



## **Building relationships between parents, students and community: The key to delivering outcomes for Indigenous students**

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The 8 Ways Pedagogy framework is a researched based culturally supportive framework which supports teaching and learning programs in all curriculum areas. The framework allows teachers to reflect on current practice and embed strategies to support and enhance engagement for Indigenous students. Schools and educators often struggle to embed meaningful Indigenous perspectives and engage families/students within the school community. Through implementing this framework relationships with Indigenous communities can be built and student engagement in learning is reignited.

The aim of this research is to present educators with a systematic framework that will support teachers in increasing the engagement of both Indigenous students and families using the 8 Ways key elements. A quantitative and qualitative case study is used to share and reflect on a primary school's initial trial implementation of the 8 Ways Pedagogy framework. The study was conducted within a Learning Support Unit and an Indigenous student focus group and was led by a Learning Support Educator and Executive Special Educator in an ACT Government P-6 school during 2017. Data was collected from parental feedback, semi structured interviews, student reflection and school system evidence (attendance records). Thematic and comparative analysis of data is used to determine the effectiveness of the 8 Ways framework against student engagement, parent involvement, student attendance and the proficiency in improving student learning outcomes.

The current 8 Ways literature will be reviewed and the implications for school contexts and systems beyond the researched community will also be discussed.