

# Annual Report 2022



First Nations people are warned that this report contains images of people who have passed.



# Contents

2022 Highlights	1
Our Vision	3
Angkentye anwernekenhe akngerreparte mape-kenhe	4
Message From the Chair	6
Message From the CEO	9
Celebrating Elders	10
Changing the System	12
Our Strategy	16
Where We Work	18
2022 Timeline	20
Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe (Children's Ground Central Australia)	22
Children's Ground Top End	
Wurdurd Garriygarrmerren	30
Darwin	36
How Our Children Are Learning and Growing	40
Research and Leadership	44
Governance	48
Ambassadors	52
Celebrating Our Supporters	54
Financials	56
Thank You To Our Brilliant Team	66



# 2022 Highlights

**1371 community members**

across generations engaged with Children's Ground.

## Family

*"I imagine a future where my children walk strong in their identity, led by their culture and community and their voices are elevated and carried through every aspect of their lives."*

– Cherisse Buzzacott, Arrernte woman and Head of Health at Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe (Children's Ground Central Australia)

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





# Our Vision

**First Nations people across Australia have self-determination and enjoy social, cultural, political and economic justice.**

**Our next generation of children know and celebrate their culture and identity, have freedom of choice and expression and can live with opportunity, peace, harmony and wellbeing.**

**Australians recognise our shared history and celebrate First Nations culture and strength.**

## Our Commitment to First Nations People

To honour our past, to listen to the voices of our ancestors, to respect our Elders and to honour the land. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples across the many Nations and lands which were never ceded. We are thankful to live and work on the land of the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation, on the lands of the Arrernte People in Central Australia and the lands of the Bolmo and Larrakia people in the Top End.







"We are creating the world our children need to thrive in their own culture with a strong sense of self, and we know that this is what will allow them to be strong in life."

Amunda Gorey, Children's Ground Community Researcher, Artist and Arrernte Language Teacher

# Angkentye anwerne-kenhe akngerreparte mape-kenhe

Voice from our leaders

## Werte families!

"Ayenge Veronica Turner Kngwarraye, ayenge apmere Anapipe-arenye. And ayenge Felicity Hayes Angale, warrke-irreme ampe-kenhe ahelhe-le, ayenge Irrkerlantye-arenye.

We are the Co-Directors and Senior Arrernte Educators here at Children's Ground. We work with all families and children with the support of our Western Educators. It's a privilege to be working with our First Nations and non-First Nations colleagues to better our lives and communities and strive to make a better future for the next generations.

2022 has been an interesting year with so many unexpected challenges. One of the challenges, as we began, was Covid and then dealing with a lot of sorry business. Despite this, we came together and supported each other and pushed through difficult times.

We are so proud of seeing all our families, our co-workers and friends of Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe (Children's Ground) working together to achieve this with great resilience and care for each other and our communities."

- Veronica Turner and Felicity Hayes

"Children's Ground is about all the families walking together, sharing our knowledge and culture and history together. We sit down and we decide 'How can we work together to build a future for the wurdurd (children) to put their heads up for the next generation?'"

- Roxanne Naborlhborlh, Top End Cultural Governance

"I really enjoy learning from the Elders. I'm getting knowledge from them so I can teach the young ones and they can look up to me."

Edmond Doolan, young Arrernte leader



# Message From the Chair



Children's Ground is growing in leaps and bounds, and I'm prouder than ever to be Chair of this organisation. As I reflect on our journey I really want people to understand just how important our Elders are. Over the past few years more and more have passed away and with them passes our cultural knowledge and language. We would be nowhere without our Elders. People like MK Turner OAM, Cecily Djandjomerr, Theresa Ryder, Susan Chalmers and many others, both past and present, they are our masters of culture. They are not seen or heard by the mainstream, but they have always been speaking and leading. We build on their work each day at Children's Ground. For us, their voice is the most important. And alongside them, the voices of community and our children.

From the inception of Children's Ground, we as founding members had a vision for the future where our children would grow up strong in their identity through language and culture, without being forced to leave their Country, family or community. We had a vision of our communities being full of life and opportunity, where our children feel safe, empowered and fully connected to their worlds – both First Nations and non-First Nations.

We know that the Western systems and top-down solutions do not work for us. They were not designed by us or for us. They are systems that have historically oppressed us, harmed our children and hindered our personal development as First Nations people. Our children have been set up to fail for too many years, and now we are changing that reality.

As our families continue to tackle the hardships of life they are building a new pathway for our next generation. It gives me hope watching our team in Central Australia at Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe and I am so proud to see the ampe akwekes (children) and young men and women starting to gain confidence and voice. I am watching our leaders on Larrakia land in Darwin get stronger and stronger as they begin the early stage of their Children's Ground journey with so much determination and passion. I am also strengthened by our Marlkawo families and I thank them for so much that is Children's Ground. I have watched them grow in their self determination to live on their traditional lands and to bring opportunity in the remotest parts of Australia to their families through Children's Ground. This is what agency is to me.

**As Australia discusses the Voice of First Nations people, I always say that our voice has been our greatest strength. When we have nothing, the only tool we have is to raise our voice. I encourage all of our people to use their voice, and I encourage others to listen.**

I want to thank our partners. You have heard our voice. You have listened. You are enabling us to have agency. You are protecting our culture, language and knowledge. You are ensuring our children and families have access to learning, health and employment. You are creating possibilities by respecting and uplifting our talent and elevating our voices. I cannot thank you enough and I invite others to join us. We are still building as an organisation and we need long term partners to support us in our work. What we all get back in return can never be counted in dollars. I want to thank our dedicated Board whose expertise and skills give me great confidence. Our national Board with majority First Nations directors from across the country and our cultural authority in each community and region give us power across both First Nations and Western governance. This is one of our great strengths of which I am very proud.

