

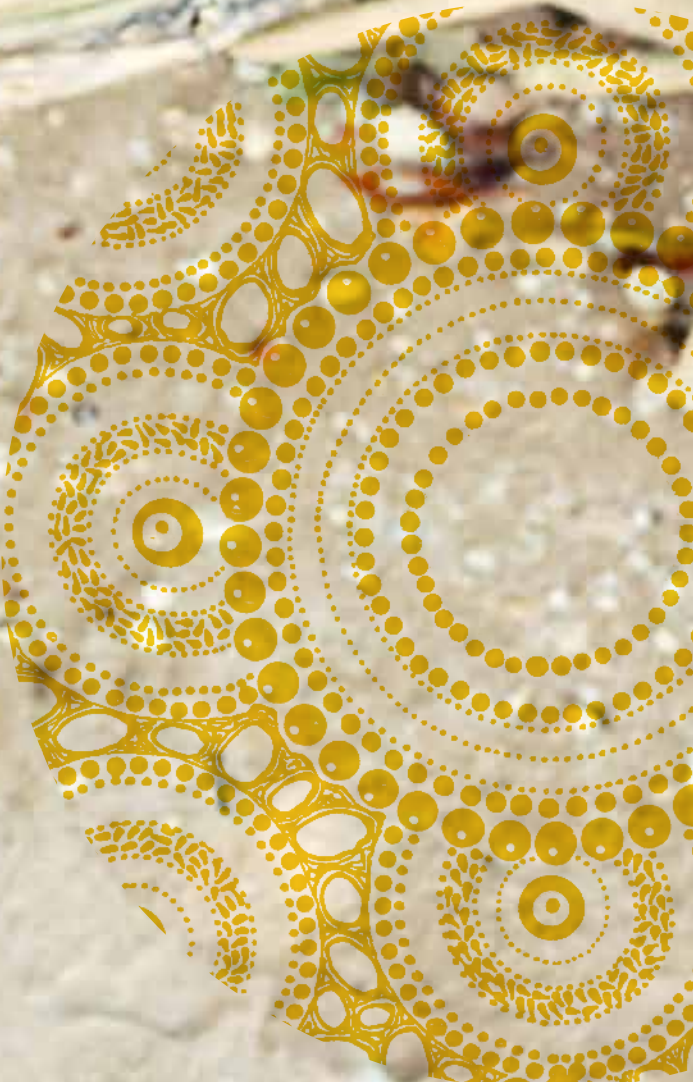
# Annual Report 2021





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# 2021 Highlights

## Family

*“We have got generations of people here. We have got the old girls, and then we have got the younger ones – their daughters, and then you have got their kids and their grannies... I think having that several generations of family participating, gives us a really strong possibility of surviving into the future.”*

**413 children**

(0-8 years) children engaged in health and/or learning

**1519 community members**

across generations engaged with Children’s Ground





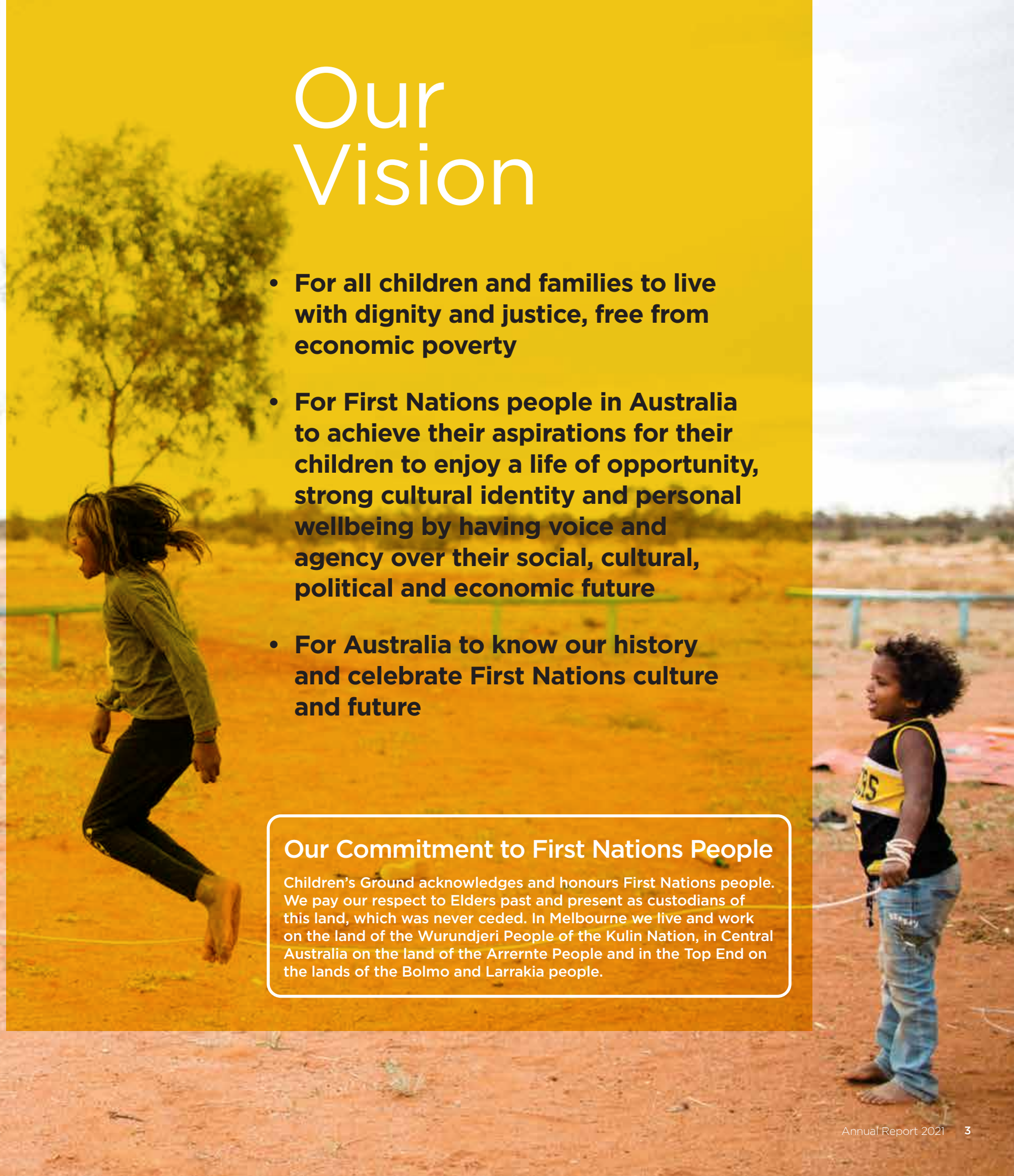


# Our Vision

- **For all children and families to live with dignity and justice, free from economic poverty**
- **For First Nations people in Australia to achieve their aspirations for their children to enjoy a life of opportunity, strong cultural identity and personal wellbeing by having voice and agency over their social, cultural, political and economic future**
- **For Australia to know our history and celebrate First Nations culture and future**

## Our Commitment to First Nations People

Children's Ground acknowledges and honours First Nations people. We pay our respect to Elders past and present as custodians of this land, which was never ceded. In Melbourne we live and work on the land of the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation, in Central Australia on the land of the Arrernte People and in the Top End on the lands of the Bolmo and Larrakia people.







# A Message From Community Leaders

## Children's Ground is our organisation, First Nations people.

We are making decisions for ourselves. We have the solutions to make change in our lives and for our children. We have our evidence – cultural evidence that everyone knows has worked. Our language and culture are very important to us and for the future of our children. As First Nations people we have lived through endless policy changes that have controlled our lives and delivered constant grief and trauma. Our people have been disempowered for generations. We don't want this for our children and grandchildren. We want to achieve equity, power and justice for our children and families.

Closing the Gap reports highlight the harm our children and families face. We are now taking the lead, working to improve education, health and employment and to prevent child trauma, suicide, mental health challenges, alcohol and other drugs, child removal, incarceration, ill-health, early death and family violence. We want our communities to be safe, happy and full of hope – places where our children grow up knowing who they are, where they belong, and with the same opportunities as all other Australian children. We want our children to grow up knowing their cultures and languages and for this to continue through generations to come.

"We need to keep teaching our young ones their language and culture. Without that, without our identity, who are we?"

Edmond Doolan, young Arrernte leader

**"Our future as Australians is for us to live together with respect. Our people don't want to live in the past, we want the past to live in us. We want our kids to be part of a vibrant future with their culture and identity intact. We know as Aboriginal people that this foundation provides us what we need to engage as equals, empowered and with choice over our future. The governance systems imposed on our people over the 240 years has hurt us, but it has not broken our spirit and we continue to follow our laws, search to revive and strengthen our identities and to deliver the best for our people."**

William Tilmouth, Children's Ground Chairperson



# Message From the Chair



**2021 was a remarkable year. A big, busy, inspiring and challenging year – which is always the way at Children’s Ground.**

It was fantastic to see the Minister of Indigenous Affairs Ken Wyatt and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, June Oscar AO speak at the launch of our first evaluation report in Central Australia. It is an important evaluation tool in terms of our empowerment and a way to tell the broader community the truth. Us doing the research is ‘nothing about us without us’ – the more we know about ourselves the more we can understand our struggle and overcome the blockages that impede us.

Instead of focusing on the symptoms and the crisis, Children’s Ground is focused on the cause and the future. Our children and their education, health and wellbeing are at the heart of this; most important is our culture and our identity. The evaluation details key baseline data and the achievements and challenges of the early implementation of Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe (Children’s Ground Central Australia). It also presents progress toward long term outcomes in education, employment, health, community engagement, empowerment and the revitalisation of our languages and culture.

This is about us deciding what is best for us. It is the people on the ground speaking up for what they want to do. Too often we pay band aid money downstream to the crisis-driven situations. Very little money goes to prevention. Very little money goes upstream to find out what is needed to prevent the crisis-driven situation at the bottom of the cliff. We’re not the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff. We’re trying to prevent it upstream.

We are known for our culturally responsive learning that is engaging our children as a key determinant for their life success. But integral to our work is also the health promotion that is embedded into everything we do. It’s all encompassing – health is integrated into learning, employment, community development and more. Children’s Ground is all about interconnectedness. We don’t think in silos. Governments do, but we don’t.

With the employment of specialist Covid Officers, we have been able to increase the support we’ve been offering since the pandemic began. We are looking after our Elders, ensuring families have access to the food and other supplies they need to isolate – including learning resources for our children. We are making sure everyone has accurate information and support to be vaccinated against Covid-19.

The impact we are having on local employment for First Nations people is enormous. Children are turning up to Children’s Ground because parents and grandparents are turning up as well. The whole family is involved in learning – just as it should be in our culture. Children’s Ground has become something that involves the whole community which is what it was intended to be in the first place. It is owned by the community. The community is leading the way – picking up their roles and responsibilities.

I’ve also seen changes on an individual level. People who never usually spoke up are speaking up. I’ve seen the voices of people being raised. Through Children’s Ground, people who have long been silenced are realising that they have a voice and a right to be heard.

We’re not subservient anymore. We will speak up and we will speak up loudly.

To all of you, our partners, who make this possible, I thank you. I am humbled by your commitment and support. You have created access to services that previously did not exist. You are supporting our empowerment through our culture and together we are creating a new reality for our children.

**William Tilmouth**

# Message From the CEO



**The power of Children’s Ground lies in the agency and voice of the people, who lead us. The vision and talent of local First Nations people has guided the creation of Children’s Ground and is driving our success.**

2021 marked an important milestone for us with the launch of our second evaluation report and the first evaluation of Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe, Children’s Ground in Central Australia. The evaluation spans operations from 2017-2019 and presents baseline, implementation and early impact data. While in early stages of our operations, key findings evidence improved learning, health, economic independence, local empowerment and decision making, and extensive child, family and community engagement of First Nations people. Based on international evidence, it shows the foundations for long term change are being established. This report also highlights where we need to focus our attention and how we can improve as an organisation as we progress to the full implementation of the Approach.

Children’s Ground has now been operational for seven years. Over this time, we have brought to life a First Nations led design that is working. We were supported by the Australian Government as an approach of social innovation in our early days and, through support from our amazing

philanthropic family and the Australian Government, we have been implementing our 25-year strategy in a staged approach. This year, the pursuit of our vision has seen us develop our operations across three diverse geographic regions and nine communities as we build our practice and evidence base. The Children’s Ground Approach is showing flexibility, impact and strength, and despite both expected and unexpected challenges our progress has been outstanding. Our highlights span from early childhood education to improved health, revitalisation of languages, emerging young leaders who were previously at risk, learning resources and incredible stories of employment and leadership. We celebrate communities who are leading change.

It is impossible to honour every single achievement here because they are constant, and often subtle. Elders, children and families who lead Children’s Ground are defying injustices that are so ingrained in our system. Our leaders are dealing with the daily battles of intergenerational poverty, trauma, ill-health, racism, family incarceration and child protection services. Covid has highlighted these injustices, with people fighting the spread of disease in overcrowding with insufficient resources and no capacity to isolate.

At Children’s Ground, we are not just delivering services; we are building the practice leadership and evidence each day to create widespread systemic reform. We are building a new norm for the next generation of First Nations children - lives of opportunity, wellbeing, cultural respect, justice and hope.

