



ROLE MODELS: Borinya Community Partnership staff including (from left) Leif Sallows, Wayne Jose, Hedge and Kjirsten Robb and Joshua Hartwig feel empowered working with vulnerable students thanks to the Berry Street Model.

PHOTO: Emma Hillier

Educators bolster skills to help our young people

EDUCATORS are keen to learn more strategies to work effectively with vulnerable students affected by trauma.

Borinya Community Partnership staff already feel more confident when working with young people affected by trauma thanks to the first of four Berry Street Model training sessions.

The Berry Street Model aims to equip teachers and community leaders with strategies to gain the best results from students who may be affected by trauma.

Principal Peter Chalkley, who entered the role at the start of the year, said the institution was fortunate enough to have nine staff members enrolled in the training program.

"The model provides a platform for a holistic approach when working with all young persons but particularly a young person who may be affected by trauma," he said.

"It reminds me of the value and importance of providing a



BY FREYJA POSTLETHWAITE
fpostlethwaite@nemedi.com.au

young person with a safe place of calm, routine and respect.

"It is important for them to have a place where it is okay to make a mistake and to see that mistake as an opportunity for growth."

Mr Chalkley said the program highlighted ways in which at-risk young people can be provided with the skills and self-awareness to regulate their own behaviour.

Staff felt they gained a valuable insight into how students function when stressed and clear strategies to apply in and out of the classroom.

NESAY coordinated the program with the help of funding from the Department of Education and the Local Learning and Employment Network.