To the staff of Children's Ground, I watch you day in day out, putting in the hard yards. I respect you and thank you for all that you do. For making our vision a reality. I can see Children's Ground growing from strength to strength but I also see the bigger vision coming into view – the vision for systems change. That is what excites me. A reality where all of our children can wake up to a world where they feel honoured, respected, supported, confident in their identity and with freedom of choice and opportunity. We have our voice and we will use our voice across our many languages. It will be heard and it will usher in change.

**William Tilmouth**

# Message From the CEO



In 2022, we celebrated the incredible leadership of our Elders while watching the children go from strength to strength. As we say at Children's Ground, our Elders never retire, they become more important. This year, MK Turner OAM was honoured with a Doctorate from Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education for her life-long contribution to education, culture, language and community. MK is an Elder, Professor and Children's Ground Board Director. She has a critical strategic mind and superior intellect and as an Arrernte law woman, holds knowledge systems and languages of the longest-lived cultures in the world. She is the ultimate teacher. We also hosted a special investiture ceremony to honour L Kngwarraye Palmer's posthumous Order of Australia medal for her lifelong commitment to protecting Country and First Nations education. Both MK and Mrs. Palmer are and were leader Elders and co-founders of Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe and we honour them.

One of our key strategies is to implement and evidence the Children's Ground Approach in 3-5 regions. We are now delivering in three diverse cultural and geographic regions including town and remote locations. Ten communities are leading our work as we build our practice and evidence base. The communities in Central Australia are maturing in scale and delivery and the foundations for long term change are strengthening. Families in Marlkawo, their remote West Arnhem homeland, have come through years of instability with Covid and created a safe place for their families with access to learning, health and employment. In Darwin, four diverse Town Camps are in the early stages of implementation and local leaders are creating wonderful new opportunities for children and young people.

**The Children's Ground Approach is showing flexibility and scalability. Our highlights span from early childhood education to improved nutrition and health, revitalisation of languages and cultural knowledge, emerging young leaders who were previously at risk and the evolution of First Nations learning and wellbeing systems of knowledge and practice. Along with watching a new generation of children having access to culturally designed learning, we continue to see incredible stories of employment and leadership.**

Many people will have seen the media surrounding Mparntwe (Alice Springs) this year. The challenges facing our children and families have been present for generations. Over half of the First Nations population is aged under 25 years old and in Mparntwe, as with most First Nations communities, there are very few opportunities. Children's Ground was designed by First Nations leaders in response to this reality. If we know anything, we know that Children's Ground is needed now more than ever and we must continue to work towards investment that allows us to implement the full approach in each region. What we are doing is working, but we know that this must be sustained and strengthened at scale in each community for a generation if we are to achieve real change. We have been in constant growth as we move towards our financial targets. We are clear about the service mix and levels that are required for communities to achieve access and equity.

We achieved income of \$9.7M in 2022, a 25% increase from the year prior, as we moved towards our long term strategic goal of an annual income of \$25M. We ended the year with a loss of \$173,127. This reflected a change in the broader sector as interest rates impacted donations to not for profit organisations. We retained a strong collective investment with 44% of income from government and 53% from philanthropy (3% other income). Government incubated Children's Ground as a model of innovation many years ago and we look forward to strengthening both our relationship and income from government in future years.

We celebrate our collective family of philanthropists, many of whom have been with us for many years and many more who are starting their journey. I thank them for their support, guidance, time and knowledge. It is our philanthropic family that enables innovation - that backs in our Approach and uplifts our First Nations leadership from the grassroots. There is a beautiful mutual respect.

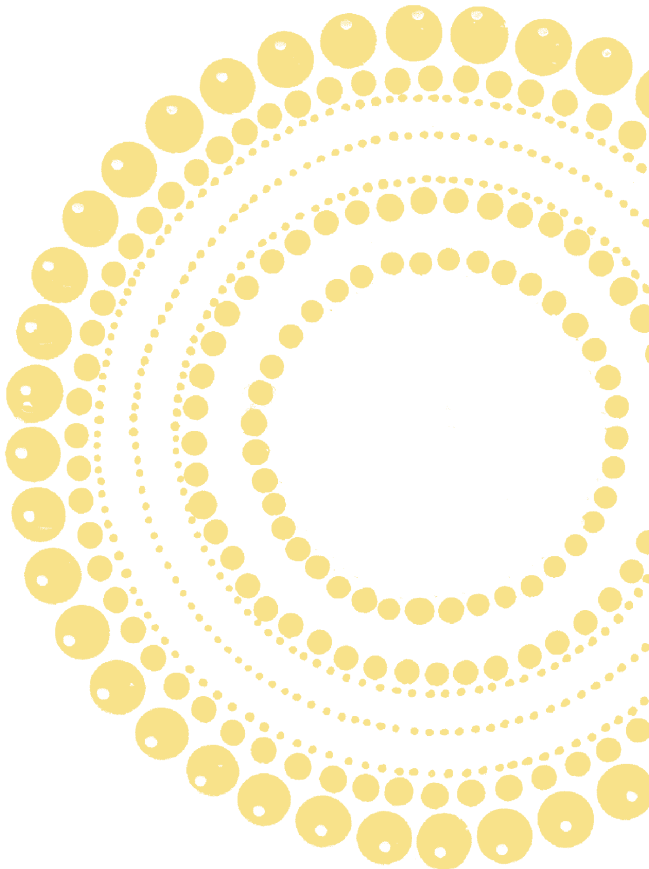
I thank our wildly talented ambassadors and friends who promote our work, lead creative fundraising, and who honour the voices of our communities.

I thank our incredible Board and cultural governance committees who hold the integrity of our vision, strategy and culture and whose expertise gives me constant guidance and confidence. The work with our partners at all levels of the organisation has been a standout.

And of course, most importantly, I recognise the people - the Elders, the children, the young people, the adults, the men and the women who are Children's Ground. It is hard to explain the phenomenal talent and strength that leads this organisation. My role as CEO is to operationalise their vision and strategy and I am honoured to work with great leaders. I am supported by incredible staff and volunteers who are dedicated and passionate.