Financially, we ended the year in a strengthened financial position. Our accounts show a \$0.45M profit at the end of 2021, the majority of which is attributable to funding for Covid dedicated work for 2022 and a philanthropic commitment to support our fundraising and investment capability. In the context of uncertainty with Covid and an organisation that needs to grow to achieve our strategic benchmarks, we have successfully retained Government funding and grown our philanthropic partners to meet our operational needs for the year. In line with our strategy, Children’s Ground will need to continue to grow over the next five years to be fully operational in three main regions.

I thank all of our wonderful partners, our growing family of donors, our dedicated Board, our visionary Governance groups and our incredible Ambassadors. Our success is only made possible by the vision, commitment and generosity of others. Your collective investment and its impact are felt every day, from each child, in each family and each community.

**Jane Vadiveloo**



# Changing the System



**“We’ve been following government nearly all our lives – this is a new beginning. We are following a new path, our own path as First Nations people for the future of our children. At Children’s Ground, the community are taking the lead. We are very proud of that. We are the government of ourselves.”**

M.K. Turner, OAM, Arrernte Professor, Elder and Law Woman  
Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe Director Children’s Ground

**We have the answers as First Nations people. Our culture and language must be at the heart of everything. This is who we are. This is the most important thing for our children.**

We experience disadvantage and injustice because of the way the mainstream system works. We want this to be a thing of the past.

At Children’s Ground we are creating a system that reflects our cultures and responds to our past and our future.

We have created the Children’s Ground Approach with a strong focus on education, health and employment in our communities where we live. We want our communities to be safe, strong, alive and peaceful. We want the best for our kids. They must know their language and culture and they need to know Western ways as well. In our First Nations system we include all of the family, different generations, all with roles and responsibilities. This is what our children need and this is what we are strengthening. We include our babies, our children, our young people. We worry for our young people, because many are lost at and at risk. We include our adults and our important Elders. Our Elders are our guides and we follow their path.

Our Approach will support our children to be safe in their identity, who they are as First Nations people and to be proud. We are also making sure they grow through life with lots of opportunities so that they can enter adulthood with a strong education, healthy and with the skills to follow their dreams.

We represent Children’s Ground in this painting. It shows the connection of our children, our generations, our families, the learning and development of our children and their future. It also shows our partners, our funders who are key to who we are. You can find out more about this painting [here](#).



Children’s Ground is underpinned by a robust theory of change (Figure 1) that operates at a community, systems and society level, Children’s Ground seeks to work in 3-5 regions to evidence the impact of the Children’s Ground Approach (CGA) to advocate for and influence systems change nationally.

With a 25-year longitudinal evaluation embedded in each region, early evidence demonstrates that the CGA has put the key foundations in place to change the status quo.

**The CG Approach is reforming:**

- ‘How’ services are delivered and governed (Practice Principles);
- ‘What’ services are delivered (Integrated and culturally responsive service platform); and
- System structures that are ‘enabling conditions for change’.

The Children’s Ground Approach is a fully integrated system of services needed for whole of community change over a generation. We focus on prevention, early intervention and empowerment rather than crisis and deficit. We are implementing a system that recognises First Nations governance, solutions and systems of knowledge. This is complemented by Western leading practice.

Figure 1: Children’s Ground Theory of Change

**Children’s Ground’s Theory of Change is that...**

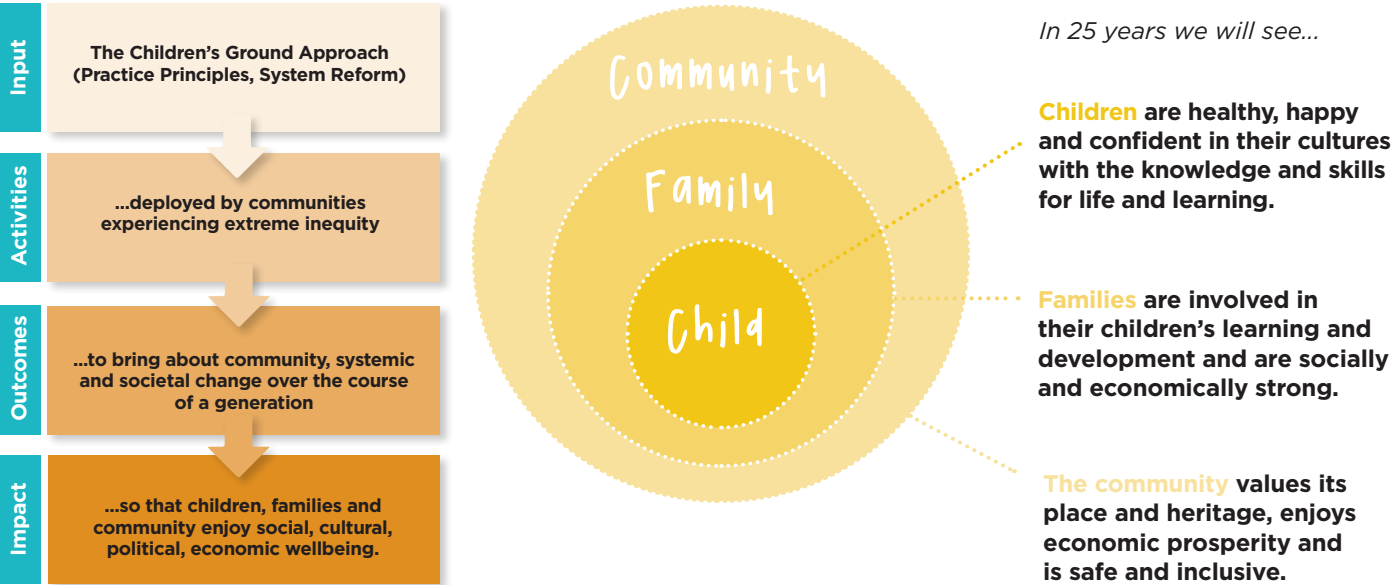
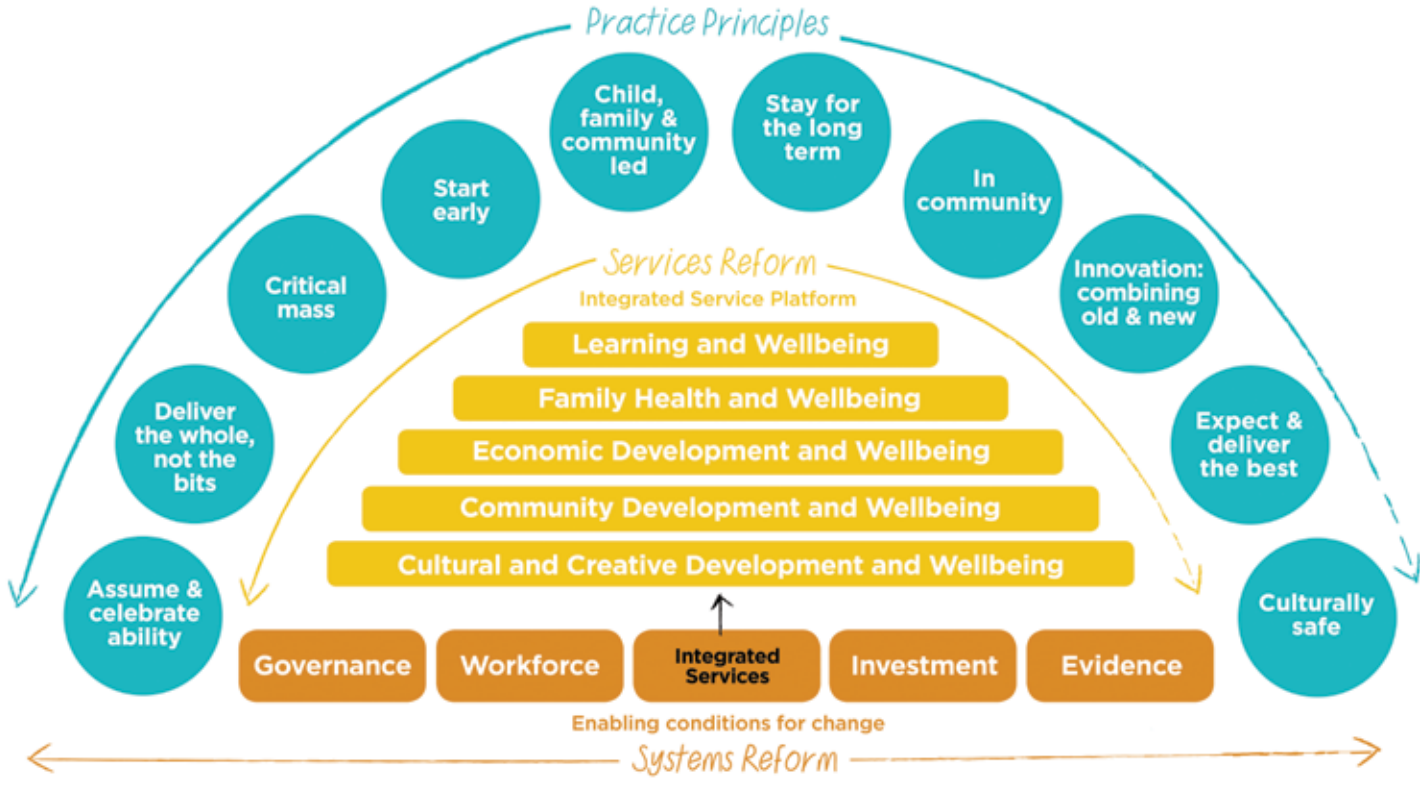


Figure 2 shows the CGA and describes what we do (platform areas), how we do our work (principles) and key areas where we are changing the system so we can reach our vision. Children’s Ground is based on our evidence as First Nations people and Western evidence. It was created from our Elders, our experience, our knowledge and our practice. In our culture you can’t separate things out – everything is connected, health, education, culture, employment, community, country, people – and this is how Children’s Ground is designed. We must deliver these things together, in the right way, with the right people, and then we will see real change.

We are planning, delivering and evaluating the CG Approach so our children and grandchildren have the opportunity to grow and learn in environments that respect and strengthen their identity, First Language, culture and connection to Country. We are also empowering our children with the skills they need to be successful in mainstream Western systems. We want them to have the freedom to choose their pathways. This should be available to them in their communities, on their Country and being connected with the rest of the world.

Figure 2: The Children’s Ground Approach



**“You won’t ‘close the gap’ in quality of life by trying to fix Aboriginal people. You need instead to fix the system of solutions which are repeatedly imposed on all our people.”**

William Tilmouth, Senior Arrernte man, Children’s Ground



# Our Strategy

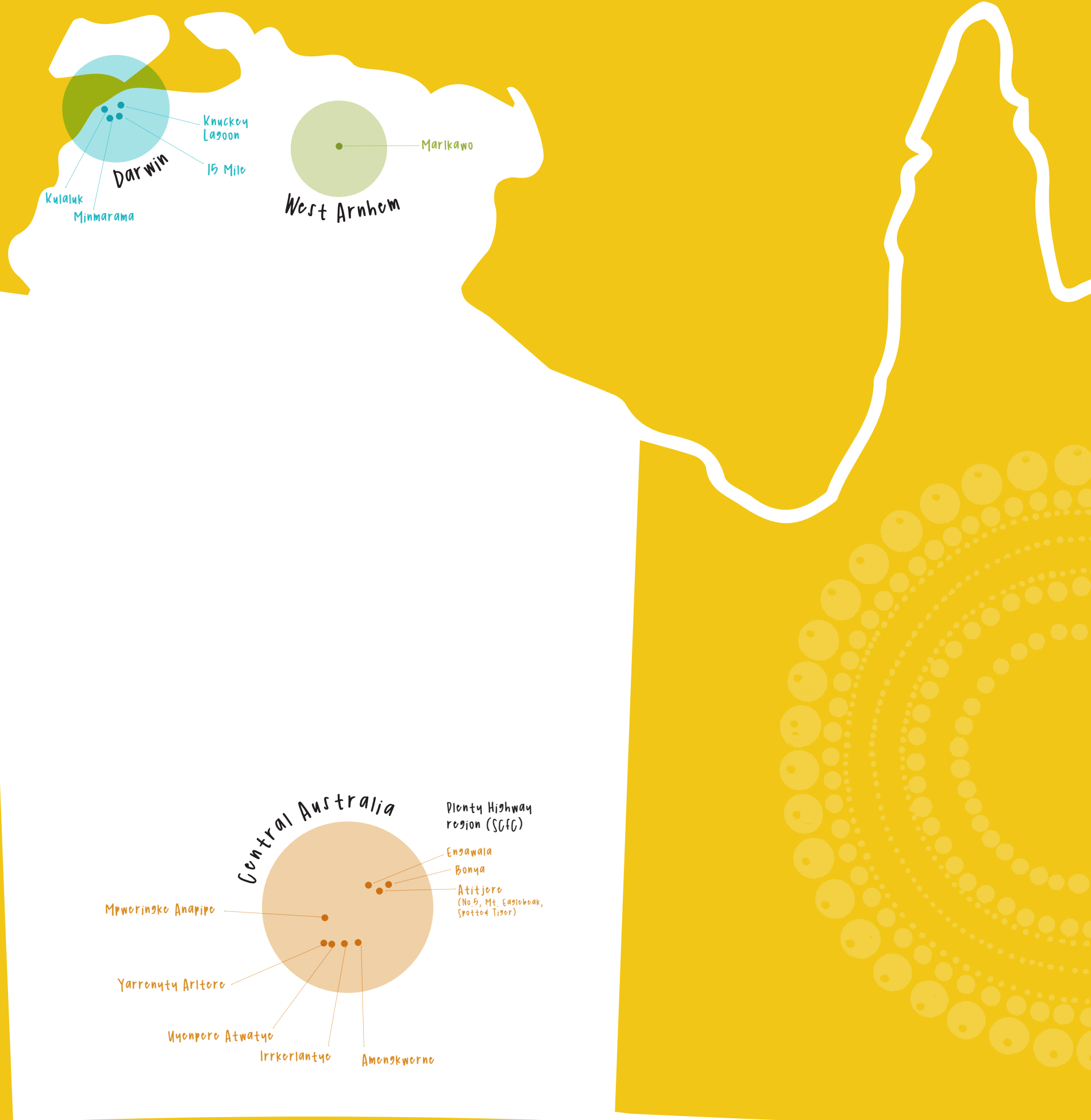
The Children’s Ground Approach (CGA) is a 25-year strategy designed to create lasting change.



