



**Polly
Farmer**
Follow the Dream



Department of
Education

Invitation and Information

For

who has been invited to join the

Polly Farmer *Follow the Dream* program

at Central Midlands SHS



The Polly Farmer *Follow the Dream* program provides:

- mentoring & tuition
- connections, opportunities & experiences

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people to enable:

- personal growth and achievement
- a meaningful journey towards training/further education/employment



Program Background and Purpose

The Follow the Dream program is inspired by Graham (Polly) Farmer's vision for all young Aboriginal people to have every opportunity to succeed in life, develop their talents and take their rightful place in Australian society. The program is delivered through a partnership between the Western Australian Department of Education and the Polly Farmer Foundation, a not-for-profit Aboriginal Corporation founded in 1994 by Graham (Polly) Farmer.

Follow the Dream provides enriched educational and experiential opportunities for male and female Aboriginal students. The program supports students who aspire to successfully complete their secondary schooling, show aptitude for learning, and demonstrate a positive approach towards education. Only selected students receive an invitation to attend the program, based on the program's selection criteria of attendance, engagement, school grades, and NAPLAN results.

Academic enrichment lies at the heart of the program, with each student offered specialist tutoring, literacy & numeracy support, personalised learning plans, one-on-one mentoring, and practical experience. Throughout the program, students also engage and apply for a range of extra-curricular activities that broaden their horizons and develop students' confidence to pursue their aspirations. The program wants students to 'Dream Big' and emerge as strong role models for their peers, siblings and wider community.



Program Objectives

The Follow the Dream program and schools, aim to support students to achieve the following objectives.

- Students' academic outcomes and talents enable the pursuit of their aspirations.
- Students achieve a WACE upon completion of Year 12.
- Student wellbeing underpins positive engagement and academic success.
- Students' Aboriginal cultural identity is acknowledged and celebrated.
- Students have a sense of self knowledge about their capacities, interests and potential future pathways.
- Families and communities actively engage in shaping and implementing the program.
- Students and alumni access unique experiential opportunities through the FTD network.
- Students and alumni are role models and leaders within their schools and communities.

Central Midlands Follow the Dream

Follow the Dream was established at Central Midlands in 2021 and is a voluntary program for high-achieving and aspirational Aboriginal secondary students in Year 7-12. The Central Midlands Follow the Dream Program is organised by local 'Program Champion' Isabella Serra-Sanfelin, who is supported by the Follow the Dream Program Coordinator at Northam Senior High School, Mr Joe Manning. Our schools teachers, AIEO's, and other staff also play an important role in supporting our program. After school tuition takes place two afternoons per week in the Library. These rooms have desks and computers, where tutors provide academic support, mentoring, and career advice to students. There are a large number of desktop computers for students to utilise for their studies, along with a range of other learning materials. The program provides after-school tuition, mentoring, and support to assist these students to continue excelling at school, complete Year 12 and achieve a successful transition into university, training, or employment. This is achieved via the following support:

- A space where students complete their studies with the assistance of tutors and mentors after school.
- Monitoring of student progress and providing intensive assistance for students who require it.
- Mentoring and pathway planning with the Follow the Dream Coordinator, Champion, and Tutors.
- Opportunities to attend careers excursions/camps, reward excursions, after school activities, mentoring visits, community events, and University programs/events.
- The establishment of links between family, the community, and schools.
- Access to Indigenous cultural events and appropriate role models, to create a sense of community, belonging, growth, and pride.

Student Selection

To be eligible for the Follow the Dream Program, students must: identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander; and be enrolled at a Western Australian public school. All interested students must be invited and enrol to participate in this program. Students will be either: Accepted into the program; or placed on a trial entry into the program and asked to improve in certain areas to maintain their place in the program.

Direct Entry: The Program Coordinator/Champion will identify students and may directly offer a student the opportunity to participate in the program where the student has demonstrated:

- attainment above the national minimum standard in the NAPLAN assessment areas of Numeracy, Writing and Reading and/or achieved a minimum C grade in Mathematics, English, Science and Humanities (MESH) subjects;
- 90% school attendance;
- a positive approach to their education; and
- a commitment to achieving personal academic success



Recommendation and/or student self-nomination: If a student does not meet the direct entry criteria into Follow the Dream, students may be offered the opportunity to participate in Follow the Dream through recommendation by: a school staff member; parent/family member; community member; or self-nomination. This process may apply to students who:

- demonstrate talents, interests and/or abilities that the Program can support;
- have a positive approach to their education; and
- show a commitment to achieving personal academic success.

Students must continually demonstrate the student selection criteria to maintain their place in the Follow the Dream Program, otherwise their place in the program may be reviewed and/or withdrawn.

After School Tuition Details

The Central Midlands Follow the Dream after school tuition program will be hosted in the Library. A light afternoon tea will be provided to students enrolled in the program. The program operates after school tuition on the following days:

Monday from 3.00pm – 5.00pm. Tuition between 3.15pm-4.45pm

Wednesday from 3.00pm – 5.00pm. Tuition between 3.15pm-4.45pm

Some days the program may be closed due to Whole School Staff meetings, events, etc. Students will attend on days agreed upon between the champion/coordinator, students, and families.

Other Information

Connect: A 'Connect' class for students in the Central Midlands Follow the Dream program, is also used as a way of communicating with students and their families. Please make contact if you need assistance getting onto Connect, getting logins and passwords, or emails address updated.

Uniform: Students in the Follow the Dream program, are proud to wear a school uniform shirt also embroidered with the Polly Farmer Follow the Dream logo. In the near future, students meeting the expectations of the Follow the Dream program, will be provided with a new school shirt.