Each day we see change. We witness a bit of magic and we have hope that we are building a future for children where they are honoured and celebrated, where they can follow their dreams and know this will be the norm for their children.

**Jane Vadiveloo**





# Celebrating Elders



The late Kwementyaye Kngwarraye Palmer was awarded a posthumous Order of Australia for services to the First Nations community of Mparntwe. Mrs Palmer was a founding Elder of Children’s Ground. She was a respected educator, artist, leader, cultural professor, great-grandmother, Elder, advocate and loyal friend. We congratulate and recognise Kngwarraye Palmer’s family as we honour your mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great grandmother.

We celebrate Mrs Palmer’s lifelong commitment to protecting and healing Country, and her determination that all First Nations children have access to 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 is proud to have been established, directed and shaped by a team of visionary First Nations Elders and leaders – gentle, strong and fiercely determined to fight for justice, language, culture and Country.

She will forever be missed, and we are trying to follow in the path she created.

**“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. We have to help those kids find a better place to learn. And Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe is the best.”**

Kwementyaye Kngwarraye Palmer



**In 2022, the brilliance of M.K. Turner was recognised by Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education**

**Citation for the award of Honorary Doctorate: Margaret Mary Kemarre Turner OAM**

Margaret Mary Kemarre (MK) Turner OAM is an Eastern Arrernte elder, grandmother, great- grandmother, Ngangkere, professor, cultural adviser, interpreter, teacher, social justice champion, artist and author. Born in the Harts Range region, northeast of Alice Springs, she is the rock of this community and the glue that holds it all together. Her fearless leadership is seen all across this town in health, education, housing she has been influential in all of it. Irrkerlantye Learning Centre, Akeyulerre Healing Centre in Alice Springs and Children’s Ground she has championed community-led responses by Arrernte people for Arrernte children and families all of her life.

MK was on the cultural advisory panel for the film *In My Blood it Runs*, an observational documentary that examines the ways First Nations families are striving, often under extreme circumstances, to pass on their cultural knowledge. The film is directed by Maya Newell and challenges the way non-Aboriginal people view the education system and the learning and success of Aboriginal children.

In 1997 Margaret Kemarre Turner was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia “for service to the Aboriginal community of Central Australia, particularly through preserving language and culture, and interpreting”. Twenty-five years on, MK is still passionate about the learning, development, and wellbeing of Arrernte children,

working tirelessly to ensure her great-grandchildren grow up with the best opportunities available to them with their language, culture and identity honoured. MK continues to share her knowledge and wisdom, as an Australian Aboriginal elder, with great generosity so that non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal Australians can connect with, understand, and learn from one another, and walk as one into a shared future.

MK has long advocated for a harmonious coming together of our cultures; “Let’s get together, every one of us, and hold these two languages and things together. And teach them and teach each other. We can’t have blaming business today, now. We can’t do that because we’re living together. We’re eating the same food, we’re drinking the same water, we breathe the same air, alakenhe (like this). Two cultures can hold each other very strong.” (Turner, M. K 2010. *Iwenhe Tyerrtye: What it means to be an Aboriginal person*, IAD Press, Alice Springs.) There is not a person in this town, Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal, who hasn’t benefited from her gentle guidance and leadership and all the services in town are influenced by her tenacity and commitment to continuity of Arrernte culture.

Batchelor Institute Council confers the award of ‘Doctor of the Institute Honoris Causa’ to Dr Margaret Mary Kemarre Turner: In recognition of a lifelong commitment to cultural maintenance and languages of Aboriginal people, as an author, outstanding educator, and advocate. Her leadership and knowledge in healing, community-controlled organisations, and intergenerational knowledge sharing, we recognise her knowledge, power and urgent truth-telling.



# Changing the System



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

Our culture and language are integral parts of who we are as First Nations people, and the foundation of our strong communities.

We experience disadvantage and injustice because of the way the mainstream system works. We want this to be a thing of the past. The Children's Ground Approach centres education, health and employment to build strong communities, so that they can be safe, vibrant, alive, yet peaceful places for our children and families to live.

Our children deserve the best. This means having access to their language and culture so they can learn, and grow up knowing who they are and what they are capable of. We are laying the foundation for our children to succeed in their families, in their communities and in the world.

We have our system, it's called Apmerengetyele. This includes our laws, our society, our health, our learning, our ways of knowing and doing. 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, our adults and our Elders. Our whole community walking together for our next generation so that they can change the future.

Our Elders are the most important. They guide us. They lead Children's Ground and play an important role in the lives of our children and young people.

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

This painting shows how our children connect with their family, land, community, their Elders and with the broader world. It shows how they grow and learn, now and in their future. It shows how our partners are part of all we do and how they support our people to achieve long term change.



First Nations people have lived through endless policy changes that have controlled our lives and delivered constant grief, trauma and injustice. For the Elders and families who lead Children's Ground, this injustice has led to economic poverty, child protection, prisons, hospitals, funerals and racism as a norm in our lives.

Despite this, our Elders have maintained strength, clarity and fierce determination to make change - real, long lasting change - and they brought Children's Ground to life.

Children's Ground was created to change the status quo with a 25-year strategy. 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 CGA 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'.