Goal	Status
AREA 1: IMPLEMENT AND SHARE THE CGA AS A FIRST NATIONS SYSTEMS REFORM TO ACHIEVE LONG TERM CHANGE	
Goal 1: Establish leading practice through implementation of the CGA	<p><b>KPI:</b> 3-5 Regions full Children’s Ground Approach – diverse contexts/delivery and facilitation.</p> <p><b>Current status:</b></p> <p><u>Region 1:</u> Grown CGA to 75% of full operations from 2016-2021 town/remote model.</p> <p><u>Region 2:</u> Very Remote CGA homeland model - 50% (2018-2021).</p> <p><u>Region 3:</u> Walk &amp; Talk community engagement and early stage delivery of full CGA (2020-21) in major town centre.</p>
Goal 2: Document and share the Children’s Ground Approach	<p>Children’s Ground Approach (CGA) full documentation (for external use and training) 50%.</p> <p>Communications: Annual sharing of practice in a range of public forums (national conferences, guest speaker invitations, etc).</p> <p>Reports: Annual, Community and Quarterly Impact Reports.</p>
Goal 3: Evidence the Approach	<p><b>KPI:</b> Triennial progress and evaluation reports per region.</p> <p><b>Current status:</b></p> <p>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation in each region.</p> <p>Two public evaluation reports: Proof of concept evaluation (2014-2017) and Baseline and early impact evaluation (2017-2019).</p> <p>External independent review and accountability.</p> <p>Research &amp; Development – limited by resource.</p>
AREA 2: CONTRIBUTE TO SYSTEMS CHANGE AT NATIONAL LEVEL	
Goal 4: Promote national systems change	<p><b>Utyerre Apanpe:</b> Establishment and support for National Network of First Cultural Educators seeking national education reform in First Nations led education.</p> <p><b><i>In My Blood it Runs:</i></b> Key partner in production and impact - contributing to National dialogue and reform in juvenile justice and education.</p>
Goal 5: Champion First Nations history and culture	<p><b>National dialogue:</b> Contribution to national truth telling, improved national understanding of cultural knowledge systems and strength, vision and voice of First Nations people.</p>
AREA 3: BUILD A SUSTAINABLE QUALITY CHILDRENS GROUND ORGANISATION	
Goal 6: Strengthen and grow the Children’s Ground Organisation and people	<p>Organisation continues to mature in key areas as an emerging organisation to meet ongoing requirements to achieve efficiency and effectiveness.</p> <p>Internal systems (IT, HR) still require improvements to meet demand.</p>
Goal 7: Financial Sustainability and efficiency	<p>Steady but modest increase in financial position. Increased financial security. Significant growth sought over five year forecast to achieve full implementation of CGA in four regions.</p>
Goal 8: Governance that meets both Western and First Nations Governance standards	<p>Stable and high quality Western and First Nations Governance.</p> <p>Empowered First Nations voice at organisational and community level.</p> <p>Elders confirm organisational integrity.</p> <p>Annual audit and performance (meeting strategic targets) confirms compliance, quality and standards.</p>



# Where We Work





# First Nations Ways of Knowing and Being

Message from Akngerrepate (Elder) Margaret Kemarre Turner OAM. MK is a member of the Cultural Governance of Children’s Ground and the Children’s Ground Ltd. Board. She has been instrumental in setting the vision of Children’s Ground and establishing the standards for cultural integrity to realise our vision.

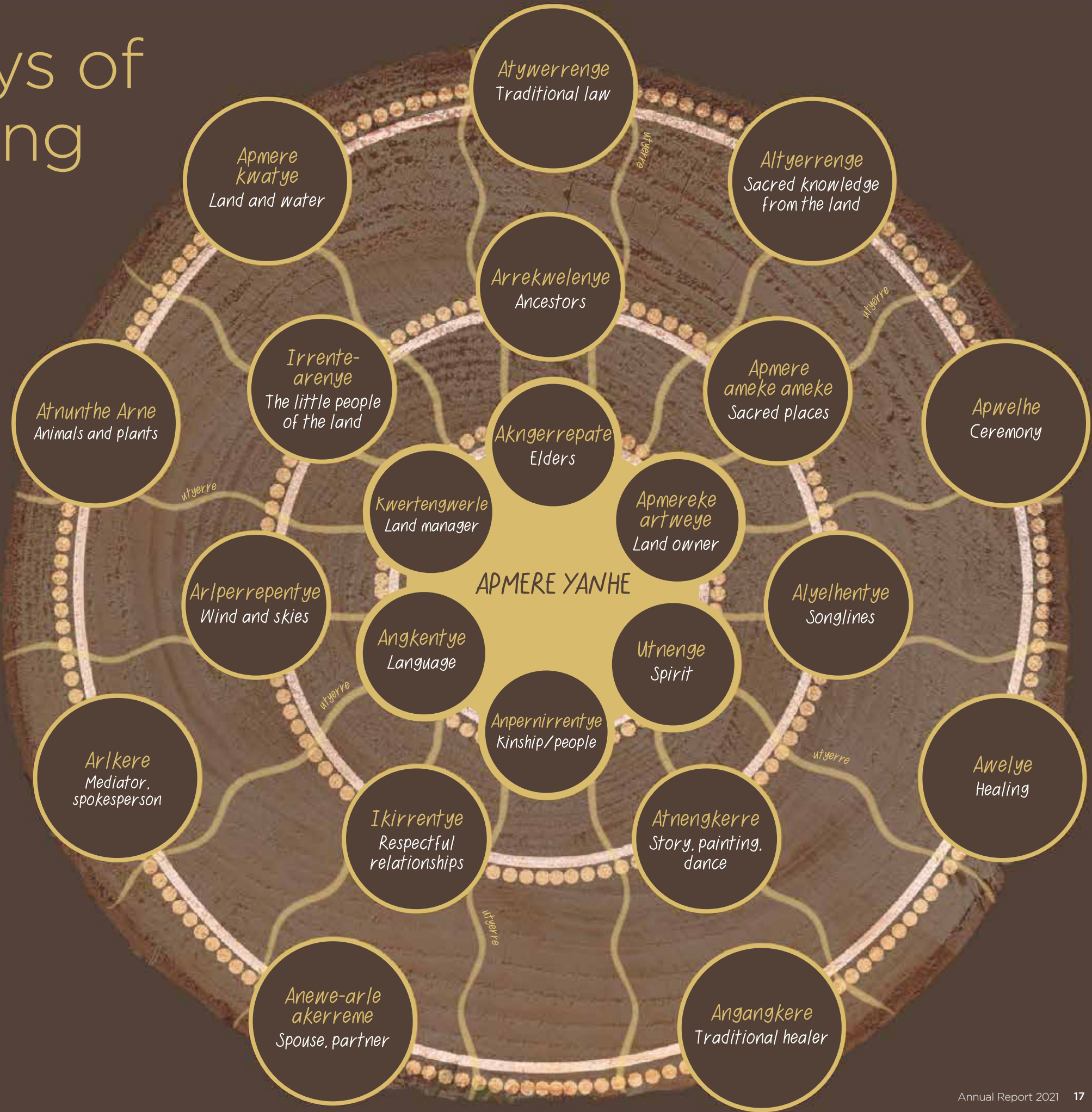


Our knowledge systems are in our mind. They are not written down. They are handed down through generations through strict laws. These laws exist today for us as Aboriginal people. These laws and knowledge are who we are as Aboriginal people and these are held in our language. At Children’s Ground I want to see our children, our young people and our adults become stronger in their knowledge and their culture. We were taken from our lands and we are reconnecting to our Country. When we do this we are able to strengthen our identity, our wellbeing, our kinship and our laws. This will make our children and young people healthy in their minds, their spirits and their bodies. This is our responsibility. This is what we are doing at Children’s Ground.

Our law is very complex. We can’t write it all down. But I have put down the key areas we must follow as First Nations people (see opposite page). This is the pathway for how we must live, for our curriculum in teaching, our health system, our employment and our community.

**“Apmereyanhe, our language – land, is like a root or tie to us... The roots of the Country and its people are twined together. We are part of the Land, and we are the Land... and it’s really important for our kids to know...”**

MK Turner OAM *Iwenhe Tyerrtye – What it Means to be an Aboriginal Person 2010*





# 2021 Timeline

january



Truth-telling exercise held at the Invasion Day event in Mparntwe (Alice Springs) - metres-long timeline detailing the true history of First Nations dispossession and survival.

february



Another rich year of learning began in Central Australia and the Top End.

march



International Women's Day 2021 virtual conversation held between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, June Oscar AO, 2021 Senior Australian of the Year, Miriam Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann and leading Australian journalist Brooke Boney about 'Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) Report'.

Minmarama community in the Top End launched their breakfast program to support health and nutrition

april



Children's Ground partnered with NIYEC to host the fourth meeting of Utyerre Apanpe (First Nations Educators' Network) with a focus on youth.

Children's Ground marked 30 years since the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody were released.

Arrernte children have been learning anthepe (women's dance) on Country at Mpweringke Anapipe from their Nannas.

may

188 schools, childcare centres, organisations and individuals from every state and territory in Australia signed up to participate in Children's Ground's first annual Wear It Yellow Day.

Children's Ground hosted National Reconciliation Week conversation exploring the responsibilities of non-First Nations people in the reconciliation journey.



june



Children's Ground welcomed new ambassador, Eastern Arrernte and Gurindji musician Dan Sultan, to the family.

Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe hosted the Australian Human Rights Commission's National Children's Commissioner Anne Hollands and her team to discuss the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children.

july



NT first Covid-19 lockdown: focus on Elders support, health promotion, family plans, education resources, food security, hygiene and vaccination promotion.

First Nations staff led the vaccination response, using First Language to challenge misinformation and support their communities to get vaccinated against Covid-19 through a series of videos in multiple languages.

august



Djandjomerr family led a Learning on Country trip to Barnalorr: a special healing place they had not visited for many years. Children listened as their family taught them about the land and ancestors.

Senior Arrernte Educator Alison Ferber was recognised for dedication to cultural teaching and language preservation by winning Educator of the Year at the Mparntwe NAIDOC Awards.



november



COVID work at full pace - our health team working with community and organisations to increase vaccinations. Elders, young people, adults, all getting vaccinated and remote Marlkawo reached 100% vaccination!

december

Three new language books published! Pop-up shop creates economic opportunities and financial literacy.

Children and families celebrate a rich year of learning and wellbeing.

Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe released its first evaluation, showcasing the early stage impact of the Children's Ground Approach.



october

Children's Ground leaders and educators were thrilled to have our innovative work in First Nations education recognised by winning the Outstanding Achievement in Innovation Award at the Northern Territory Education and Care Awards.



september

Children and families planted first trees in the Knuckey Lagoon community garden.

Ambassadors Dan Sultan, Missy Higgins, The Cat Empire and the Teskey Brothers, celebrated Children's Ground's First Language resources to mark Indigenous Literacy Day.

Children's Ground women leaders celebrated with a feature in the Australian Women's Weekly.







*“Children’s Ground’s ‘by the community, for the community’ approach is achieving excellent outcomes. The Foundation is proud to have been associated with such a holistic multigenerational program.”*

Dr Alberto Furlan, Senior Program Manager, The Ian Potter Foundation



# Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe

(Children's Ground Central Australia)



## The year that was phenomenal

2021 marked the fifth year since Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe began in Central Australia with a vision and belief from the Elders. Reflecting on these last five years, the achievements have been incredible and the growth in the team – in individuals, families and communities – is phenomenal.

The launch of the first evaluation of Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe (baseline and early progress 2017-2019) at the end of 2021 was a celebration of our formative years. This collaborative and powerful report allows us to see how things have evolved over time for our children and families, what we need to improve on as we develop, and how empowerment and self-determination grow through governance, leadership and action.

One of our greatest achievements over these last five years has been providing meaningful, supported employment for First Nations families. With 60 First Nations staff employed at Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe in 2021, we are making change for communities who have historically experienced long-term unemployment and barriers to work. We broadened our team to include new positions in Elder support, Covid-19 health promotion and Women in Leadership. We made progress on our way to delivering the full Children's Ground Approach in Central Australia.

In the last two weeks of 2021, 12 different First Nations staff presented at a variety of virtual, local and national events. Four First Nations staff members engaged in public speaking for the first time. Through many presentations across different platforms in 2021, Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe staff displayed professionalism and commitment to both the organisation and their own development. They pushed others to question their bias, their practice and their knowledge. They are disrupting. That staff were able to build confidence and push themselves is a testament to the Children's Ground Approach and our commitment to workforce development and self-determination. Children's Ground staff members want to achieve excellence and are supported by solid mentoring, role modelling and the 'have a go' approach of Children's Ground.

