



Australian Parents Council Inc

Indigenous Parent Factor: Successful early learning at home and school

Independent Evaluations of the IPF Program

The IPF program has twice been independently evaluated, firstly in 2005 by Indigenous educator, Dr Penny Tripcony, who found that participants:

- viewed the workshops as positive learning experiences
- appreciated and valued the information presented
- were comfortable with the mode and content of presentations
- valued the opportunity to learn and to share information with other parents and educators
- came away from the workshops confident that they could assist their children's learning and literacy development at home
- considered that they were now in a position to talk with teachers about matters relating to their children's learning.

The program was then the subject of a major independent evaluation in 2007. That evaluation, conducted by Dr Denis Muller of Denis Muller & Associates found the IPF program was effective, appropriate and efficient.

- It was judged to be *effective* in that it contributed to increases in parent knowledge of, and participation in, pre-school and school education and improved linkages with the school and other community services.
- It was *appropriate* as it had been designed in substantial consultation with Indigenous people, used a workshop format which was culturally appropriate, and materials suited to Indigenous people. Dr Muller noted that the materials received the highest praise from all Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons interviewed because they took into account Indigenous methods of learning, used suitable (jargon-free) language and allowed for flexibility in delivery.
- It was *efficient* as it had over-performed on its delivery targets, had brought together participants from multiple locations and costs were low.

The IPF is up and running as a going concern and its reputation is continuing to spread. The program:

- is proven
- has credibility among a significant number of Indigenous individuals and communities throughout Australia, as well as among a number of school principals, school authorities and state and territory education personnel
- can be conducted within a formal training environment providing a formal nationally accredited qualification for its Indigenous operatives
- has a formal evaluation framework and
- has a support structure comprised of Indigenous elders to monitor, review and guide its progress.