



## GIRLS ACADEMY PROGRAM

Founded in 2004 by Olympian and champion Basketballer Ricky Grace (MEdL, BPolSc), Role Models and Leaders Australia (RMLA) is the leading provider of school-based programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls in Australia.

The Girls Academy was born out of a need to address the inequality in investment of educational support programs for Indigenous girls. We drive community-led solutions aimed at reducing the barriers preventing Indigenous girls from completing their education and reaching their full potential.

The Girls Academy is a high school-based program that uses sport, mentoring and extra-curricular activities to increase engagement, participation and achievement at school.

Our staff, of whom 80% are Indigenous women, facilitate supportive programs that enhance achievement of high school graduation, employment and further education goals, as well as providing the girls with important life skills on the value of health, nutrition, self-esteem and cultural connection.

The Girls Academy equips Indigenous girls with the tools required to engage in their education, achieve their goals and realise their full potential.

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Program activities are designed with emphasis on the 'Big 4' objectives to:

1. Increase school attendance
2. Advance academic and personal achievement
3. Improve year 12 graduation rates, and
4. Facilitate post-school transition planning

## TOOLS

RMLA use a range of tools to achieve Academy objectives. These include:

- **Indigenous women** as role models and mentors. Our team of Program Managers and Development Officers (80% of which are Indigenous women) inspire and encourage students through mentoring and guidance.
- **Extracurricular activities** focused on, for example, resilience and depression, financial literacy, cultural connection, time management, leadership, healthy relationships, nutrition, confidence & self esteem, physical activity and sporting carnivals.
- **Post-school transition planning** to support students in developing career, education, training and employment pathways.
- **Leadership, teamwork and vision** activities designed to support the development of student's confidence, attitude, leadership and teamwork skills.
- **Community advisory committees** have been established in 20 communities. These committees provide local, grass-roots advice and help steer the activities of the Academies.
- **Academy Rooms** at each school provide a sanctuary for the girls to connect with each other, to learn and prosper in a safe and nurturing environment.



*“Increasing the educational outcomes achieved by young women from Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander backgrounds is particularly important to not only them, but their families and communities, as women are often instrumental in bringing about social change in disadvantaged communities.”*

- World Health Organisation, 2014



## PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- RMLA is the single largest provider of educational engagement and well-being programs to Indigenous secondary school girls in Australia.
- Over the last 5 years the Girls Academy has seen Year 12 enrolments increase by 276%.
- Since 2010 Year 12 Graduation rates have increased by 76%.
- More than 183 Indigenous Academy girls have so far achieved secondary school graduation.
- In 2013, we saw the first two girls to ever graduate from Gunbalanya Community School come from our Girls Academy. In 2015 saw this figure increase to eight female graduates.
- 41% of Academy girls surveyed have indicated that they intend to pursue tertiary education at TAFE or University.
- In 2014, the Girls Academy attendance rate was approximately 10% higher than the all Indigenous student attendance rate across participating schools.
- 79% of Girls Academy students surveyed have a clear post-school destination plan

## SUPPORT & SPONSORSHIP

If you are able to **offer your support** in any way, either financial, in-kind or as a volunteer, contact us on 1300 833 904 or email [info@girlsacademy.com.au](mailto:info@girlsacademy.com.au)

Visit [www.girlsacademy.com.au](http://www.girlsacademy.com.au) to **subscribe to our mailing list** or to make a quick and easy donation to Girls Academy appeal.

You can also **donate** by visiting [givenow.com.au/indigenousgirlsacademy](http://givenow.com.au/indigenousgirlsacademy)



The Girls Academy is an initiative of  
Role Models and Leaders Australia

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## ENROLMENTS ACCEPTED ANYTIME

We operate out of the WA, NT and NSW schools listed below. Contact us on 1300 833 904, or email [info@girlsacademy.com.au](mailto:info@girlsacademy.com.au), to find out more about Girls Academy enrolments.

### WA

- Balga Senior High School: 2 Markham Way, Balga
- Broome Senior High School: Frederick Street, Broome WA
- Cecil Andrews College: 39 Seville Drive, Seville Grove WA
- Challis Primary School: 40 Braemore Street, Armadale WA
- Clontarf Aboriginal College :295 Manning Road, Waterford WA
- Coodanup College: Wanjeep Street, Mandurah WA
- Derby District High School: 10 Anderson Street, Derby WA
- Esperance Senior HS: Lot 500, Pink Lake Rd, Esperance WA
- Fitzroy Valley District High School: Flynn Drive, Fitzroy Crossing WA
- Eastern Goldfields College: Cnr Cheetham & Cassidy Streets, Kalgoorlie WA
- Girrawheen Senior HS: 39 Calvert Way, Girrawheen WA
- Kalgoorlie Boulder Senior Hs: Boomerang Crescent, Kalgoorlie WA
- Kiara College: 368 Benara Road, Kiara WA
- Kununurra District HS: Mangaloo Street, Kununurra WA
- Newton Moore Senior HS: 19 - 35 Hotchin Street, Bunbury WA
- Roebourne District High School: Fraser Street, Roebourne WA

### NT

- Centralian Middle School: 56 Milner Road, Alice Springs NT
- Centralian Senior College: Grevillea Drive, Alice Springs NT
- Palmerston Senior College: 10 Tilston Avenue, Driver NT
- Rosebery Middle School: Cnr Belyuen Rd & Forrest Pde, Rosebery NT
- Jabiru Area School: 40 Waterhouse Road, Jabiru NT
- Gunbalanya Community School: Gunbalanya, NT

### NSW

- Canobolas Rural Technology HS: 142 Icely Road, Orange NSW
- Chatham High School: Davis Street, Taree NSW
- Coonamble High School: Aberford Street, Coonamble NSW
- Dubbo College, Delroy Campus: East Street, Dubbo NSW
- Dubbo College, Senior Campus: Tony McGrane Place, Dubbo NSW
- Dubbo College, South Campus: Boundary Road, Dubbo NSW
- Gunnedah High School: Marquis Street, Gunnedah NSW
- Kempsey High School: 13 Broughton Street, Kempsey NSW
- Melville High School: 44-50 Nicholson Street, South Kempsey NSW
- Muswellbrook High School: King Street, Muswellbrook NSW
- Oxley High School: Piper Street, North Tamworth NSW
- Tamworth High School: Willis Street, South Tamworth NSW