We continue to walk alongside five communities in Central Australia and engage more families and children every year.

**Some parents who started engaging with Children's Ground when they had only one child now have four children – all who come to Children's Ground and are a part of our ever-growing family.**

We saw children speaking more of their First Languages, knowing their Country, learning their cultural responsibilities and developing solid foundations in their identity as First Nations children. Developing literacy and numeracy through high quality Western education enables our children to walk in a global world.

Children's Ground's First Language resource development exceeded expectations in 2021 with the production of three new children's books, four Arrernte early years songs and additions to our language-learning app. We also embarked on a new language project led by one of our founding Elders and Directors, MK Turner OAM, on her First Language – Akarre/ Akityerre. It is one of the Arandic dialects and is spoken by a very small group of people. This is a language preservation and revitalisation project which is vital for the sustainability of language and culture.

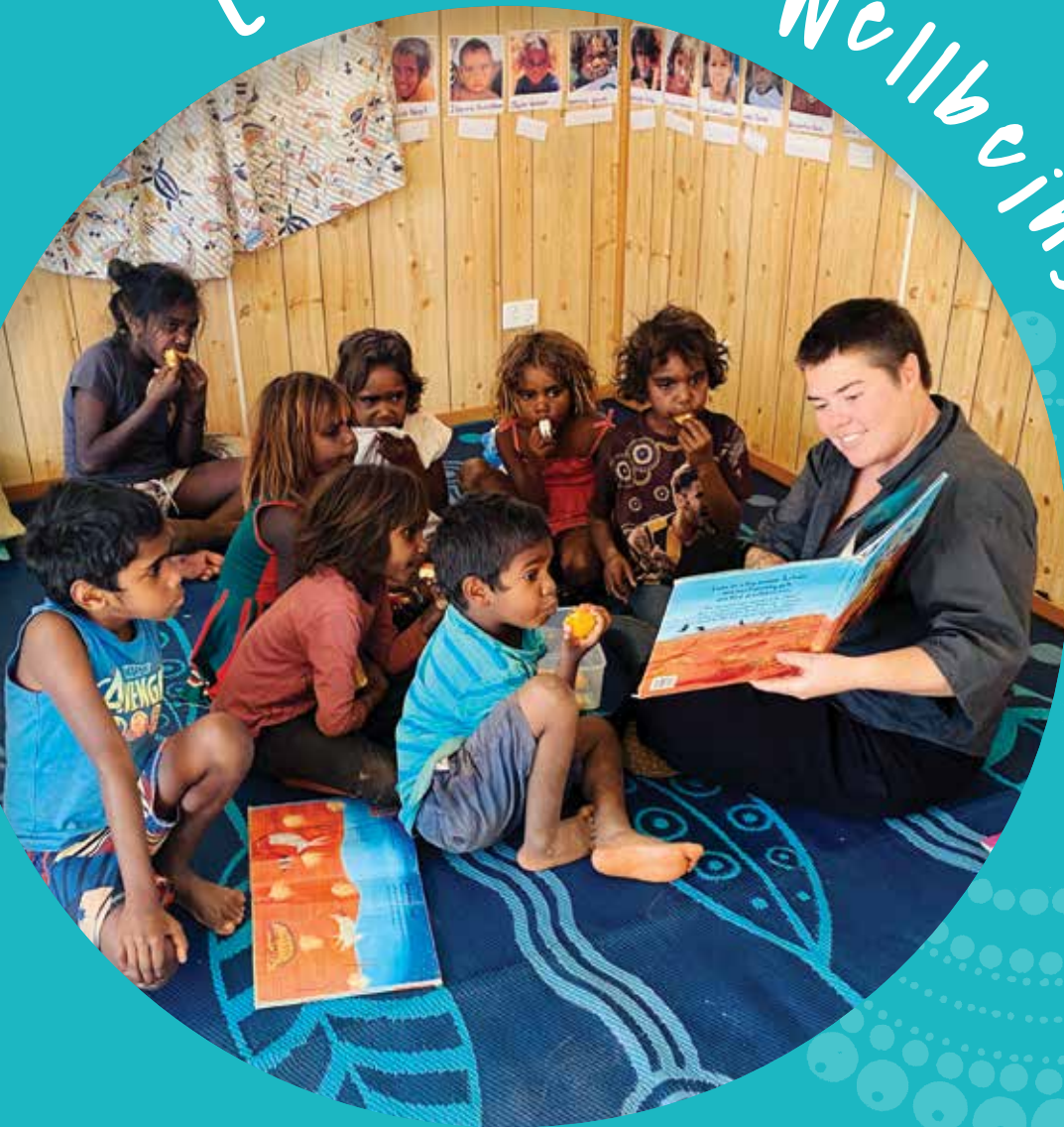
Amongst the moments of achievement and celebration, 2021 also brought grief, loss and the challenges of living through a pandemic. Losing Elders is always hard and affects us all, as does the passing of family members taken too soon which is tragically an all-too-common occurrence in First Nations communities. Our love and thoughts are with all families who carry too much grief.

Preparing for Covid-19 reaching the Northern Territory was a key priority of 2021. This was led by our Health Promotion team and supported by dedicated Covid health promotion staff. Through local languages and local cultural and family knowledge and talent, our team supported communities in vaccinations, planning and support to manage the risk of Covid.

The growth of Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe was not without its struggles. However, the team shares a vision, is committed to our plan and is led by Elders and management to deliver a 25 year strategy. The catchcry of the team remains, *"We'll just keep doing what we're doing."* In the end, the commitment and passion of the team was at the heart of everyday activities and outcomes with First Nations and non-First Nations staff working together. Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe is an amazing place which consistently brings hope and reality of change.



# Learning + Wellbeing



- 169 children aged 0-5 engaged in Learning and Wellbeing supported by 320 family members (18+ years)
- 758 people of all ages engaged in formal and informal learning – including early learning sessions on Country, in community, at family nights and during community celebrations
- 8 overnight Learning on Country camps were held to extend cultural learning
- End-of-year Learning Journey reports were shared with the family of each child

***“These reports reflect who each child is and how they are growing strong in their culture. From toddlers to primary-aged, all children were excited to think back on the learning they experienced this year. When I asked Anna what she wanted to do more of next year, she immediately said ‘anthepe’ (Arrernte dance)! She showed me the photos and reflected on her learning. It was magic. The pride and joy children have in knowing we see their strengths and whole self in a learning context will be with them forever.”***

Lee Causer, Educator

# Health + Wellbeing



***“We are seeing children understand that our health isn’t just about our physical body, but our emotional and cultural health as well.”***

Lee Causer, Educator

- 174 children aged 0-5 years engaged in health promotion and wellbeing support
- 631 participants engaged in health promotion and wellbeing support (249 young people 6-17 years and 382 adults 18+ years)
- Nutrition program operated on a daily basis for children, their families and Elders and included nutritious meals, nutrition education and food security
- Social and Emotional wellbeing program supported children, adults and young people who have experienced trauma
- 12 First Nations staff graduated with a Certificate 2 in Family Health & Wellbeing from the Batchelor Institute of Tertiary Education
- Covid-19 health promotion response expands with dedicated Covid Officers on the Health and Wellbeing team. This included Covid safety plans for each family, immunisation promotion and COVID prevention education
- First Nations health knowledge and practice was consistently embedded, including connection to Country, bush medicines, traditional healers, bush foods and ceremony
- Partnerships with local health organisations addressed chronic health issues and supported early intervention in child and maternal health, ear health and dental health
- Men’s cultural camp was held in partnership with Akeyulerre Healing Centre to support men’s health and wellbeing and connection to Country and family



# Economic Development + Wellbeing



- In 2021, 60 First Nations staff were employed at Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe across Learning, Health, Men's and Youth, Admin, Finance, Research and Evaluation, Community Development and Governance
- Staff engaged in professional development and training in Light Rigid Vehicle operation, First Aid, management, Covid infection control, respectful relationships, addressing domestic violence and sales and enterprise
- Three new Arrernte children's books published as part of *Anwerne Ingkerrekele Mpwareke: By Us, For Us* enterprise – contributing to the development of culturally based economic opportunities for First Nations educators
- 91 First Nations people participated 70 Resource Development and Enterprise workshops or development sessions

- Nine pop up shops and market stalls: staff learned valuable skills in customer service, financial literacy, event coordination, marketing and business development
- Arelhe-kenhe Ayeye program supported First Nations women to develop financial security and economic independence as well as social and emotional wellbeing

*"Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe has strong women leaders who have and continue to pave the way for the younger women. We are observing these young women stepping quietly and in their own time, into their roles as future leaders."*

Tracy Minniecon, Workforce Development Coordinator

# Cultural + Creative Development + Wellbeing



- 70 First Nations people participated in 20 intergenerational Arrernte language workshops
- Families continued to integrate practicing anthepe (Arrernte women's dance) and altharte (Arrernte men's dance) into learning activities and community events
- Akarre-Akityarre language and resource development project developed to preserve and revitalise the endangered Akarre language
- Digital illustration and design workshop facilitated in Arrernte by artist Amunda Gorey
- Over 80 children, young people and adults engaged in the Arrernte Angkwerre-Iwetyeke at Inteye Arrkwe (Healing Camp at Ross River), facilitated by Children's Ground and Akeyulerre to support cultural knowledge transfer and healing

- 32 long term residents of Uyenpere Atwatye, including 17 children, spent two nights camping on their homelands. This was the first time these children spent extended time on Country with all their family

*"We need those trips out bush to get our young men together for healing on Country and get back to joining in with cultural activities... It's important that our young men are learning about who they are and what they're responsible for."*

Mitchell Doolan, Men's & Youth Worker





- Four communities developed their own unique Community Plans to showcase their vision for Children's Ground and the values, aspirations, governance and activities for their children and families
- 123 people participated in weekly governance meetings, both in their communities and as part of the Ingkerrekele Arntarnte-areme (Children's Ground Central Australia Governance Committee)
- Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe released its first evaluation (2017-2019 baseline and early progress), showcasing the impact Children's Ground made with families and communities
- End-of-year celebrations were designed and delivered by each community – creating a positive space to acknowledge the achievements of children and their families
- 12 First Nations staff members presented at a variety of virtual, local and national events, including SNAICC 'Innovative Approaches to New World Challenges' virtual conference



## Stronger Communities for Children

The Stronger Communities for Children (SCfC) program is funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA - Australian Government) with support from Ninti One. Children's Ground is the facilitating partner for the Plenty Highway region, which includes the communities of Atitjere, Engawala and Bonya, as well as outstations: No.5, Mt. Eaglebeak and Spotted Tiger. The Plenty Highway region is located two hours north-east of Mparntwe (Alice Springs) and has strong family connections to Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe.

Children's Ground SCfC staff take direction from the Local Community Board (LCB) on what activities will achieve the Plenty Highway vision for "a safe healthy and child-friendly community, with a strong connection to culture, that provides meaningful activities, training and employment for young people and families, and where local people have control over their lives and communities."

### Highlights from 2021:

- Akarre-Akityarre language and resource development workshops
- Bush medicine collection and preparation
- Huckitta Station Mustering Camp for young men
- Screen-printing workshop in Atitjere
- Bonya School Holiday and Wellness Program
- Cyber Safety workshop in Engawala
- Supported community-led family bush trips with over 50 adults and children attending
- LCB members attended Knowledge Sharing Seminar and Governance Training

### Akarre-Akityarre resource development workshops

As part of a wider Children's Ground Akarre-Akityarre word list and picture dictionary project, Atitjere community and Local Community Board (LCB) members ran language workshops to develop a learning resource. LCB members decided to focus their language resource on bush medicine, bush foods and hunting. First, the group held an on-Country learning trip to find and collect bush medicine and bush foods and then worked on writing about these cultural practices in language. To bring these language resources to life, participants took photos of the bush medicine and foods and created digital illustrations on iPads. Through our experience producing First Language children's books, Children's Ground is supporting the Atitjere community to create and publish their own language resources.

***"It is important to teach our young people and kids in the community our language. It is important that writing in language is taught as well."***

Maria Ross, Local Board Member



# Top End: Wurdurd Garriygarrmerren



## The year that was challenging and amazing

Due to Covid-19, biosecurity measures for safety and travel restrictions, it was a challenging year for the Marlkwawo families. Despite this, with support, families remained on their Country for another year.

The interconnectedness of the Children's Ground Approach happened naturally in Marlkwawo, where families live on their traditional Country in remote West Arnhem Land. On Country, everything is connected; everything wurdurd (children) learn on Country is connected to their health, their spirit and their knowledge to carry culture and language into future generations.

In 2021 in Marlkwawo, delivery of learning, health and community development continued to strengthen through both Western-trained specialists and First Nations teams. The population of this remote Homeland ranges from 8 people to 50 people, depending on the time of the year. Over the course of the year, the service population has included over 100 people who engaged with Children's Ground's learning, health, employment and/or governance with Marlkwawo. People in Marlkwawo live with significant health issues and Children's Ground was the only health support regularly available in the community.

During the Dry Season, a Western-trained teacher and First Nations educators worked together to deliver high-quality educational experiences for children living at Marlkwawo ranging in age from early childhood through to primary age. First Nations leaders led multiple bush trips every week, rediscovering some sacred places that had not been visited since moving back to the Marlkwawo Homelands in 2018. This was the first time many adults had visited these important sites, alongside their children and grandchildren. These Country trips provided the perfect space for integrated learning and health activities, with children engaging in cultural storytelling, traditional healing and eating bush tucker.