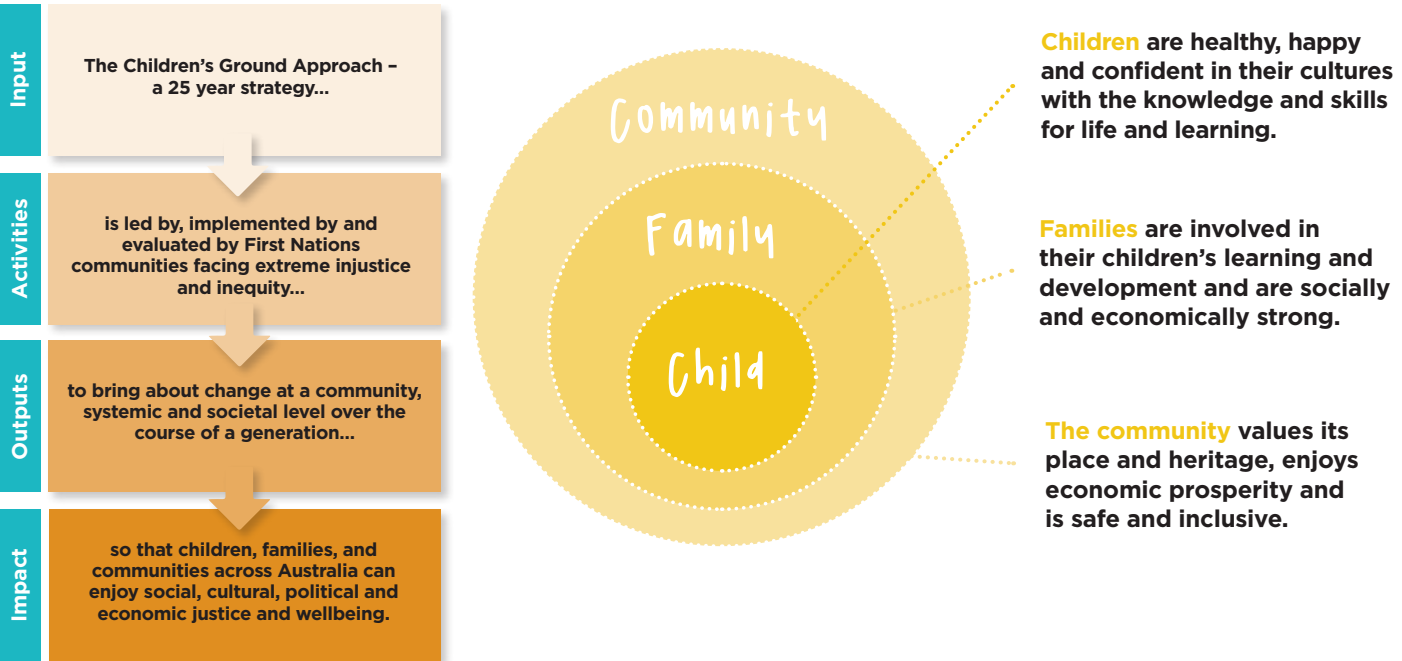
The CGA is a fully integrated system of services needed for whole of community change over a generation. We focus on prevention, early intervention and empowerment

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 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 utilising the knowledge of our Elders, our experience 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.

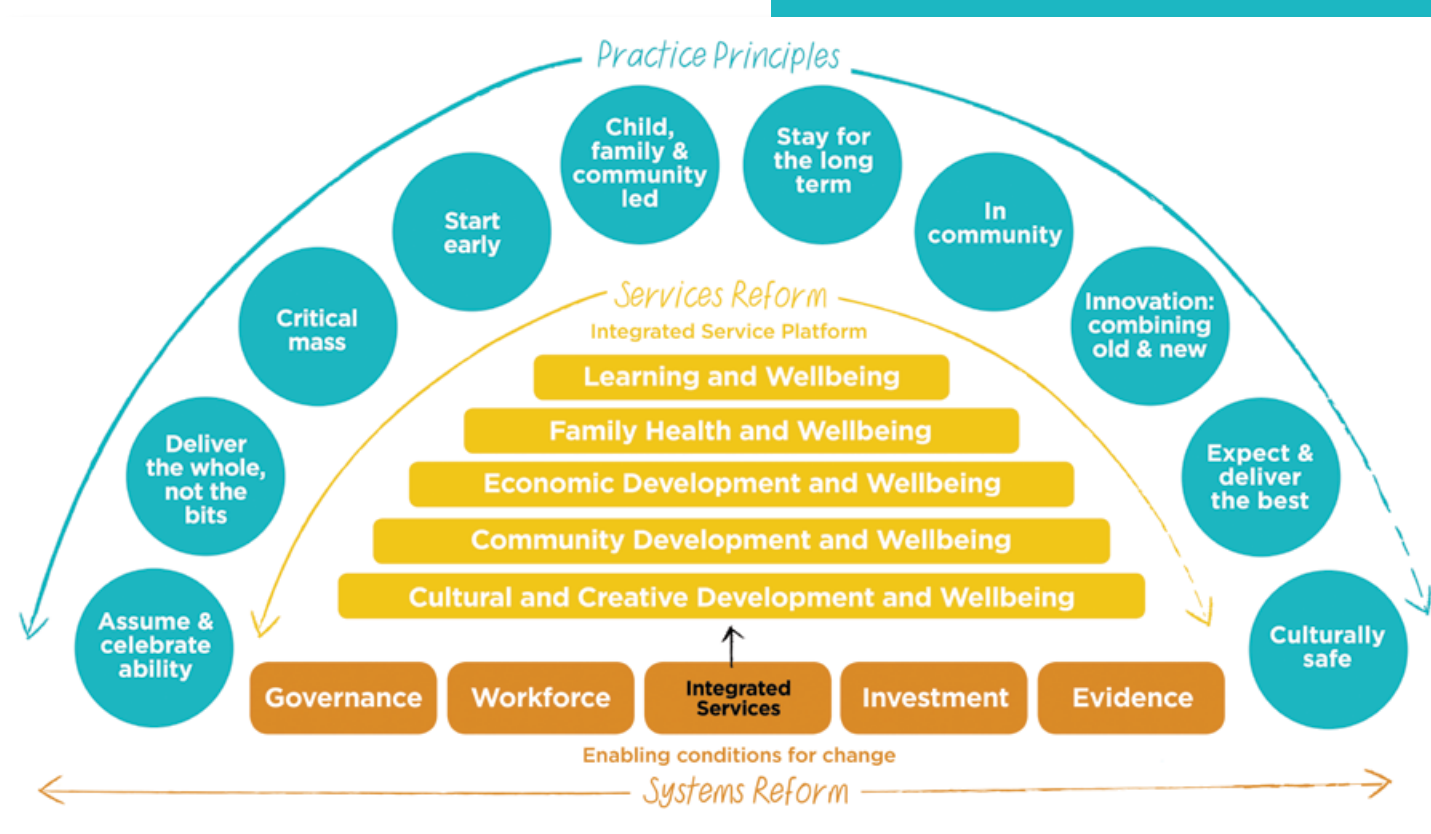
We must deliver these things together, in the right way, with the right people, and then we will see real change. We are planning, delivering and evaluating the CGA so our children and grandchildren have the opportunity to grow and learn in environments that respect and strengthen their identity, First 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; fully engaged with the world. We aim to achieve this for all children in a community - to invest in their future and in turn see communities celebrate and enjoy social, cultural and economic wellbeing over the long term. This will take a generation. It will take a deep commitment in time and money. This is a commitment to long-term reform.

