

Learning on Country

The **Learning on Country (LoC) Program** is an employment pathways program that focuses on middle and senior school students in 15 (soon to be 18) communities in the Top End of the Northern Territory.

2022 Highlights

- **10th Anniversary Event**, 9-11 August, Nitmiluk National Park - over 250 attendees
- **Six-year Funding Announcement** from NIAA to secure the program until 2028
- **50th** Steering Committee Meeting, December 2022
- **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)** pilot project kickstarting at three sites; Galiwin'ku, Maningrida and Laynhapuy



Students participating in a Youth Forum at the 10th Anniversary Event, August 2022



The all Indigenous Steering Committee and Coordinators at the 50th LoC Steering Committee Meeting, December 2022

Indigenous Governance

The LoC Program is guided by an all **Indigenous Steering Committee** with members elected from each of the 15 sites.



The program is delivered through a partnership arrangement between Aboriginal ranger groups and schools in each of the communities (Maningrida, Milingimbi, Yirrkala, Laynhapuy Homelands, Galiwin'ku, Ramingining, Gapuwiyak, Umbakumba, Gunbalanya, Ngukurr, Numbulwar, Borroloola, Beswick, Barunga and Angurugu).

The program enjoys strong community and institutional support because it brings together two knowledge systems to link culture and curriculum in a 'both-ways' approach to teaching and learning.

Deadly Facts July-December 2022



Student Participation

2575 Indigenous Students Participated in a LoC activity
This is an increase of 595 students from Semester 1 2022 (Whole of School)

835 Target Cohort Participation in LoC activities as a core component of their studies*

Slight decrease of 43 in Target Cohort numbers from the previous semester, but increased engagement across the entire school. This represents a significant commitment to 'two-way' education improving school attendance.

107% Student Retention is up from 89% to 107% in Semester 2 of 2022.
More students returned to school following the school break.

*'Target Cohort' is identified in the NIAA Funding Schedule as Middle and Senior school students (years 9-12).

'On-Country' Activities

Across the 15 LoC sites a total of **495** on-country camps and field trips were delivered.



Students attending the Learning on Country Borroloola Careers Fair, November 2022

Vocational Education & Training

277 remote Indigenous Middle and Senior students were enrolled in VET training.

66 achieved certificates in Conservation and Ecosystem Management, Maritime Studies and First Aid.



Monitoring & Evaluation Pilot Project, Maningrida 2022

Indigenous Employment

184 Indigenous Staff Employed by the LoC Program. Indigenous staff comprise 94.35% of those employed in the delivery of LoC activities.

5 Indigenous full-time Coordinators (Beswick-Barunga, Angurugu, Gunbalanya, Ngukurr and Borroloola).

12k Indigenous Staff Hours
 Indigenous staff worked 66.16% of the total hours reported, an increase of 6.7% on the previous reporting period.



Galiwinku graduations, December 2022