**Spending extended periods of time on Country has positive outcomes not only for a child's learning, but the social, cultural and emotional wellbeing of the entire family.**

Throughout the year, we worked with Narwardeken academy to trial additional educational support for children and families at Marlkwawo.

At Marlkwawo, we integrated health promotion into every learning session, with a strong focus on healthy minds and bodies. Wurdurd (children) and adults learned about brain function during times of heightened emotion and created glitter jars to help visualise what that looks like. These jars were used to help calm minds during yoga and meditation.

In 2021, Marlkwawo families wrote and published their first Community Report to document their journey with Children's Ground since moving back to their Homelands. Senior community leader Cecily Djandjomerr explains, *"Every time I go to sleep, I think about Children's Ground. It's on my mind. When I start working again everything is for the kids. I want everyone to come to Marlkwawo and work for the kids. We can all help one another as families and friends."*







## Learning + Wellbeing

- 27 children (aged 0-15 years) engaged in Learning and Wellbeing and were supported by 31 family members (18+ years)
- 100% of learning took place on Country. Children learned literacy and numeracy in the morning and engaged in deep cultural learning in the afternoons

***"We want to see all the kids going to school with Children's Ground here on their homelands, learning balanda (non-First Nations) way and Bininj (First Nations) way... We like it this way."** – Cecily Djandjomerr*

## Health + Wellbeing

- 38 children (aged 0-15 years) engaged in health promotion and wellbeing support
- 63 family members (aged 16+ years) engaged in health promotion and wellbeing support
- Daluk (women's) health and wellbeing sessions are established to provide a safe space for discussion around women's social, emotional and physical health
- 100% vaccination rate was achieved through Covid-19 health promotion workshops and providing access to vaccination services in collaboration with Territory Health (Jabiru and Gunbalanya Clinics) Red Lily, and Malal'a Health.
- Families were supported to engage in cultural health practices: collecting bush foods and medicine, being on Country, hunting and traditional smoking ceremonies for new babies

## Community Development + Wellbeing

- 34 people engaged in community governance – making decisions about Children's Ground for their children, families and whole community



## Economic Development + Wellbeing

- 31 First Nations staff were employed, many of whom had no employment experience prior to Children's Ground

***"We are the teachers, the health workers and the cultural experts. We are also thinking and planning new ways we can make a living on our Country. Through art, through culture and bringing visitors here. We are making plans so we can live here on our Country and earn a living here."***

– Marlkwawo family members

## Cultural + Creative Development + Wellbeing

- 76 people engaged in cultural learning, on Country learning, and cultural health activities
- Creative and cultural arts activities integrated into all learning activities
- Families engaged in a 3-day cultural camp with Nawarddeken Academy and the Warddeken Rangers to visit significant ancient bim (rock art), deepening cultural learning for children
- Two young learners Susan and Raya record a video in their First Language, Kunwinjku, about what it's like living on their Country in Marlkwawo. The video was showcased as part of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation's Indigenous Literacy Day virtual event
- Kunwinjku literacy workshops were held for both First Nations and non-First Nations educators to learn how to read and write the language in a two-way exchange of knowledge systems



Children's Ground continue to support the creative and professional development of West Arnhem First Nations musicians, the Black Rock Band. However, much of their 2021 was affected by Covid restrictions. The band performed locally within Kakadu National Park, however, other festival appearances were cancelled. Lead singer Richie Guymala spent time in Central Australia in July, storytelling and singing with Arrernte children in different communities, bringing Kunwinjku language to the desert. Senior Gunditjmarra musician Archie Roach invited two members of the band to chat in one of his Kitchen Table conversation series on YouTube and they discussed songwriting, Covid and stories of place.



# Top End: Darwin



## The year that was inspiring

Children's Ground operations on Larrakia Country in Darwin grew significantly in 2021. The year focused on building from the small-scale Walk & Talk conducted in 2020. We continued to walk with community and listen to their vision while beginning early implementation of elements of all five Children's Ground platforms. Delivery of early learning, health promotion and after school activities occurred in four Town Camps. Community Plans were created by Traditional Owners, families and community leaders for safe, strong and thriving communities with a vision for education, employment and community safety at its heart. Community leaders and Elders were unwavering in their commitment to ensuring the younger generation had the best opportunities to grow, learn, be healthy and be strong in culture and language, surrounded by family.

This year, community leaders were supported by Western-trained staff to provide access to health and wellbeing and to early years education. It was exciting to see children and their families growing in numbers and developing confidence. Our early years learning occurred several times a week in each location and families were always keen for more. We incorporated both Western and cultural learning, where Western-trained teachers collaborated with cultural and family educators. In one Town Camp, the community requested a focus on supporting young mothers and providing after-school hours activities.

First Nations families in Darwin experience barriers to learning and being on Country. For many, Larrakia Country is not their Homeland, so we needed to travel great distances for our Learning on Country activities. Some families are still in the process of reclaiming their language, culture and knowledge of Country. As a team and as communities, we learned together and adapted accordingly.

**The most important thing is that we keep showing these children that their culture is valued within their education – and that their families are not only welcome in their classroom but honoured as knowledge holders and leaders.**

In 2021, we saw increasing numbers of children learning through play, discovering the world around them, learning independently and in groups – all supported by their family and educators. We integrated nature, art, language, culture, literacy and numeracy into every session, with a strong focus on health. Children learned about good nutrition through preparing healthy meals during every learning session and through gathering bush tucker on Country. Children learned how to care for themselves and others through role play, yoga and meditation, quiet time, physical activity and creative arts. Most importantly, children were able to access all of this in their community, where they live.

Health promotion focused on supporting chronic health issues, child, maternal and family health promotion and responding to the Covid-19 crisis. Safety plans were developed and implemented to support environmental health, hygiene, food security and access to vaccinations and accurate information.

First Nations families broadened their economic opportunities and financial literacy through selling art, crafts and educational resources at local pop-up shops and markets. Participants developed their skills in marketing, sales, customer service and business development, expanding the potential for culturally and creatively based economic opportunities for First Nations families in the Top End.

Each community is building Children's Ground around their needs. We worked with leaders and other local organisations to improve infrastructure and revitalise local community hubs for a range of activities and uses. One community has no infrastructure for children or community members. We continue to seek funding from with Government for improved infrastructure to create access to basic resources and facilities which will create places that are vibrant and safe for kids and families.

As we transition from community engagement, planning and early action to the gradual implementation of the Children's Ground Approach in the coming years, we are excited about the future.





## Learning + Wellbeing

- 69 children (aged 0-5 years) engaged in Learning and Wellbeing and were supported by 84 family members (18+ years)
- Regular early years learning activities were delivered in two Darwin Town Camps by cultural educators, Western-trained teachers and family educators. Due to the age of the population, two other Town Camps focused on after school and holiday learning activities



## Health + Wellbeing

- 97 children aged 0-5 years engaged in health promotion and wellbeing support
- 373 people of all ages engaged in health promotion and wellbeing support
- Children and young people participated in emotional regulation skills and workshops and explored healthy coping mechanisms for dealing with challenging emotions and situations
- Partnership with Territory Health supported vaccinations in Darwin

## Cultural + Creative Development + Wellbeing

- 126 people engaged in cultural learning, on Country learning and cultural health activities
- Creative and cultural arts activities were integrated into all learning activities



## Economic Development + Wellbeing

- Six First Nations staff were employed with Children's Ground in 2021
- Enterprise team participated in Darwin market days selling Children's Ground products and artwork created by local First Nations families. Staff members developed skills in sales, marketing, financial literacy and public engagement
- Families began collecting pandanus leaves for dying and weaving into mats and baskets as part of an emerging creative enterprise



## Community Development + Wellbeing

- 30 people engaged in community governance – making decisions about Children's Ground for their children, families and whole community
- Children's Ground Walk, Talk & Act engagement phase with families began in a new community in Darwin (15 Mile). Families felt empowered to lead Children's Ground in their community, including early learning, integrated health promotion and community planning
- Created Covid-19 family plans across Darwin communities, which led to the development of new relationships and engagement of more families in Children's Ground activities
- Plans for community gardens across several communities were developed, with Knuckey Lagoon planting their first trees in September. Community gardens are known to strengthen family relationships and encourage self-sufficiency and empowerment in food production

***"I can't wait to see these plants in 25 years; the kids will be all grown up and know that they planted these for their community."***

- Pauline Grant, Learning, Health and Wellbeing Support



# How Our Children Are Learning and Growing

All these stories have been shared with the permission of families.



## Gregory (age 2)

In his homeland community of Marlkawo in West Arnhem Land, Gregory is supported by his mother Christine and surrounded by his family. He has been coming to Children's Ground early learning since he was born. His learning is delivered on his Country, in his First Language and English, alongside his family.

This culturally responsive education ensures that Gregory is learning about his language, identity and cultural practices and is developing English pre-literacy and numeracy skills. Through play, Gregory is learning about his body and how to keep it healthy. He cooks up delicious manme (food) for his family and dolls, using dramatic play skills to act out scenes.

Gregory is developing a kind and caring nature, transferring knowledge from his own experiences of being nurtured by his family into his doll play. Gregory is also showing strong pre-literacy foundations. He is making his own decisions about the types of books he wants to read, when to turn the pages and when to pause and explain what he can see on each page. By engaging in consistent, supported early years activities with Children's Ground in his community, Gregory is growing into a confident and happy young learner.





### Monica (Age 4)

In Central Australia, Monica has been making incredible progress in her cultural learning, instilling pride in her family. Monica knows that she must smoke herself and listen to Elders on Country to keep her utnenge (spirit) strong. Monica has learnt about these traditional cultural health practices from her sister Fransisca, who showed her how to cover herself in smoke and clean her utnenge. Children's Ground learning activities allow Monica to spend a lot of time on her Country. Here, she seems calm, centered and happy. Monica can engage in calm play more consistently when she is on her Country as her spirit roams the Country and strengthens itself.

Families and educators can see that Monica is a strong child. She knows who her Ngangkere (Arrernte traditional healers) are – Aunty Mildred and Aunty Meo. She knows they can help her and look out for her. Monica is developing her understanding of her cultural responsibilities when family members pass away – often understanding why her family are upset or grieving. She is very empathetic and understands the cultural protocols of sorry business.



### Alex\* (Age 9)

Alex is a bright and curious nine-year-old girl. A local service had recommended medication for 'hyperactivity'. Alex's emotions and behaviour are related to experiences in her life and the impact of intergenerational trauma experienced by many First Nations children. At the time, Alex was living in overcrowded housing without access to her Country.

When Alex went to live at her Grandmother's Homeland, Marlkawo in West Arnhem Land, her family noticed a drastic decrease in her anxiety and hyperactivity. In Marlkawo, Alex is involved in a range of trauma-informed and emotional regulation activities with Children's Ground. This includes cultural activities on her Country as well as yoga and meditation sessions to maintain her focus, relax her body and calm her mind. Mindfulness strategies combined with timed brain breaks have supported Alex to self-regulate during learning times with increased focus and attention to her learning. Alex's confidence as a learner has increased dramatically and she approaches her learning with curiosity and enthusiasm. Alex's wellbeing and spirit has settled.

Alex thrives during cultural learning. Alex is being mentored and nurtured by her grandmother to ensure she has strong cultural knowledge and understands her responsibilities to family and to Country. When on Country, Alex is calm and respectful to her ancestors and Elders.

*\*Name has been changed*



### Ellarisha (age 5)

Ellarisha has been attending Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe since 2015, when she was a few months old. She has grown up in Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe as new siblings are born and start attending learning activities alongside her. Over the years, Ellarisha has developed her cultural knowledge and understanding, and her family is so proud to watch her grow and learn. Ellarisha recently achieved all her Cultural and Western learning goals, including counting and writing. She has also learnt her skin name, Kngwarraye, and how to crush and make bush medicine from her grandmother. Towards the end of the year, Ellarisha decided to set some new goals for 2022. She hopes to learn more anthepe (Arrernte dance) and to learn how to write her skin name confidently and independently. Ellarisha loves watching and pointing at thiye (birds) and is curious about learning the Arrernte names for birds.