Figure 1: Children's Ground Theory of Change



In 25 years we will see...

Figure 2: The Children's Ground Approach



### Community change

First Nations people in our local communities have access to and lead quality integrated and culturally responsive services that are inclusive and place-based and that create safety and wellbeing. Every child enjoys wellbeing with their families. Whole communities shift from intergenerational inequity to intergenerational opportunity and wellbeing.

### Systems change

A national integrated service delivery and policy system that meets the long-term needs of children, families and communities and builds on their identity, history, strengths and ambitions. A system that values First Nations knowledge.

### Societal change

First Nations history and culture are celebrated as a central part of our nation's identity.



# Our Strategy



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

<b>Goal 1:</b> Establish leading practice through implementation of the CGA	<b>Goal 2:</b> Document and share the CGA	<b>Goal 3:</b> Evidence the Approach	<b>Goal 4:</b> Promote national systems change
<b>Goal 5:</b> Champion First Nations history and culture	<b>Goal 6:</b> Strengthen and grow the Children’s Ground Organisation and people	<b>Goal 7:</b> Financial sustainability and efficiency	<b>Goal 8:</b> Governance that meets both Western and First Nations governance standards

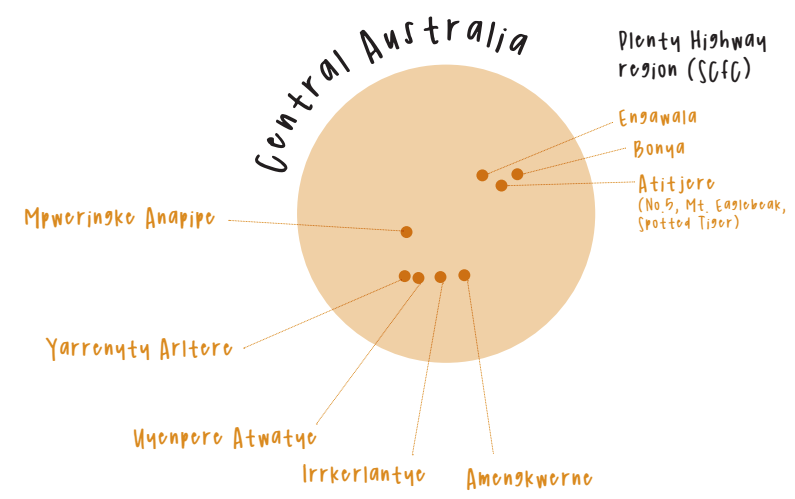
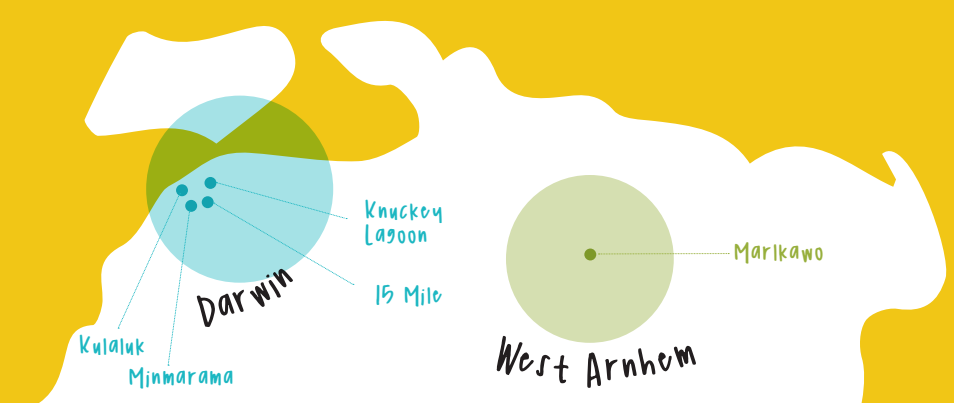
### Progress: Growth Reach Impact

The CGA is being delivered and evaluated in three regions across the Northern Territory. Each is at a different stage of the 25-year approach. The graphic below presents % of delivery against the full CGA by the end of 2022, including resource and growth targets for the next five years.





# Where We Work





# 2022 Timeline

january



Founding Elder of Children's Ground Kwementyaye Kngwarraye Palmer was awarded an Order of Australia for services to the First Nations community of Mparntwe in protecting Country and fighting for First Nations-led education.

february

Children were excited to start another rich year of learning with Children's Ground – on Country, led by our Elders.

The spread of Covid throughout the NT made our ongoing health promotion and Covid safety support all the more vital.



march



Children's Ground grieved the loss of one of the founding members of Black Rock Band – a father, brother, son, musician and friend gone too soon.

On International Women's Day, a group of fifty strong First Nations women and children from communities in Central Australia came together for Arelhe-kenhe Ayeye (Women's Story).

april

Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe launched their new music program with a workshop on Mpweringke Anapipe Country.

Our families were hurting from losing an Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe founding cultural governance member (L. Gorey) and three people in their 30s. Sorry business was widespread across all of our communities.