Attitude and Behaviour: Students thrive on the relationships they form with their tutors as well as with other students across Years 7-12. Everyone feels like they are part of a 'Follow The Dream Family', working hard on their studies and supporting each other to achieve their goals and dreams.

Program Activities: Each year, a number of speakers, excursions, events, and reward activities will occur for students involved in the Follow the Dream program. These are aimed at increasing school engagement, knowledge about post school pathways, and allowing students to focus their schooling to best achieve their post school aspirations. Students need to ensure they continue to meet the criteria of the program and policies of the school in order to take part in these activities.

Data Sharing

As part of your child's participation in the Follow the Dream program, we will need to share specific data with the Polly Farmer Foundation and other relevant agencies. The data to be shared includes:

- ATAR results
- attendance data
- individual student recognition or achievement (academic, sports, culture, arts, personal)
- individual student suspension data
- OLN and NAPLAN results
- participation in extra-curricular activities (hours/location)
- student name, year, and gender
- subject report data (including grades and effort/behaviour)
- tuition and mentoring session attendance
- VET and/or other training qualifications
- work experience/workplace learning details
- WACE achievement
- year 12 post school destination plans and outcome.

The shared data will be used to:

- track and enhance student progress and achievements
- provide targeted support and resources
- celebrate student successes
- inform planning and decision-making processes
- engage and collaborate with families and communities.



Data privacy and security

The Department of Education is committed to ensuring the privacy and security of your child's data. The data will be shared securely and will only be accessed by authorised personnel within the Polly Farmer Foundation and relevant agencies. No personal data will be shared publicly without your further consent.

Image sharing

As part of the Follow the Dream program, photos and videos of your child may be taken during various activities and events. These photos and videos may be used for promotional purposes, including sharing on social media platforms and the Polly Farmer Foundation's official website. By providing your consent, you agree to allow the use of your child's image in this manner to celebrate their achievements and promote the program.

Please complete the permission form to indicate your consent for the data and image sharing and your acceptance of the offer to participate in the Follow the Dream program.

If you have any questions, would like to visit the program, or would like to arrange a meeting, please feel free to call or email me. I look forward to meeting with you all, to see how the Central Midlands Follow the Dream program can best support the students and families in the program.

Yours sincerely,

Program Champion: Isabella Serra-Sanfelin

Central Midlands Follow the Dream

Ranfurly Stree Moora WA 6501

Phone: (08) 9653 9200

Email: isabella.serra-sanfelin@education.wa.edu.au

Program Coordinator: Joe Manning

Northam Follow the Dream

Cnr. Inkpen St & Mosley Ave, Northam, 6401

Phone: (08) 9621 0023 Mobile: 0439 525 116

Email: joe.manning@education.wa.edu.au



Follow the Dream Details & consent form (For students and family/carers)

For the Young Person invited to join *Follow the Dream*

Full Name:		Preferred Name/s:	
Are you:	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Torres Strait Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Both Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander
Please share if you know which Country / Language Group your family are connected to / come from:			
Home Address:			
Email:		Contact Number:	
Date of Birth:		Year level	
Gender:	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Student acceptance of offer

I, _____ accept the offer to participate in the Follow the Dream program.

As a participant in the Follow the Dream program, I agree to show a commitment to achieving personal academic success and maintain a positive approach to my education.

Signature		Date	
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For the Family member/Carer of the Young Person invited to join *Follow the Dream*

Parent/Carer consent

I, _____ accept the offer for my child, _____ to participate in the Follow the Dream program, including in/after school tuition and camps/activities that require health information sharing.

I will provide the following support for my child to participate in the program: Ensure that my child attends school regularly and tries their best in all classes; Encourage my child to attend the Follow the Dream after school tuition; Provide a place for my child to complete schoolwork at home; Attend meetings to assist my child to succeed at school and in their aspirations

Regular transport home after tuition needs to be organized by students/families. In the event my child cannot obtain transport home from a parent/carer, they are unwell, injured, or due to bad weather, I give permission for my child to be transported home via a Central Midlands Vehicle, or in the case of an emergency a Central Midlands staff member's private vehicle. Any emergency transport required, we will try to communicate this to families as soon as possible.

I give my consent for Central Midlands SHS and the Department of Education to share the specified data and images of my child with the Polly Farmer Foundation and other relevant agencies.

Family member / Carer name (1 st point of contact)		Contact number:	
Relationship to young person:		Signature:	
Home address:			
E-mail address:			



A bit about me... (young persons' reflections)

In my life...

I enjoy doing these things in my spare time _____

I have work/sport/social/cultural/community commitments including: _____

Friends/family say I have this quality/strength: _____

I'm passionate about: _____

I look up to this person as a role model: _____ because _____

My experience at school...

2 things I enjoy most: _____

Subjects I find really interesting: _____

Subjects areas that I'm good at: _____

Areas I need to improve: _____

1 education goal to better my learning would be: _____

Polly Farmer *Follow the Dream* Program...

Future work/study/carer interests I'm curious about are: _____

I'd like to connect with the Polly Farmer *Follow the Dream* program because: _____

Please submit this completed form to

Isabella Serra-Sanfelin, Program Champion,

Central Midlands Polly Farmer Follow the Dream, Central Midlands SHS

Email: isabella.serra-sanfelin@education.wa.edu.au

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your Program Champion.

Sincerely,

Isabella Serra-Sanfelin

Follow the Dream Program Champion

Central Midlands SHS

Phone: (08) 9653 9200

Bronwyn Wright

Principal

Central Midlands SHS

Phone: (08) 9653 9200



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