

Stronger, Smarter, Healthier: How high-expectation relationships create healthier communities

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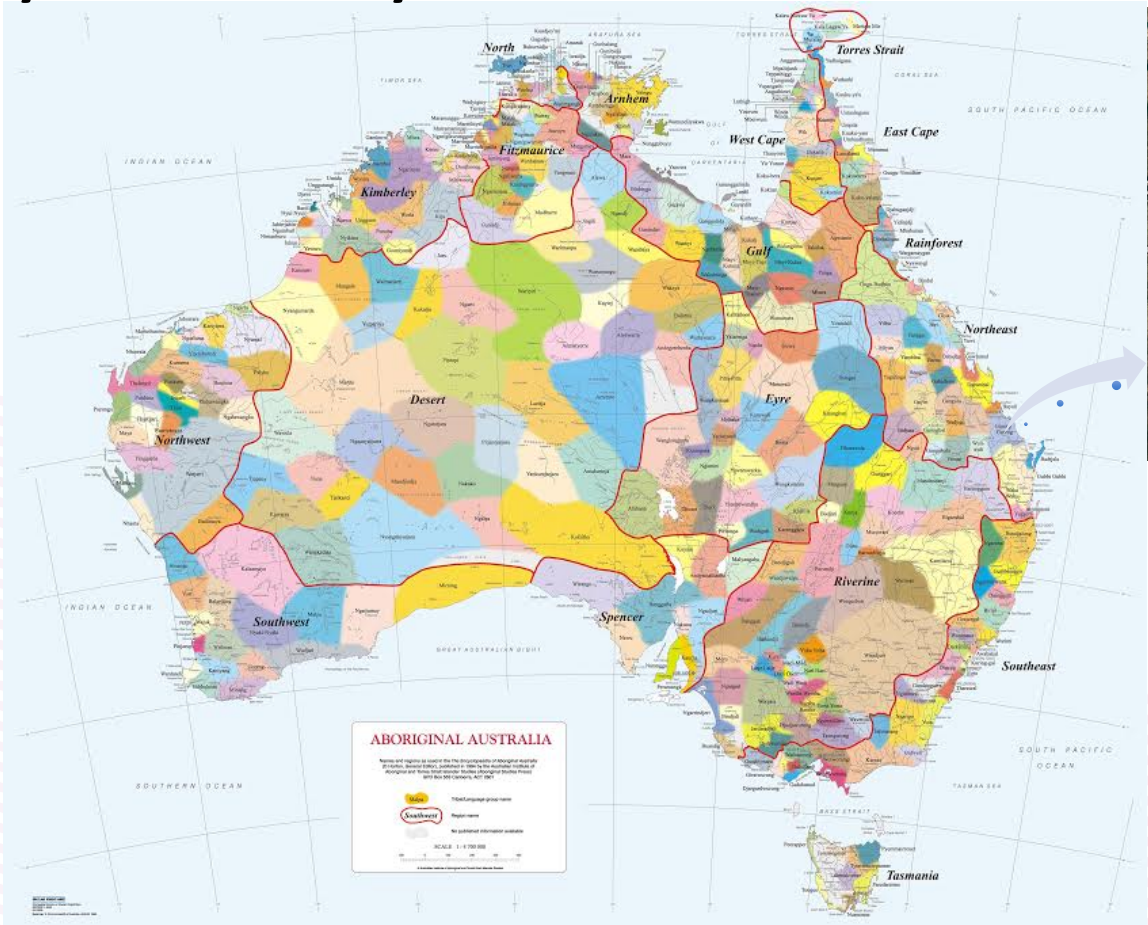
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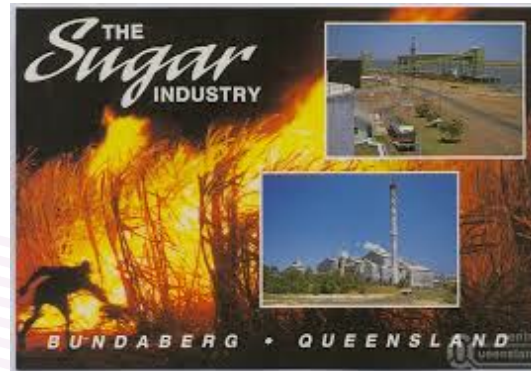
- *Background to the Stronger Smarter Philosophy*
- *The Stronger Smarter Philosophy*
- *High Expectations Relationships*



My country – our country



Early Days...





College Days...



So what was school really like?

Seeing the hidden curriculum



On a quest for change... and stuff I learned along the way.

Cecil Plains – Poor white children are just as infected by this toxic stench of low expectations

Bundaberg – ‘Blacks out the back!’

Canberra – ‘Professional and community authenticity is a great thing’

Cairns – ‘Cowboys of the North – Out of sight; out of mind!’ ... “Are you a ‘real’ Guidance Officer?”