The Utyerre Apanpe national network of First Nations educators and cultural professors met to progress the First Nations Education Reform agenda started in 2019.



may

510 groups supported First Nations families through our 'Wear It Yellow for Children's Ground' campaign during National Reconciliation Week.

The language revitalisation work of MK Turner OAM, Senior Akarre/Akityarre speakers and local school students resulted in the first draft of a new picture dictionary.



july

We hosted vibrant NAIDOC celebrations across all our communities.

Ambassador Missy Higgins visited Central Australia to meet Arrernte families and see the incredible work happening within communities.



Ambassador Dan Sultan brought together leading First Nations artists Kiya Watt and Kirli Saunders to transform two Fender guitars into one-of-a-kind art pieces in an auction fundraiser.

june

Revitalising cultural maternal and child health practices has been a focus this year. In June, we teamed up with Akeyulerre to facilitate a baby smoking ceremony with Yarrenyty Arltere families. "I want to smoke my son to make him healthy and strong," said young mum Anna.

Children's Ground welcomed a new ambassador, musician Shane Howard. Members of the Resource Development team in Central Australia attended a two-day animation workshop to increase their digital design and animation skills.



september

MK Turner OAM was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Batchelor Institute for her commitment to First Nations education.

Representatives from Children's Ground delivered two presentations at the 2022 World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education in Adelaide.

Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe's music program debuted 'Ampe-mape Alyelhe! Kids Sing' at the Alice Springs Desert Festival, showcasing new Arrernte kids' songs.



august

Celebrated Australian musician Kasey Chambers visited Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe to connect with families and even started a sing-along during an Early Years session at Uyenpere Atwatye.

Children in the Top End enjoyed a creative focus to their after-hours activities: watercolour painting, spray painting and designing their own t-shirts.

15 Mile community planted the seeds for their very first community garden!



october

Wurdurd (children) in Marlkawo learned about kunburrk (the body). They made kundurru (heart) pumps and kunkurlba (blood) bottles to learn about the different organs and why kunkurlba is important.

Yarrenyty Arltere families held their first camp on Country with Children's Ground at Ellery Creek.



november

Our Resource Development team launched a new product: a 2023 Arrernte calendar called *Ilengare (When?)* at the Blak Business marketplace in Mparntwe.

Young Arrernte leaders Edmond, Myles and Mitchell presented at the First Languages Youth Forum in Adelaide about why language is integral to their understanding of Country, culture and identity.



december

More than 100 children and families welcomed The Wiggles to Arrernte Country and taught them how to sing *Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes* in Arrernte: *Akaperte, Pwerlepe, Ampere, Ingke*. Learning journey celebration booklets were distributed at our end-of-year celebrations so children and families could reflect on their incredible experiences with Children's Ground throughout the year.





# Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe

(Children's Ground Central Australia)



2022 was a year of exciting highs and emotional lows for the families that lead Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe. Amongst the celebrations that saw our Elders honoured for their lifetime achievements to their community and their culture, we also experienced incredible tragedy with the loss of too many family members. Sharing these moments of joy and grief makes Children's Ground the organisation it is: an organisation of the people.

We began work in 2022 as the first wave of Covid spread across the Northern Territory. With restricted travel and many staff and families experiencing Covid in overcrowded living conditions (personally or as close contacts), much of our work pivoted to health support, ensuring families could isolate when they needed to, in relative safety. Early years learning continued in small family groups on Country, as it did during the pandemic's beginning. Once the wave passed, the Learning and Wellbeing team regrouped to deliver a massive year of on Country learning. Families were looking for connection to the land after several lockdowns.

Our littlest children are growing up immersed in their first language, with knowledge of their country, culture and kin, with science, health, creative arts, English numeracy and literacy and good nutrition, surrounded by family. As some children progressed into mainstream schooling, babies were born and our numbers stayed strong.

Our family health and wellbeing work has been as important as ever. It is critical to our work. Our focus on maternal and child health got stronger in both Cultural and Western practices. Our incredible nutrition team achieved excellent outcomes in delivering nutritious meals, education and general health promotion. We have connected children and adults to health support, which is critical in both preventing and managing chronic health. Our social and emotional wellbeing team has been working with families on deep historical and current trauma and risk. Trust is built by being part of people's lives every day, challenging discussions can be held, and people can strengthen the safety and wellbeing of their children and families.

The music program grew in 2022, with the Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe band invited to perform at the Alice Springs Desert Festival in September. These emerging performers were supported by seasoned Australian musicians Emily Lubitz and Harry Angus to write, record and share a series of Arrernte children's songs. We also hosted Ambassador and beloved musician Missy Higgins and her children, who saw how our families are leading Children's Ground. Kasey Chambers sang with the kids at Uyenpere Atwatye and Goanna performed an impromptu gig at a governance session.

Staff numbers continued to grow, supporting our growth towards the full Children's Ground Approach and we secured funding from Communities for Children to deliver early years learning at Amengkwerne. We look forward to working in partnership with the community there and building on the initial work begun in 2022. We also signed a partnership agreement with Yipirinya School to support our commitment to schooling in the Mpweringke Anapipe homelands. This was an inspiring time for both Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe and Yipirinya as we forged a new path with families requesting homelands schooling.

The two elders who spoke of this aspiration early in the Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe story, MK Turner and Mrs. L. Palmer, were formally recognised in 2022 in two ceremonies. Mrs Kwementyaye Kngwarraye Palmer OAM received posthumous recognition with an Order of Australia award for dedication to education and keeping culture and language alive. We held a large family gathering at our hub to celebrate. A week later, our Senior Cultural Professor, Dr MK Turner OAM received an honorary doctorate from Batchelor Institute – a small symbol of MK's enormous knowledge and lifelong passion for educating everyone she meets.

Another highlight of the year, and again following in our Elders' steps, was the increasing profile gained by our young leaders. Our voices were heard at WIPCE (World Indigenous People's Conference on Education), the SNAICC conference (Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care), Aboriginal Youth Languages Forum, Youth Mental Health Conference, National Ceramics Triennale, Desert Intersections Symposium, in Federal Parliament and in webinars. The rights of First Nations families to shape the learning and wellbeing of their children was a constant theme.

