stronger smarter institute

LEADERSHIP FELLOWSHIP
INAUGURAL COHORT 2027



Courage to Lead

A Stronger Smarter Fellowship

Exceptional leadership. Extraordinary privilege. Shared possibilities.

Facilitated by
Dr Chris Sarra

THE FELLOWSHIP

Leading a school in a remote First Nations community is an extraordinary privilege.

Stepping forward to take it on already takes courage. Communities bring deep knowledge, culture and aspirations for their children. Learn to lead alongside them, and it can become the defining work of your career.

Over ten weeks online, Dr Chris Sarra, former principal of Cherbourg State School and founder of the Stronger Smarter Institute, personally facilitates every session. The fellowship offers intellectually rigorous, emotionally engaging and practical opportunities to examine your leadership identity, deepen your understanding of community and strengthen the relationships through which effective leadership becomes possible.

When we change the way we see,
we change the way we lead.

THREE DEVELOPMENTAL MOVEMENTS

01

Self

See your own identity, assumptions, vulnerabilities and relationship with authority differently.

02

Community

Recognise the knowledge, strengths, history, aspirations and authority already present.

03

Relationship

Build the trust and judgement to share influence and lead with others.

WHO YOU BECOME

A more confident, discerning, relationally capable and professionally fulfilled leader, creating conditions in which children, families, educators, communities and you can thrive.

None of this requires you to arrive as an exceptional leader. It does require a willingness to grow into one.

WHAT YOU GAIN

Growth you carry into every relationship and responsibility.

Confidence and professional identity

Stronger judgement, the capacity to acknowledge uncertainty and confidence in navigating complexity.

Understanding of community

Deeper appreciation of local authority, aspirations, wisdom and strengths, reflected in purposeful engagement.

High-Expectations Relationships

More skilful exercise of authority, courageous dialogue, reciprocity and genuinely shared agency.

Wellbeing and fulfilment

Stronger peer support, belonging and purpose, and real enjoyment in the privilege of leading.

Sustainable leadership

Continuity, staff morale and community trust, and conditions in which children, families and educators flourish.

An enduring fellowship

A trusted network of peers and a lasting alumni identity, well beyond the ten weeks.

> *Wellbeing should not simply be something principals are taught to manage. It should be something they are increasingly able to experience through more meaningful, connected and sustainable ways of leading.*

HOW IT WORKS

Two hours a week, after school, on Microsoft Teams. There are no heavy academic assignments. You bring insights from doing your existing work differently.

Leadership Circles

Five standing circles of four meet every week. In a trusted, confidential space you bring genuine dilemmas, test your thinking and learn from peers carrying similar responsibilities. You need not have all the answers.

Walking with Community

Between sessions you listen, without a set agenda, to Elders, Traditional Owners, families and Aboriginal education workers. These are invitations, never assignments: local protocols, consent and reciprocity guide every encounter.

A FELLOWSHIP THAT ASKS SOMETHING OF YOU

Is this fellowship for you?

If you believe deeply in the exceptional potential of First Nations children, recognise that communities have much to teach us, and are prepared to examine yourself honestly, embrace discomfort and grow, this fellowship was designed with you in mind.

It is not for those who see remote communities as postings to endure, or who believe their role is to arrive with answers to problems others need fixing.

You will not be expected to arrive with all the answers. You will be expected to bring the courage to question some of your own.



Stepping forward to lead in a remote community takes courage. This fellowship helps you see and embrace local community and authority, and thrive in the true privilege of serving there.

Dr Chris Sarra · Founder, Stronger Smarter Institute

KEY DETAILS

- Begins Term 1, 2027
- 10 weeks online
- All 10 sessions required
- **$5,500 + GST** per fellow
- 2 hours per week, after school
- Limited to 20 fellows
- Facilitated by Dr Chris Sarra

INAUGURAL COHORT

Applications now open

Apply now at strongersmarter.com.au

stronger smarter institute

The Stronger Smarter Institute acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live and work, and pays respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past and present.