

‘Your AES’

A Community Co-Design Initiative to inform future AES services and supports

The AES is excited to let you know that we'll be working alongside communities all over Eastern NSW to provide valuable opportunities for mob to be part of co-designing future services and supports offered by the AES. AES is an Aboriginal organisation led by Aboriginal people, for Aboriginal people. Our AES is ‘your AES’.

We want to work alongside community to make sure that our services are locally-relevant and impactful. Our principles of operation are ‘local-solutions to local challenges, and that ‘community know best for their community’. Our foundations are ones of self-determination and community empowerment. These principles will be core in the exciting community design work we are undertaking. AES has worked for and with community for over 25 years. We want to know what more we can be doing to support our communities, what we could be doing differently or even less of. AES is being supported by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)’s Indigenous Skills and Employment Program (ISEP) to carry out this important stage in the finalisation of future potential services and supports provided by AES.

What we’re asking you to be involved in

The Community Co-Design Process is all about finding workable, sustainable and impactful solutions to complex employment issues together with community. Community will be at the centre in defining their needs, challenges, aspirations and opportunities, and in advising how the AES can support and address these.

To put this into action, we're using four main channels of engagement to kick-start the Co-Design Process, and we'd love for you to participate in any of these forums/activities where you see appropriate:

1. Community Conversations - These workshops are designed to give us a deeper understanding of the issues and challenges faced by our community in different regions of Eastern NSW. The audience for these sessions will include a range of Community Leaders, Parents/Careers, Local Employers, local Industry Stakeholders, Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations, Local Government, and Peak Body representatives.
2. Youth Conversations – These workshops will be run with pre-existing local community youth governance forums (where they exist) to ensure young

people feel comfortable speaking up and can let us know which issues matter to them and which support services that would be most suited to addressing them.

3. AES Youth Crew Community Design - We're putting together a Youth Community Design Crew of 10-20 young Aboriginal people aged 15-30. They'll be representing all the regions AES is proposing to service. They'll help us understand what young mob need across the employment journey, what's currently working and where we need to do something different. The group will learn research and service design skills and talk to other young people in their networks about their experiences with leaving school, finding work and staying in work.
4. Online surveys - We're sending out surveys to get as many responses from our community as possible. We want to hear from everyone, so we're using virtual and in-person channels to make sure everyone has a chance to participate.

What we are asking from you, the Community

We'd love for you to be part of our story and the legacy we can create together. We hope you'll join us in creating something that benefits our mob in the ways that really matter. We invite you to:

1. Bring your unique perspective and expertise
2. Bring a wide range of ideas – there are no wrong ideas or answers!
3. Be as involved in the process as you can – We're committed to accommodating your availability and preferences to support you to do this. We value your time and your knowledge and we hope that you can be flexible in working with us too.

We're excited to work in genuine partnership with you in this important process that will benefit our mob now and into the future.

Our AES, is Your AES.