

Be You video transcript

Identify and build connections in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions

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It's really important to build that rapport, not just with the kids, but the community as well, because if you don't have that connection, or that trust – and it comes down to trust – then a lot of people in communities will just see you as another agency coming through.

When you're new, starting out in these communities, with the family, with the youth, it's really important if they give you an open invitation to hunting or fishing, just to be involved with community events, take up people on their invitation and just be part of the community.

The connection you build with youth and the community, it's really important because, you've got to build rapport with the kids, with the youth, with the community members, otherwise it won't work.

But the way you build it is through those invitations people give out to you. The difference it makes is that maybe the next day or the next week, that child might've come into the class, and you might meet his family, you might meet their family somewhere.

And that's when you become more immersed in what you're doing, within the community's culture.

In schools around this region, it's sort of a different make-up because most of them are community owned. And it's not just state schools – Jigalong is a state school, we've got public schools here in Newman – but out in the communities they're more independent schools.

So, there's a different make-up within all the different schools in this region, anyway.

Alot of youth have been more connected when they're in bilingual schools, with their own language and their own teachers, and their own people teaching them language.

They also learn English and other things, but they respond more to when the local tongue is taught to them.