# Research and Leadership



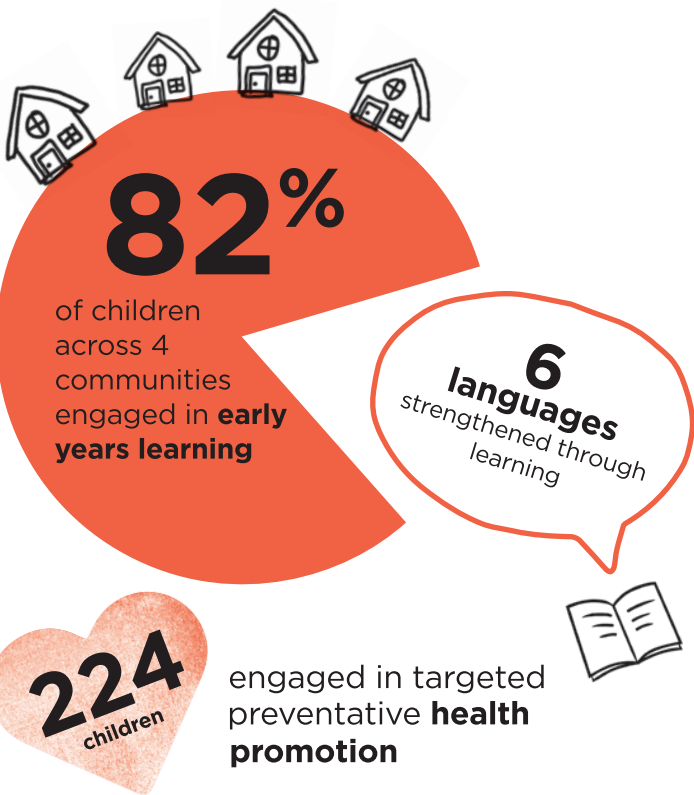
## Building the Evidence

In 2021, Children’s Ground released the ‘Evaluation of Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe: Children’s Ground in Central Australia (2017-2019 baseline and early progress)’. The evaluation of the first three years of Children’s Ground in Central Australia followed a rigorous evaluation method that brought together First Nations and Western data analysis and reporting. This collaborative and powerful report demonstrates early progress against Closing the Gap goals in key areas of early childhood learning, adult employment, local decision-making and community wellbeing, just three years into a 25-year plan.

This evaluation reinforces the evidence from our first proof-of-concept evaluation, finding that the Children’s Ground Approach is:

- Engaging a new cohort of children who had previously rarely or never participated in early learning
- Engaging First Nations people in meaningful employment, many of whom previously experienced chronic unemployment
- Creating environments of safety
- Empowering First Nations families through governance and decision-making about their children and communities
- Privileging first culture and languages and cultural teaching and learning, which has been evidenced as the foundation for early change and impact.

This evaluation report marks the beginning of Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe’s 25-year journey to change the status quo of First Nations children, young people and families. Triennial evaluation reports will be undertaken with First Nations and Western evaluation teams working alongside each community to tell their story of the Children’s Ground Approach. Evaluation reports will be released publicly to contribute to the national and international evidence base for changing systems that impact First Nations families to ensure they are designed, governed, implemented and evaluated by First Nations people living in communities.



***“This report builds on the evidence from Children’s Ground in Kakadu West Arnhem. With an increasing evidence base, the demonstrated effectiveness and early impact of the Children’s Ground Approach is compounding. To date, your two evaluations have shown progress in key government policy areas nationally and in the Northern Territory - progress that has not been publicly evidenced against Closing the Gap in employment, health and early childhood education.”***

– Children’s Ground’s Research Advisory Group



## Utyerre Apanpe and Education Reform

Utyerre Apanpe (National First Nations Educators' Network) is a network of diverse and determined First Nations educators and cultural professors from over 15 different nations across Australia. Children's Ground convenes and supports Utyerre Apanpe, which is calling for the establishment of a First Nations-led education system, in line with Article 14 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Utyerre Apanpe members have met with prominent leaders on all sides of politics to promote reform.

***“Utyerre Apanpe is a place for our educational systems and language expertise to be reclaimed. Our aim is to inform the systems change required to make First Nations voices, knowledge, systems and actions visible. We are an independent, collective membership. Utyerre Apanpe is about connecting to Country and each other and sharing our practice and knowledge systems. These gatherings are for our professional, cultural, familial and personal development. They provide nourishment in the knowledge we own and share through our kinship systems and cultural responsibilities.” – Utyerre Apanpe members***

The Utyerre Apanpe 2021 forums took place under Covid restrictions in Mparntwe in April and September with limited physical attendance. A virtual engagement opportunity was provided for members who could not travel to continue the development of the next stages of reform. The April forum was a youth-focused event in partnership with National Indigenous Youth Education Coalition. In September, we were joined virtually by Professor Graham Hingangaroa Smith and Dr. Elizabeth Marrkilyi Giles Ellis to hear about their respective transformational work in first cultural education, leadership and reform.

The Utyerre Apanpe forums provide the opportunity for First Nations educators to network and share their unique approaches to education. Participants agree that they wanted Utyerre Apanpe to be the vehicle for change – a way to speak with politicians about reforming the education system, to set standards and support the network of First Nations educators nationally and to formally acknowledge First Nations education. Utyerre Apanpe is supported by the Stronger Smarter Institute, the National Indigenous Youth Education Coalition and Children's Ground.





# Governance

At Children’s Ground, we have a unique, two-tiered governance structure which balances cultural and corporate governance and ensures we have the organisational quality and standards, cultural integrity and community leadership to achieve real change. Only First Nations people sit in our Cultural Governance structures. Both First Nations and non-First Nations people sit on our corporate Board, which has majority First Nations directorship and membership. This governance structure recognises cultural and corporate governance and authority as equally important.



*“Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe is different to other organisations because it is run by us – our Elders, our families and all the community that come to Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe. We speak with our own strong voices. Our structure is determined by our Arrernte kinship and we follow the leadership and guidance of our Elders. They support each generation to have their say; we want our younger generation to learn from the experience of others and take opportunities to get stronger at leading and telling our story. They are our future leaders. This is why our committee is open to all family members or people who come to Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe.”*

– Ingkerrekele Arntarnte-areme – everyone being responsible (Children’s Ground Central Australia Governance Committee)

## Local First Nations Governance

Governance structures for the design and delivery of Children’s Ground in each community adhere to cultural governance protocols based on land, language and kinship relationships. Each community governs its own area with its own local governance, coming together regularly for regional Children’s Ground governance meetings. This group includes Elders, Traditional Owners and community and family leaders from each community, ensuring local control at the grass roots. This structure also includes ‘daily governance’ in which communities are engaging in decision-making and delivery of Children’s Ground through ongoing Walk, Talk & Act.

The following people are some of the key leaders who have participated in Children’s Ground governance in 2021 – designing and leading Children’s Ground for their communities:

### Central Australia

*Ingkerrekele Arntarnte-areme (Everyone Being Responsible)*

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Purina Anderson    | Larissa Meneri   |
| Tyson Carmody      | Cassandra Neil   |
| Camille Dobson     | Diane Neil       |
| Blanche Ebatarinja | MK Turner OAM    |
| Alison Ferber      | Louise Robertson |
| Lorrayne Gorey     | Marlene Rubuntja |
| Michael Gorey      | Therese Ryder    |
| Angelina Hayes     | Dulcie Sharpe    |
| Eva Hayes          | Amanda Turner    |
| Felicity Hayes     | Veronica Turner  |
| Trudy Inkamala     | Carol Turner     |
| William Lowah      | Cathy Turner     |
| Cheryl McMillan    | Genise Williams  |
| Marita McMillan    | Blair Young      |
| Stella McMillan    | Rosario Young    |
| Tim McNamara       |                  |

### Top End

#### Darwin:

- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Ronnie Agnew       | Cecily Djandjomerr      |
| Gibery Alum        | Shirley Djandjomerr     |
| Talitha Goodman    | Antonia Djandjomerr     |
| Lorna Goodman      | Christianna Djandjomerr |
| Philip Goodman     | Jaykuk Djandjomerr      |
| Pauline Grant      | Kaylene Djandjomerr     |
| Esther Kenyon      | Kestianna Djandjomerr   |
| Helen Secretary    | Raymond Guymala         |
| Anna Secretary     | Alio Guymala            |
| Helen Shields      | Kamahl Hunter           |
| Kathleen Thomsen   | Maria Lippo             |
| Jackie Treves      | Greg Lippo              |
|                    | Lee Nabarlambarl        |
| <b>Marlkawo:</b>   | Roxanne Naborlhborlh    |
| Christine Alangale | Kimberley Namarnyilk    |
| Angela Bangarr     | May Nango               |
| Annie Cameron      | Sonya Nango             |
| Josh Cameron       | Romeo Redford           |
| Sharna Dakgalawuy  | Lindsay Whitehurst      |

## In memory

Children’s Ground acknowledges the vision, passion and leadership of the late Kwementyaye Kngwarraye Palmer, who passed away in early 2021. Mrs Palmer was a founding Elder of Children’s Ground – a respected educator, artist, leader, cultural professor, great-grandmother, Elder, advocate and loyal friend. In early 2022, she was awarded an Order of Australia for her lifelong commitment to protecting and healing Country, and her determination that all First Nations children access quality education in their First Language, on their Country.

This vision was unwavering through Mrs Palmer’s remarkable life. As a member of Yipirinya School Council and a Director at the Institute for Aboriginal Development, Mrs Palmer fought lifelong for Arrernte education, language and culture. In 2014, she and MK Turner OAM were joined by Elders and community leaders in founding Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe (Children’s Ground Central Australia).

*“A while ago, MK and I were sitting under an athenge (Ironwood tree), just talking about our children’s future. We talked about how many people we have asked for help to get a school going for our kids but it’s never happened. Kids want to see something different. They need an education that is more than sitting down with pen and paper in a classroom. The land is their classroom. We have to help those kids find a better place to learn. And Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe (Children’s Ground) is the best.” – Kwementyaye Kngwarraye Palmer*



# Governance

## Western Governance

The Children's Ground Board of Directors consists of a majority of First Nations people. Our highly skilled board includes expertise in cultural knowledge and governance, legal, health, education, financial management, human rights, not for profit leadership, research, the arts, investment and business development.

Board members are highly qualified and experienced in their respective fields and have the commitment and passion required to lead Children's Ground alongside our First Nations Governance structures.

- **William Tilmouth:** Arrernte man, founding Chair of Children's Ground, Board Chair and Co-Chair of Research Advisory Group
- **MK Turner, OAM:** Arrernte Elder, founding Elder of Children's Ground, cultural, educational and linguistic specialist
- **Dr Jordan Cory:** Kamilaroi woman, BSc, MBBS, GDip Surgical Anatomy, 2020 Fulbright Future Scholar, MPH '21 Candidate, Harvard University
- **Amunda Gorey:** Arrernte woman, Board member and member of the People and Culture Subcommittee
- **Kon Karapanagiotidis, OAM:** LLB, BSW, BBSC, MED, MDevStuds – Board member, member of the Partnerships, Investment and Communications Subcommittee, and member of the People and Culture Subcommittee
- **John Lochowiak:** Pitjantjatjara man, BA of Education, Board member
- **Amy Poynton OAM:** BA, MBA, Board member, Chair of the People and Culture Subcommittee, member of the Finance, Audit & Risk Subcommittee
- **Clive Ringler:** BEc, MCom, ASX Accredited Adviser, Level 1 & 2 – Board Deputy Chair, Chair of the Finance, Audit & Risk Subcommittee
- **Josie Rizza:** CA, BEc, GradDipAppFinInv, GAICD - Board member, member of the Finance, Audit & Risk Subcommittee and member of the Partnerships, Investment and Communications Subcommittee
- **Annalee Stearne:** Nyungar woman, Post Grad Dip Public Health, Health Sciences; Grad Dip Secondary Education, Education; BA Aboriginal & Intercultural Studies
- **Jane Vadiveloo:** BSc, MPsy (Forensic), CEO, member of the Finance, Audit & Risk Subcommittee, member of the Partnerships, Investment and Communications Subcommittee and Co-Chair of the Research Advisory Group
- **Joanne Willmott:** Wakka Wakka woman, activist and educational specialist
- **Tony Lawler:** BPharm, JP, Member of Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Nonvoting Board member
- **Cindy Wei:** External member of the Partnerships, Investment and Communications Subcommittee

## Our Elder and Patron

### Aunty Joy Murphy Wandin AO

Aunty Joy Murphy Wandin is a Senior Wurundjeri Elder of the Kulin Nation. Born in Healesville, Aunty Joy's family never left Wurundjeri land. She is the senior custodian of these lands and is the great-great niece of William Barak, Ngurungaeta of the Wurundjeri-Willam clan.

Aunty Joy has had numerous government appointments, including as a member of the Equal Opportunity Commission of Victoria and of the Anti-Discrimination Tribunal. In 2006, she was made an officer of the Order of Australia for her service to the community through significant contributions in the fields of social justice, land rights, equal opportunity, the arts and reconciliation.

We are honoured and proud of Aunty Joy's guidance, support and Eldership of Children's Ground over many years. We are honoured to work on her lands in Naarm.

## Research Advisory Group

Our Research Advisory Group is made up of respected researchers and academics with extensive experience. They provide valuable guidance to monitoring and evaluation activities carried out by our Director of Research and Evaluation and community researchers in each site. Our 25-year longitudinal evaluation enables us to build the evidence base to influence policy aimed at ending intergenerational disadvantage in the long term.

Our Research Advisors are:

- **Professor Komla Tsey:** Tropical Leader/Research Professor, The Cairns Institute and College Arts Society and Education, James Cook University, Bebegu Yumba campus
- **Professor David Thomas:** Head of Tobacco Control Research program, Menzies School of Health Research
- **Professor Sally Brinkman:** Co-Director, Fraser Mustard Centre. Senior Research Fellow, Telethon Kids Institute
- **Mr Matthew James:** Deputy CEO, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
- **Dr Tim Moore:** Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Community Child Health, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne
- **Professor Sven Silburn:** (ret. previously) Director, Centre for Child Development and Education, Menzies School of Health Research
- **Professor Fiona Arney:** Director, Positive Futures Research and Arney Chong Consulting
- **Dr Jordan Cory:** BSc, MBBS, GDip Surgical Anatomy, 2020 Fulbright Future Scholar, MPH '21 Candidate, Harvard University





# Ambassadors



Children's Ground ambassadors use their voices and platforms to help grow our profile and add weight to our advocacy and fundraising. Through their public position in the community, this fantastic group of people advocates for change for First Nations families. Our ambassadors are a key part of our big Children's Ground family. We also recognise the countless other people, organisations and businesses of prominence who use their platforms to support Children's Ground and First Nations justice.