The teams in Engawala and Atitjere grew and continued to kick goals for the Stronger Communities for Children program. Leading on-Country learning, language strengthening and documentation work, many camps and events, starting a music program and ending the year with a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the NT Department of Education to partner on an early childhood program in Engawala, things are looking great for 2023.

We connected with our supporters by hosting several visits in Mparntwe throughout the year. Our staff also attended important funder events interstate. A massive thank you to all our supporters: the funders, the volunteers, the champions, the donators, and the Igniting Changers. You all play a vital role in our journey.

We also hosted many meetings with government staff and Ministers here and in Canberra, and we look forward to strengthening these partnerships in the future.



# Learning + Wellbeing



- 172 children aged 0-5 engaged in Learning and Wellbeing supported by 311 family members (18+ years).
- 100% of children are engaged in early learning alongside their family. By creating safe, open and inclusive learning environments that bring in the whole family, children feel supported to develop their confidence and identity.
- Our resource team strengthened our learning program with Arrernte songs that arose from our Arrernte Early Years books. Singing in language is a growing part of our learning sessions.
- Mpweringke Anapipe worked towards the delivery of primary years learning from the Burt Creek hub and on Country. With our Yipirinya School partnership in place, we look forward to seeing outstanding achievements in 2023.
- Amengkwerne will expand early years delivery in 2023.

# Health + Wellbeing



- 182 children aged 0-5 engaged in health promotion and wellbeing support.
- 659 family members engaged in health promotion and wellbeing support.
- The Health and Wellbeing team provided ongoing support in areas such as Covid (vaccinations and management), medical appointments, referrals, aged care support, hygiene practices, health promotion, maternal and child health, dental, hearing and eye checks and follow up, NDIS support and environmental health.
- First Nations health knowledge and practice were consistently embedded, including connection to Country, bush medicines, traditional healers, bush foods and baby smoking ceremonies.
- Our nutrition program operated daily for children, their families and Elders and included nutritious meals, nutrition education and food security.
- The Social and Emotional Wellbeing team provided steady and ongoing support that included counselling, group workshops, support for those experiencing child protection and juvenile justice issues, domestic and family violence and guidance for the team in self-care and emotional regulation.



# Economic Development + Wellbeing



- In 2022, 62 First Nations staff worked at Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe across Learning, Health, Men's and Youth, Admin, Finance, Research and Evaluation, Community Development and Governance.
- Staff training included workplace compliance, first aid and CPR, Working with vulnerable people, Suicide ASIST, White card accreditation, Visual Arts, driver training, Light Rigid license tests, intellectual property rights, money management and more.
- The Women's Leadership and Development Program continued to provide workforce development and social and emotional support. Two Arelhe-kenhe Ayeye (Our Women's Story) days addressed barriers to employment, social and emotional health and training.
- We received funding through the State Street Trust to employ a part-time Financial Counsellor to increase economic literacy and independence.
- The Enterprise and Resource Development team published two new culture and language products: an Arrernte calendar (*Ilengare? When?*) and corresponding gift cards. These items were sold at the Children's Ground online store and local community markets.

# Cultural + Creative Development + Wellbeing



- 709 people of all ages engaged in cultural learning, on-Country learning and cultural health activities
- Selected staff participated in a print-making visual art course through Charles Darwin University, culminating in an Arrernte seasons calendar.
- Five new Arrernte children's songs were written. The songs complement our early learning resources, reinforcing language learning in a fun and creative way.
- Children and families met The Wiggles and taught them *Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes* in Arrernte: *Akaperte, Pwerlepe, Ampere, Ingke*.
- Children's Ground teamed up with Akeyulerre to facilitate several baby-smoking ceremonies throughout the year. These cultural practices arise from over 65,000 years of law and culture and are important for a baby's utnenge (spirit) and wellbeing.

***"We smoke our children to be strong and healthy and to grow without illness. Mothers smoke their werlatye (breasts) to be healthy and strong and provide for their babies."***

CT, Arrernte Grandmother and Resource and Development team member





- 136 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).
- 317 people of all ages engaged in family and community events.
- While everyone at Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe works within a community development framework, we now have a dedicated position to support longer-term community planning work.
- We continued to support families of Irrkerlantye regarding gaining tenure. Kweyenpe Aboriginal Corporation, was incorporated, to hold the tenure once the

decision has been formalised. An Indigenous Land Use Agreement is underway. We are working with the government to release the funding that has been provided to support smaller-scale community development and water security while trying to secure a larger-scale commitment towards the future of Irrkerlantye. We continue to work closely with Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation. The Irrkerlantye families are still waiting for a commitment of a permanent water and energy supply, basic housing and infrastructure on their traditional lands in Mparntwe.

- All other sites are working to their community plans, including the expansion of available infrastructure for primary years learning at Burt Creek. Uyenpere Atwatye and Yarrenyty Arlttere groups continue to deliver through their Town Camp Community Centres.



## Stronger Communities for Children

The Stronger Communities for Children (SCfC) program is situated in the Plenty Highway region and includes the communities of Atitjere and Engawala.

These communities are part of Children's Ground in another way. SCfC is a government program that Children's Ground runs. We support community local governance to make decisions and put programs for children and families in place. While not implementing and evidencing the Children's Ground Approach, we bring the principles and expertise of Children's Ground to our work. We are a facilitating partner, brokering in partnerships and services and supporting the delivery of some programs to meet the community's long-term needs. Both communities have family, language and cultural links to Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe.

These communities were locked down at the start of the year due to Covid, but quickly built up momentum once travel restrictions were lifted. So much has happened this year including camps, workshops, on-Country learning, a trip to Barunga Festival, Finke Sports Weekend, a Knowledge Sharing Seminar in Mparntwe, music program and infrastructure development.

