

# HESTER HORN BROOK ACADEMY

## COMMITMENT TO FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

At Hester Hornbrook Academy (Hester Hornbrook), we recognise and respect that the individuals who create a family for the students we support are diverse and unique. We acknowledge that families are fluid and may change over time, and that they may or may not include individuals who are biologically related, living in the same household, or legally recognised. We encourage students to inform our staff of their own unique family structures. Our approach is inclusive and centered on creating a safe, welcoming environment for all families and important people in students lives.

At Hester Hornbrook, we believe families play an important role in strengthening, monitoring and promoting child (student) safety and wellbeing, as well as supporting students to raise concerns when needed. We are committed to strengthening the relationship between Hester Hornbrook and families through several key approaches.

Firstly, beyond the multidisciplinary classroom team model, we have intentionally developed internal roles that enhance family connection and engagement. These include Community Liaison Officers, Therapeutic Family Engagement Workers, the Leader of Inclusion, and the Leader of First Nations Community Engagement. These roles work collaboratively to provide tailored support to families, and support staff and students to be connected to the school.

Secondly, we actively welcome family collaboration, connection and voice. We encourage families to participate in their child's education and wellbeing journey by inviting them to attend termly progress meetings held on campus with classroom teams. These meetings focus on the development and review of each student's Individualised Learning and Wellbeing Plan and associated goals. Outside these meetings, we promote regular communication between families and classroom teams regarding engagement, learning progress, wellbeing concerns and child safety matters (where appropriate).

As a school, we also host community nights each semester across campuses. These events offer families an informal opportunity to build relationships with campus staff and key support teams, including Allied Health and the Careers, Alumni, Pathways and Employment (CAPE) team.

We continue to explore formal avenues for families to contribute to the development and review of school policies and practices—including those related to child safety—along with opportunities to provide feedback, raise concerns and share ideas. One key method is our annual parent/carer survey, through which we seek structured feedback from families.

Finally, Hester Hornbrook maintains open communication with families about programs, events and school planning. This is achieved through Principal letters, our social media platforms, and our school website. We are committed to ensuring families have access to clear, accessible information about our school policies and practices, particularly those related to child safety.

