

# **Boeing partnership set to help transform the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls**

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Boeing Defence Australia (BDA) has partnered with Netball Queensland's award-winning First Nations program, Diamond Spirit, to create performance and career pathways for young women and girls.

Diamond Spirit boosts the physical, emotional and cultural wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female students in years 7-12, guiding them toward meaningful education outcomes – through the power of netball.

BDA's 12-month partnership is aimed at transforming the lives of up to 3000 students across regional and remote Queensland.

Since 2017, 2500 students in remote communities have participated in Diamond Spirit netball clinics and inter-community carnivals. In addition, 500 students have enrolled at its Educate Hubs at Cairns and Bremer state high schools in partnership with Education Queensland.

“We are proud to reach this important partnership with Diamond Spirit,” said Scott Carpendale, BDA vice president and managing director. “It is designed to improve students' wellbeing, improve and increase school attendance through positive behavioural change and support students' transition into meaningful career pathways.

“Through our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), we are striving to build and strengthen our relationships with individuals, communities and suppliers to benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

“By partnering with Diamond Spirit, Boeing is taking further action to build meaningful connections, demonstrate respect and help create an equitable Australia.”

Diamond Spirit is grateful for BDA's support and leadership in creating positive, systemic change for young Indigenous women and girls, said Lee Wilson, Manager - Diamond Spirit, Diversity & Inclusion.

“Using netball as a vehicle of engagement – as the No.1 female participation sport in Australia – our program creates improved educational and employment outcomes for the students by providing them with the tools they need to succeed at school and once they graduate,” Wilson said.

“The positive impact on the students' lives allows them to become the next generation of female First Nations leaders and role models.”