This paper reports on the progress of a university/school/community project designed to both improve the opportunities for successful completion of secondary studies and increase entry into higher and vocational education by Indigenous students. This project is funded by The Commonwealth Department of Education Training and Youth Affairs (DETYA) through the Vocational Education and Guidance for Aboriginal Students Scheme (VEGAS). The project is now in its second year.

Through a three-way partnership; schools-community and higher education, this project essentially aims to encourage more Indigenous students to increase their participation in the educational and schooling processes. The program targets the development of pre-university experiences that have been shown to exert a positive influence on both the levels of access and degree of participation to both vocational and higher education. The focus is at the school/community interface. The essential aim of this project is to develop a program of activities that will lead to the development of a positive experience of schooling and the development of a drive to participate in higher education. This report discusses events and evaluates progress of the program so far and draws together the literature on the issues related to participation in education with particular reference to the needs of indigenous students. The expected outcome of the project is to fulfil the urgent need to provide equality of access and opportunity to Indigenous students who wish to participate in higher education.