## **The Cat Empire**

The Cat Empire became a global Ambassador for Children's Ground in 2019. This amazing Melbourne-based band has ignited energy and passion around the world for over two decades, having toured extensively across Australia, North America and Europe.

## **Corinne Grant**

Corinne Grant is a practicing lawyer, author, accomplished emcee and performer. Corinne is a passionate defender of human rights, including the rights of the traditional custodians of Australia, and those seeking asylum. She was a recipient of the John Gibson Memorial Award for Refugee Law while studying at the University of Melbourne. Corinne has garnered well deserved attention for her quick wit, demonstrated in her roles on Channel Ten's Rove Live and ABC's The Glasshouse.

## **Dan Sultan**

Dan Sultan is a multi-award winning Eastern Arrernte and Gurindji musician, writer, performer and artist. With albums spanning 15 years, in styles from the rock of Homemade Biscuits in 2006 to his recent children's book and music album Nali & Friends. Nali won best children's album in the 2019 ARIA awards, adding to the 5 ARIAs he had already collected. He has a new album is currently in the works. Dan kicked off his ambassadorship in 2021 by hosting an auction of two hand-painted Fender guitars, raising \$20,000 for Children's Ground.

## **Dr Jan Owen AM**

Jan Owen AM is the Co-Chair of Learning Creates Australia and the former CEO of the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA). In 2014, Jan received a Doctor of Letters from the University of Sydney in recognition of her contribution to young people and policy. In 2012, she was named the inaugural Australian Financial Review & Westpac Group 'Woman of Influence 2012'. In 2000, she was awarded membership of the Order of Australia for services to children and young people.

## **Missy Higgins**

Missy Higgins is a prolific Australian singer/songwriter and human rights advocate. Her acclaimed studio albums, starting with The Sound of White, have sold more than two million copies and made her a household name. In 2021 Missy released her new single 'Edge of Something', written for the acclaimed TV series 'Total Control' featuring Deborah Mailman. Missy began working alongside Children's Ground in 2020 and performed two songs for our Human Rights Day virtual event.

## **Rachel Naninaaq Edwardson**

Rachel Naninaaq Edwardson is an Iñupiaq filmmaker and educator whose work has been critically acclaimed in the US, Canada, Australia and Europe. Her History of the Iñupiaq documentary series is the first Native produced and directed documentary series in Alaska. Since 2007, Rachel has been an adviser and program designer of educational initiatives and reforms in Australia and Alaska.

## **Tara June Winch**

Tara June Winch is a celebrated Wiradjuri author, currently residing in France. Tara has written the books Swallow the Air and After the Carnage which won and were listed for many prizes. She's been a passionate supporter of literacy efforts around Australia for over a decade and has spent time in our communities. She is a mentor to young First Nations writers, just as she herself was mentored by Wole Soyinka, the first African person to be awarded a Nobel Prize. In 2020, Tara's most recent novel The Yield made history when it won both the Miles Franklin Literary Award and the Prime Minister's Literary Award, among others.

## **The Teskey Brothers**

The reputation of Melbourne blues band The Teskey Brothers continues to grow as they win hearts and ears globally. Scooping up awards, touring and even playing alongside Orchestra Victoria, The Teskey Brothers capture something real, raw and relatable. It is no wonder they are a go-to band for many fans across this big land and for other musicians to share the stage or studio – from Jimmy Barnes to the Black Rock Band.



# Celebrating Our Supporters



**“Everyone who interacts with Children’s Ground is part of our forever family and contributes in their own way to our long-term plan to change the system and create a future of opportunity for First Nations children. In between Covid lockdowns interstate we managed to host several funder visits which remain experiences that bring both joy and heartache as stories are shared, people’s eyes are opened and connections are made. We continue to celebrate the partnerships that mean we can work in the way we do – First Nations led and First Nations owned.”**

– Mel Kean, Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe Director

**“In a world focused on instant reward, it takes a rare mix of wisdom, compassion and grit to hold steady to a long term vision. Igniting Change has walked alongside Children’s Ground for more than a decade and couldn’t be more proud to share the long journey with this fierce, brave and important organisation run by First Nations leaders.”**

Igniting Change

**“Children’s Ground is inspiring young First Nation children to stay connected to their amazing culture, a culture that has survived and evolved for 65,000 years. It is truly incredible to see the positive impact a connection to culture and Country has.”**

Benjamin Duncan Foundation

**“It is incredibly inspiring to see the Children’s Ground team making an incredible impact at the grass roots level, changing the lives and direction of many Indigenous Australians.”**

The Cotton Family

**“We connected with William, Jane and the vision of community immediately. This personal connection is crucial to maintaining productive funding agreements over a long period of time like we have with Children’s Ground. The Children’s Ground approach to guide and walk quietly alongside the communities, allowing them to shape their own lives shows immense respect for, and commitment to, those communities.”**

Nicola Clyne, PMF

**“You’ve got to have the belief that there’s hope. And there’s concrete evidence that the Children’s Ground model works. Ten years on, there are kids who are thriving, going to school every day, crossing cultures, and there’s concrete proof that it’s working.”**

The English Family Foundation

**“I have walked this journey with Children’s Ground for nearly a decade now and I do so because it’s a walk to equality, hope, possibility and inclusion for all children. It’s a journey to justice, healing and reconciliation, by being part of a movement that demands real change. I want to be part of an Australia where First Nations young people fill our universities not our prisons, where they are judged for their character and potential not by the societal disease that is racism and prejudice. Together we can change this in a generation. Please join us to do so.”**

Kon Karapanagiotidis, OAM

**“Through the employee led Workplace Giving program of the Macpherson Kelley Foundation our people are incredibly proud to support the work of this amazing and dynamic organisation as it delivers programs to First Nations people of West Arnhem that will impact current and future generations. We are on a life long learning journey together which is assisted greatly by our developing relationship and open conversations with Children’s Ground.”**

Macpherson Kelley Foundation





Children’s Ground wishes to thank our family of community, philanthropic and government funding partners and supporters. Your vision and support provide the space for innovation and systems reform led by First Nations leaders, families and community members.

Philanthropy

5Point Foundation  
Axis Toys  
B B & A Miller Fund - A subfund of the Australian Communities Foundation  
Benjamin Duncan  
Beverley Jackson Foundation  
Bowden Marsten  
Capricorn Foundation  
Centrecorp Foundation  
Clive St - A subfund of the Australian Communities Foundation  
DGP Foundation  
Dubsky Lang Foundation  
Elizabeth McDougal  
Fair World Foundation  
Gillian and Andrew Karpel  
Grace & Emilio Foundation  
Graf Family  
Hecand Private Ancillary  
Hoffman Foundation  
Igniting Change  
Jack and Ethel Goldin Foundation  
John & Myriam Wylie Foundation  
John T Reid Charitable Trust  
JRA Subfund - A subfund of the Australian Communities Foundation  
Judy Avisar  
Juno Fund - A subfund of the Australian Communities Foundation  
Ken & Carol Klooger Family Foundation  
King and McMillan Foundation  
Kon Karapanagiotidis  
Limb Family Foundation  
Lisa Banks & Stuart Brown  
Magellan Logistics  
Mamoma Foundation  
Mattiske Family  
Melanie Sheppard  
Niall Foundation  
Nicholas R Taylor Fund - A subfund of the Australian Communities Foundation  
Orford Foundation  
Orloff Family Charitable Trust  
Paul Hallam  
Peter & Ruth Chiodo  
PMF Foundation  
Pool of Dreams  
Ramses Foundation  
River Capital  
Rob & Clea Philpot  
Ryan Cooper Family Foundation  
S&P Global

SALT Catalyst  
Spotlight Foundation  
Thankyou  
The Antipodean Family Foundation  
The Armour Endowment (managed by Equity Trustees)  
The Besen Family Foundation  
The Brunner Family  
The Cotton Family  
The English Family Foundation  
The Frid Family  
The Harris Family  
The Ian Potter Foundation  
The Lightfolk Foundation  
The Limb Family Foundation  
The Rogers Family  
The Trewern Family  
The Worth Foundation  
The Yanni Sarantis Legacy  
Tingari-Silverton Foundation  
UHG Foundation  
Wendy & Paul Bonnici and Family

Corporate

Accenture  
Axis Toys  
Bared Shoes  
Big Little Brush  
doTerra Healing Hands  
Fender  
Fliteboard PTY LTD  
Johnson and Johnson  
King & Wood Mallesons  
Macpherson Kelley Foundation  
Market Lane Coffee  
Moose Toys  
Sika Australia  
TCC Global  
The Design Files  
The Teaching Tools  
Sika Australia  
Who Gives A Crap

Government

Australian Government, Office for the Arts  
Indigenous Languages and Arts  
Australian Government, Department of Health  
National Indigenous Australians Agency  
(Indigenous Advancement Strategy)

*We also wish to acknowledge all of our silent partners, regular givers, peer-to-peer fundraisers and general supporters.*

NT Organisational Partners

Akeyulerre  
Alice Springs Desert Park  
Alice Springs Language Centre  
Amity Community Services  
Arrernte Language Centre  
Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education  
Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation (BAC)  
Central Australian Aboriginal Congress  
Central Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Unit (CAAFLU)  
Child Friendly Alice  
Connected Beginnings  
Danila Dilba  
Demed  
Gunbalanya clinic  
Gwalwa Daraniki Association (GDA)  
Indigenous Community TV  
Jabiru Area School (JAS)  
Jabiru Clinic  
Larapinta Child and Family Centre  
Larrakia Nation  
Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation  
Mala’la Health Service  
Maningrida Clinic  
Maningrida Community College  
Maningrida Progress Association  
Mental Health Association of Central Australia  
Ninti One  
Northern Land Council  
Northern Territory Government Departments of Education, Health, Territory Families, Housing and Community Development  
NT School of Music  
Olive Pink Botanical Gardens  
Purple House  
Red Cross  
St. Joseph’s Flexible Learning Centre  
Tangentyere Council  
Waltja Tjutanku Palyapayi Aboriginal Corporation  
Warddeken Land Management  
West Arnhem regional council  
Yarrenyty Arltere Artists  
Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation  
Yipirinya School

Pro bono support

Justice Connect  
Allens  
Minter Ellison  
Holding Redlich  
Austin Legal  
Social Garden





## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

The directors present their report on Children's Ground Limited for the financial year ended 31 December 2021.

(a) **General information**

**Directors**

The names of the directors in office at any time during, or since the end of, the year are:

Names	Position	Appointed/Resigned
William Roy Tilmouth	Chair	
Kon Karapanagiotidis	Non-Executive Director	
Clive William Ringler	Non-Executive Director	
Josie Rizza	Non-Executive Director	
Amy Poynton	Non-Executive Director	
Amunda Gorey	Non-Executive Director	
Jordan Cory	Non-Executive Director	
John Lochowiak	Non-Executive Director	
Margaret K Turner	Non-Executive Director	
Annalee Stearne	Non-Executive Director	
Joanne Willmott	Non-Executive Director	Commenced 2nd December 2021
Jane Shanthini Vadiveloo	Chief Executive Officer	

All Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

**Principal activities**

The principal activities of Children's Ground Limited during the financial year were to provide opportunities to help break the poverty cycle for disadvantaged indigenous families and supply significant aid to needy people in the community. Such activities included early years learning and care, family health, community development, cultural development and economic development services and activities.

The events of COVID-19 have required a focus on responding to this catastrophic risk. While family health is part of our key operational activities, the unique demands of COVID-19 have required targeted attention and funding.

No significant changes in the nature of the Company's activity occurred during the financial year.

## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

**Meetings of directors**

During the financial year, 7 meetings of directors (including committees of directors) were held. Attendances by each director during the year were as follows:

	Directors' Meetings	
	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
William Roy Tilmouth	7	6
Kon Karapanagiotidis	7	4
Clive William Ringler	7	6
Margaret K Turner	7	6
Josie Rizza	7	7
Jordan Cory	7	3
John Lochowiak	7	4
Jane Shanthini Vadiveloo	7	7
Amy Poynton	7	7
Amunda Gorey	7	7
Annalee Stearne	7	7
Joanne Willmott	-	-


\*Joanne Willmott commenced 2nd December 2021

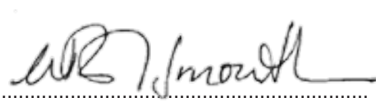
\*Jordan Cory was overseas from 7th September 2021-31st December 2021 attending Harvard University as a Fulbright Future scholar and Roberta Sykes scholar impacting her availability for meetings.

