a change in her understanding of herself: "This experience made me reflect on me as a person and how I learn and what kind of learning I do. Before, because I have already done that cultural learning outside of the classroom, I didn't really think of it as "oh that's cultural learning and that's student learning" and then this experience made me reflect on both of those experiences and how I can easily adapt to each."