



**Media Release**

**December 2008**

### **Western Cape College Wins Premier Award**

Western Cape College, a Prep to Grade 12 education facility serving the Cape York Communities of Aurukun, Mapoon, Napranum and Weipa, was awarded a prestigious Premier's Awards for Excellence in Partnerships and Reconciliation last night.

The Premier's Awards recognise excellence and best practice management in the Queensland Public Sector.

Western Cape College, Director, Mr Ian Mackie, accepted the award at the ceremony hosted at the Griffith Conservatorium, South Bank, Brisbane.

"This award recognises that excellence and best practice in public sector management occurs beyond the board rooms and big cities of Queensland,

"It highlights that our teachers and staff in some of the smallest schools and communities are in fact doing some of the best work across the state and leading the way to improve Indigenous Education," Mr Mackie said.

Western Cape College entered the awards with a unique education initiative, *Cradle to Employment*, which was developed to deliver improved education, training and employment outcomes for Indigenous students.

This includes guaranteeing employment, further university education or employment based training at the end of Year 12.

The project has resulted in increased retention of Indigenous students to Year 12, successful transitions from communities to secondary schooling options and improved employment outcomes for Indigenous students.

Western Cape College has achieved this by working together to develop partnerships with local businesses to offer students relevant training and employment options and in 2007 was awarded a Prime Ministers Award for Community and Business Partnership.

"In 2007, all 31 of our Year 12 Graduates left Western Cape College with a pathway into University, paid employment or undertaking VET Certification that will allow them to enter into employment upon completion," Mr Mackie said.

"This achievement was only possible due to the hard work and dedication our staff have made to develop partnerships with training providers, local businesses and adopting a case and place based management approach to our students."

Western Cape College has three Campuses located in Aurukun, Mapoon and Weipa with a total of 1,234 enrolled students, 63% identified as Indigenous or Torres Strait Islander.

### **ENDS**

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