**Auditor's independence declaration**

The auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 31 December 2021 has been received and can be found on page 7 of the financial report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:

Director: 

Director: 

Dated this 15 day of March 2022



# Financials

## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Auditor's Independence Declaration

For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 31 December 2021, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in Division 60.40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Saward Dawson

Jeffrey Tulk  
Partner

Blackburn

Dated: 15 March 2022



## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Revenue	2	7,742,453	8,759,008
Employee benefits expense		(5,888,350)	(5,154,442)
Motor Vehicle Expenses		(201,832)	(135,573)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(201,446)	(186,689)
Other Expenses		(137,661)	(259,057)
Client Support Consumables		(161,468)	(183,454)
Travel and accommodation		(134,802)	(79,711)
Rent		(93,538)	(72,087)
Utilities and cleaning		(85,270)	(66,556)
Professional fees		(69,971)	(99,428)
Computer expenses		(59,417)	(52,599)
Repairs and maintenance		(58,340)	(40,221)
Client Service Support		(45,133)	(51,571)
Asset Purchases < \$1,000		(33,879)	(56,145)
Telephone and fax		(26,490)	(31,321)
Training and development		(26,154)	(17,857)
Printing and stationery		(30,409)	(37,347)
Insurance		(24,054)	(27,458)
Advertising and Promotion		(11,924)	(2,350)
Interest expense on lease liability		-	(406)
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		<b>452,315</b>	<b>2,204,736</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>452,315</b>	<b>2,204,736</b>



# Financials

## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	5,511,726	4,367,473
Trade and other receivables	6	20,665	140,346
Inventories		21,641	9,676
Other assets	7	98,924	64,740
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		5,652,956	4,582,235
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	9	1,577,622	1,664,422
Intangible assets	10	31,247	37,538
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		1,608,869	1,701,960
TOTAL ASSETS		7,261,825	6,284,195
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	11	458,913	483,230
Other liabilities	12	1,686,928	1,246,261
Employee benefits	13	493,332	421,262
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		2,639,173	2,150,753
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefits	13	135,279	98,384
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		135,279	98,384
TOTAL LIABILITIES		2,774,452	2,249,137
NET ASSETS		4,487,373	4,035,058
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained surplus		4,487,373	3,976,234
Reserves	22	-	58,824
TOTAL EQUITY		4,487,373	4,035,058

## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

#### 2021

##### Balance at 1 January 2021

Surplus/(Deficit) for the year

Transfers to/(from) retained earnings from general reserve

##### Balance at 31 December 2021

Retained Earnings	General Reserve	Total
\$	\$	\$
3,976,234	58,824	4,035,058
452,315	-	452,315
58,824	(58,824)	-
4,487,373	-	4,487,373

#### 2020

##### Balance at 1 January 2020

Surplus/(Deficit) for the year

##### Balance at 31 December 2020

Retained Earnings	General Reserve	Total
\$	\$	\$
1,771,498	58,824	1,830,322
2,204,736	-	2,204,736
3,976,234	58,824	4,035,058



# Financials

## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
Note	\$	\$
<strong>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</strong>		
Donations, grants and other income received	8,658,862	8,065,898
Government COVID-19 Stimulus Grant	-	962,500
Interest received	7,953	16,012
Payments to suppliers and employees	(7,414,207)	(6,497,291)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	16 1,252,608	2,547,119
<strong>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</strong>		
Payment for intangible asset	(13,450)	(45,946)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(94,905)	(1,511,058)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	(108,355)	(1,557,004)
<strong>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</strong>		
Proceeds from leases (leases repaid)	-	(21,570)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	-	(21,570)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	1,144,253	968,545
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	4,367,473	3,398,928
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	5 5,511,726	4,367,473

## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086


### Directors' Declaration

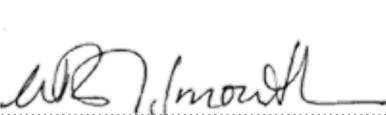
In the opinion of the Directors, the financial report as set out on pages 8 - 30.

- i. there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable, and;
- ii. the financial statements and notes are true and fair in accordance with Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

Director 

Director 

Dated 15 March 2022



**Children's Ground Limited**  
**ABN 74 154 403 068**

**Report of the Independent Auditor on the Summary Financial Statements**

**Opinion**

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2021, the summary Statement of Income and Expenditure and Other Comprehensive Income, summary Statement of Changes in Equity for the year then ended, summary Statement of Cash Flows and Directors' Declaration, are derived from the audited financial report of Children's Ground Limited for the year ended 31 December 2021.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report.

**Summary Financial Statements**

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Accounting Standards and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report and the auditor's report thereon. The summary financial statements and the audited financial report do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial report.

**The Audited Financial Report and Our Report Thereon**

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial report in our report dated 15 March 2022.

**Board's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements**

The board is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the summary financial statements.

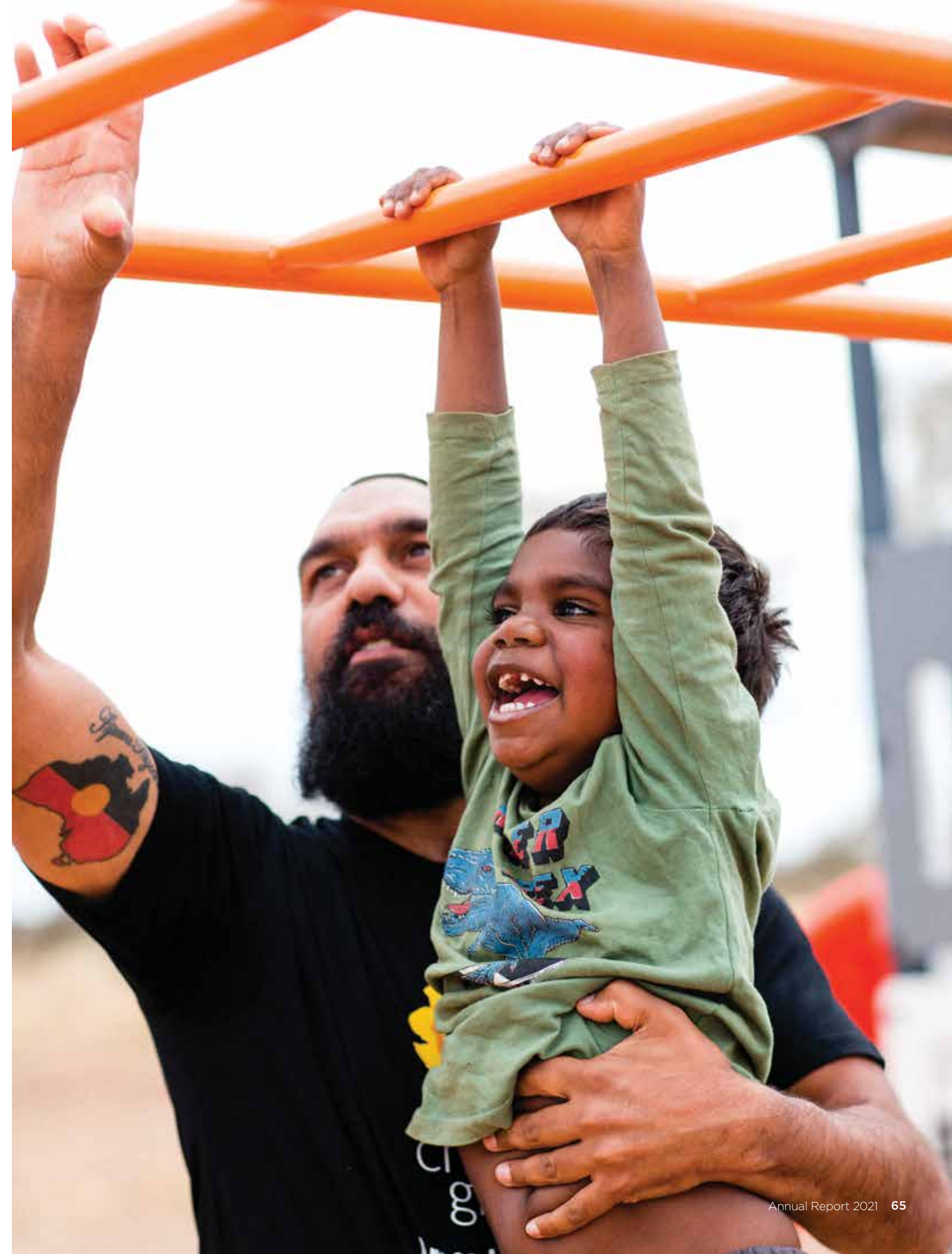
**Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

*Saward Dawson*  
**Saward Dawson**

Jeffrey Tulk  
Partner

Blackburn  
Dated: 15 March 2022





# Thank You To Our Brilliant Team

## Staff

Chloe Abbott  
Christine Alangale  
Purina Anderson  
John Anderson  
Grace Anthony  
Caitlyn Bakes  
Angela Bangarr  
Megan Battaglia  
Michael Bautista  
Tiffany Beggs  
Chris Bird  
Dillon Brennan  
Vienna Buramura  
Tamara Burlando  
Annie Cameron  
Darius Cameron  
Bessina Cameron  
Cherie Cameron  
Josabella Cameron  
Stacey Campton  
Tyson Carmody  
Lee Causer  
Alice Cazalet  
Trudi Collins  
Andrew Corrigan  
Lisa da Costa-Alves  
Ian Craig  
Holly Cunningham  
Judy Dakgalawuy  
Sharna Dakgalawuy  
Julie Davenport  
Koubar Diana  
Cecily Djandjomerr  
Gwendolyn Djandjomerr  
Kaylene Djandjomerr  
Christianna Djandjomerr  
Corianne Djandjomerr  
Flint Djandjomerr  
Kamahl Djandjomerr  
Mark Djandjomerr  
Selone Djandjomerr  
Shirley Djandjomerr  
Duan Djandjomerr  
Antonia Djandjomerr  
Camille Dobson  
Edmund Doolan  
Mitchell Doolan  
Lucy Elliot  
Alison Ferber

Antoinette Ferber-Gorey  
Jo Ferguson  
Helen Fitzgerald  
Emma Fulgenzi  
Nakita Gerber  
Amy Gordon  
Kylie Gordon  
Amunda Gorey  
Lorrayne Gorey  
Michael Gorey  
Natassia Gorey-Furber  
Grace Gory  
Huck Grace  
Pauline Grant  
Callisha Gregg-Rowan  
Raymond Guymala  
Russell Haines  
Sue Haines  
Angelina Hayes  
Felicity Hayes  
Georgia Hicks  
Emily Hill  
Catherine Holmes  
David Holmes  
Natalie Jacobson  
Romeo Jambulwanga  
Patrick Johnson  
Mel Kean  
Esther Kenyon  
Kaitlin Koh  
Acacia Lewis  
Lily Alexander  
Maria Lippo  
Jen Lorains  
William Lowah  
Caleb Maru  
Desley Mather  
Michelle McGuirk  
Kristy McIntosh  
Marita McMillan  
Larissa Meneri  
Dominique Mercuri  
Laurel Milera  
Tracy Minniecon  
Kirsten Mitchell  
Lee Nabarlambarl  
Richie Nabarlambarl  
Jasmine Nabobbob  
Roxanne Naborlhborlh

Ethan Nabulwad  
Jack Namarnyilk  
Kimberley Namarnyilk  
May Nango  
Sonya Nango  
Cassandra Neil  
Cristina Nobleza  
Hayley Otter  
Annamaria Palmer  
Bill Pheasant  
Tracey Phillips  
Renee Phillips  
Erin Riddell  
Luke Roberts  
Annette Robinson  
Maria Ross  
Angela Ross  
Graham Rostron  
Milyika Scales  
Damon van der Schuit  
Lorrelle Shadforth  
Roxanne Sharpe  
Leonie Sheedy  
Layla Smith  
Stephanie van Son  
Ash Steel  
Jeff Tan  
Caitlin Taunton  
Kathleen Thomsen  
Amber Thomson  
Nick Toonen  
Melanie Townsend  
Jacqui Treves  
Amanda Turner  
Carol Turner  
Cathy Turner  
Margaret Turner  
Sioban Turner  
Veronica Turner  
Bianca Turner  
Lucy Volard  
Andrena Webb  
Bernadette Wheeler  
Lindsay Whitehurst  
Dianne Williams  
Genise Williams  
Sandra Woods  
Annamae Woods  
Rosario Young  
Alex Young  
Blair Young

## Volunteers

Tom Bartlett  
Cristina Bautista  
Aanart Bhachech  
Lee Davy  
Stephanie Edkins  
Todd Evans  
Ivy Hoang  
Ruby Huzzey  
Jessica Laihad  
Ourania Mamalis  
Jake McGovern  
Sebastian Merredith  
Lorena Miguelez  
Julia Mitchell  
Gabrielle Murray  
Kate Mussett  
Kathleen O'Brien  
Patrick Pheasant  
Liz Reece  
Shirley Lingzhi Ruan  
Partha Saha  
Georgia Short  
Zoe Smithie  
Amanda Sutherland  
Tasmia Tahseen  
Sarah Tedder  
Audrey Warren  
Sharon Woods  
Nechama Zwier







**Melbourne, VIC**

2/10 Hoddle St | Abbotsford VIC 3067  
+61 (0)447 903 084

**Central Australia, NT**

Gate 3, 2 South Terrace | Alice Springs NT 0870  
PO Box 140 | Alice Springs NT 0871  
+61 (0)418 512 277

**Top End, NT**

5 Pavonia Place | Nightcliff NT 0810  
Ph: (08) 8988 6987

**Email** [cgadmin@childrensground.org.au](mailto:cgadmin@childrensground.org.au)

**Visit** [childrensground.org.au](http://childrensground.org.au)

**Donate** [childrensground.org.au/campaigns/donate](http://childrensground.org.au/campaigns/donate)

 [facebook.com/childrensgroundaus](https://facebook.com/childrensgroundaus)

 [@childrensground](https://www.instagram.com/childrensground)

 [@childrensground](https://twitter.com/childrensground)

 [linkedin.com/company/childrensground](https://linkedin.com/company/childrensground)