# Going To School Matters Transcript

Going to school matters. Kids are full of potential and school is where they can realise it. Our job is to help them find their pathway. Walking side by side, we guide them so they can get to school every day. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids in remote communities already have a lot of great strengths and have been following their own paths for a long time. They are independent, caring and strong with culture. Families and communities are already teaching them key life skills, like how to share, listen and care for others. Lots of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids speak more than one language. This benefits them in their cultural and classroom learning journey, it helps them grow strong healthy brains and keeps them open to new learning experiences. When kids bring these life skills with them to school, it helps them walk in two worlds and they develop into strong leaders for the future.

But some days it can be hard to get kids to school. Families face lots of unexpected twists and turns on the path. Some kids miss more than one day of school a week and they’re falling behind on their learning journey. Kids are missing out on important lessons like reading, writing and maths. If a child misses just one day of school a week they start to fall behind. By the time year 12 comes around they would have missed three years of school. It all adds up.

That’s why Remote School Attendance Strategy or RSAS is here if things start to get tough. We make sure kids don’t fall too far behind and help families and kids get back on the path to learning. Helping families get kids to school every day is really important. It doesn’t matter where children come from or where they want to go in life, school will start to open up life’s doors for them. Whether they want to be a mechanic, a doctor, a business owner, a ranger, a football player, a musician, or even an astronaut. Whatever their dreams, school can help kids get there. Research shows that regular school attendance has lots of positive outcomes for kids. Kids with a higher level of schooling are more likely to get a good job after they graduate. Regular school attendance also has lots of other positive impacts. Kids who go to school regularly are more confident, they learn important life skills, make friends and have better health and social wellbeing outcomes later in life. When Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids go to school regularly it keeps them on a level playing field with other kids and strengthens what they are learning outside of school. Together we can keep kids on the path to school no matter what gets in their way.

We walk with students and their families, we walk with schools and our communities. We’re all in this together to turn young dreams into reality. Because school attendance is everyone’s business.