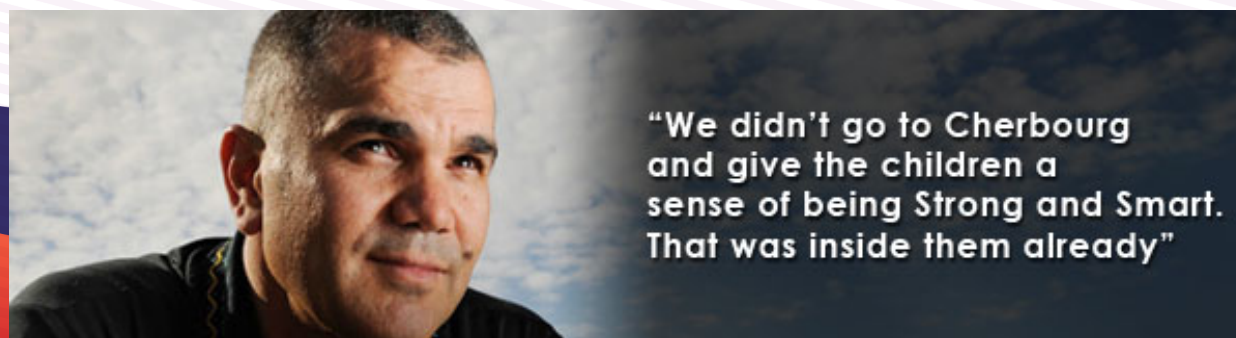
Brisbane – “Just stay three months and you will think you are making change. You won’t be, but you will think you are!”

Toowoomba – ‘Are you like a qualified Lecturer?’ ... The toxic stench of low expectations lingers.

Cherbourg – Put up or shut up! What do I truly believe?

Caboolture – Changing the tide...





"We didn't go to Cherbourg
and give the children a
sense of being Strong and Smart.
That was inside them already"



Effects of the Stronger Smarter Approach at Cherbourg SS

- Unexplained absenteeism reduced by 94% within 18 months;
- Real attendance improved from **62%** in 1999 to **94%** in 2004 (without touching welfare payments);
- Year 7 diagnostic reading tests went from **0%** at state average in 1998, to **81 %** (n=17) at state average in 2004, (remaining 20% (n=4) just below average); and
- **58%** improvement in Year 2 Literacy within 2 years.
- **5** Aboriginal teacher aides completed teacher training while studying and continuing to work at the school

... Doing things **WITH** people... not **TO** them!





... Doing things **WITH** people... not **TO** them!



The Stronger Smarter Institute...



Changing the tide
of low expectations in
Indigenous education
in Australia



The Stronger Smarter Philosophy

The Stronger Smarter philosophy honours a positive sense of cultural identity, acknowledges and embraces positive community leadership, enabling innovative and dynamic approaches and processes that are anchored by high expectations relationships. High expectations relationships honour the humanity of others, and in so doing, acknowledge one's strengths, capacity and human right to emancipatory opportunity.

... Doing things **WITH** people... not **TO** them!



The Stronger Smarter Philosophy

- ❑ *Acknowledging, embracing and developing a positive sense of identity*
- ❑ *Acknowledging and embracing positive Indigenous leadership in communities*
- ❑ *High Expectations Relationships*

The Stronger Smarter Philosophy

- *Acknowledging, embracing and developing a positive sense of identity*

Which Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Identity do your attitudes, beliefs and behaviors collude with?

Stronger Smarter V *negative stereotype*

... Doing things **WITH** *people... not* **TO** *them!*



Perceptions of Aboriginal students

Lazy

Underachievers

Shy

Dirty

Disobedient

Aggressive

High Absenteeism

Cheeky

Defiant

Artistic

Sporty

Family Oriented

Poor Health

A stronger smarter, healthier Identity...

– Being... ‘Other’... and Being ... Same!

Our cultural identities upon our core humanity

A stratified ontology...

Our core humanity and its mediations... influenced by time and place..

Being ‘Community’ and being ‘Individual’..

Roy Bhaskar... The concrete Universal





The Stronger Smarter Philosophy

- *Acknowledging and embracing positive Indigenous leadership in communities*
 - *Being the victim* (low expectations collusion with -ve stereotype)
 - *Booting the victim* (low expectations collusion with -ve stereotype)
 - *Beyond the victim* (HIGH expectations collusion with STRONGER SMARTER)

... Doing things **WITH** people... not **TO** them!



Stronger Smarter – Beyond the Victim



*We SEE Aboriginal leadership
when we give it a place to BE!*

... Doing things

WITH

people... not

TO

them!



High Expectations **Relationships**

Supporting	Developing	Monitoring	Challenging	Intervening
Fair			Firm	
Carrot			Stick	

... Doing things **WITH** people... not **TO** them!

In a High Expectations... **RELATIONSHIP** .. We....

- *Co-create solutions to complex challenges...*
- *Reflect on and respond to the social and cultural “baggage”...*
- *Bank emotional credit*
- *Know the difference between cultural sensitivity and collusion with low expectations...*
- *Ensure our professional rhetoric matches our day to day reality*

... I believe all people deserve access to good education and good health ... unless they're black!

- *Make it personal...*

... Doing things **WITH** *people... not* **TO** *them!*



Connect with me



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