SCfC partnered with the Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe Resource Development team to capture and revitalise the Akarre-Akityarre language alongside senior Akarre-Akityarre speakers. Bonya and Atitjere communities held language workshops in partnership with the local school, where children were introduced to the threatened language, learning to speak it and revive it for future generations. This work has culminated in an Akarre-Akityarre written and audio wordlist and a children's picture dictionary.





# Top End: Wurdurd Garriygarrmerren



In late 2017, Marlkawo families wanted to return to their homeland. Against the odds and facing huge barriers, they have returned to their Country permanently. With the support of philanthropists, Bolmo families returned home with Children's Ground as their foundation for the future for their children and families.

Families have grown their homeland from two broken down houses to a small community with a working airstrip, basic infrastructure, learning and wellbeing hub and a staff quarters for balanda (non-First Nations) staff. This year, Marlkawo families established their own corporation for their future.

Despite the challenges of Covid, access, travel, and constant sorry business year on year, it has been inspiring to watch Elders, leaders, families and children slowly build their future and to see how the Children's Ground Approach provides a framework for this within a small homeland context. Each of the core elements of the Approach has provided a focus for long term sustainable change: learning, health, culture, economic and community development and wellbeing. This is based on the integrated cultural worldview that connects people to Country, children to Elders, learning to health and wellbeing, economy to culture and where language and cultural knowledge underpins wellbeing in all aspects of life. This can be seen every day at Marlkawo.

Marlkawo is a small community with high mobility and while some families live there permanently, others move between larger towns and their homeland. Key family members, including a key Elder who re-established Marlkawo have had to relocate to Darwin due to renal failure and dialysis. Our work with Marlkawo occurs primarily in Marlkawo but extends to working with families in Jabiru, Gunbulunya and Darwin.

Over 2022, each key area of the Approach was strengthened. Our integrated learning and wellbeing framework is based on Country and with children immersed in first cultural knowledge. After community planning in 2021, Marlkawo had a permanent Western-trained educator residing and working in community in 2022. This strengthened learning and wellbeing opportunities with other integrated staff rotating throughout the year.

The health, wellbeing and learning of children has grown together through the year. Children continued to develop their First Language as well as English language skills and loved developing digital skills through use of iPads. Numeracy and maths skills and knowledge matured.

## **First Cultural learning occurs daily through stories, walking on country, listening, doing and through art.**

Social and emotional wellbeing, health and nutrition are all embedded in our daily delivery. Children have laughed, learned, grown, become more confident, gained new knowledge and developed new skills. By being on country, their spirit is settled and their learning and wellbeing are uplifted.

Children's Ground secured funding from the Northern Land Council to build important infrastructure. Constructing three more balabalas (A-framed structures) meant a new shared office space and improved internet access for community members. The other two provide residential spaces for staff and community. The grant also funded a solar power system. This enabled the whole of Children's Ground infrastructure to be powered by 80% solar and 20% generator which is a significant environmental achievement in this very remote location.

In June, students and teachers from St Ignatius College came back to Marlkawo for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic. Community leaders guided the school group on daily walks to significant cultural sites. A 2023 visit has already been booked as we continue this long standing relationship of knowledge sharing and cultural exchange. We love seeing the boys learn and have life changing experiences. The boys support local projects and fundraise for Marlkawo. The funds have been used for repairs on community houses.

Economic development includes employment of local families across a range of areas including learning, health, cultural practice and evaluation. Individuals have been supported in financial management skills and resources. Individuals and families have also been supported in enterprise planning as people look to future economic opportunities. For a small community of people, building economic sustainability is both critical and challenging.

Children's Ground supported the Traditional Owners of Marlkawo to establish an incorporated organisation for the future benefit of community, family and the children. In October 2022, Malbak Aboriginal Corporation's application to register as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporation was approved by the Federal Government Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC). The community wants to build their economic strength into the future.

This year we again experienced a high level of sorry business including losing three young people to chronic illness and car accidents. It was heartbreaking to lose two young fathers with beautiful children and partners who have been part of the Children's Ground family for many years. We still miss them.



The following statistics refer to delivery in Marlkawo only.



### Learning + Wellbeing

- 17 children (aged 0-15 years) engaged in Learning and Wellbeing, supported by 28 family members (18+).
- 100% of learning took place on Country. Children learned literacy and numeracy in the morning and engaged in deep cultural learning in the afternoon.
- The community held weekly celebrations to recognise the achievements and efforts of the wurdurd (children) in their learning, wellbeing and development.



### Health + Wellbeing

- 33 children (aged 0-15 years) engaged in Health and Wellbeing, supported by 61 family members over 15 years of age.
- The addition of three new balabalas reduced overcrowding of our families and allowed for more engaged learning.
- A solar project has also cut fuel costs and noise/exhaust pollution.
- Nutrition workshops supported children and their families to learn healthy, simple and affordable cooking.

### Economic Development + Wellbeing

- 33 First Nations staff worked at Children's Ground in 2022.
- “We will be teaching our kids from the start. As they grow up and have their own kids, they will then teach them the Children's Ground way. We are still at the beginning. In 10 years' time, if I'm still alive, I will see Marlkawo have a proper 'school', proper houses with fans, a big generator with a working shower and toilet.”***
- Cecily Djandjomerr, Elder, Co-Director of Children's Ground in the Top End.



### Community Development + Wellbeing

- 30 people engaged in community governance – developing and reviewing community and infrastructure plans, cultural decision making, new incorporation development, staff recruitment, policy development, reporting and evaluation.
- We supported family members to access internet banking and create more financial and economic independence, getting email addresses set up to order manme (food) and obtain bank cards that could be used online.
- Food security continues to be a critical issue for community members and non-First Nations staff. In 2022, the development of effective and efficient processes using new systems with online food orders, storage, and air and land-based transportation was effective in managing food security.



### Cultural + Creative Development + Wellbeing

- 75 people of all ages engaged in cultural learning, on Country learning, and cultural health activities.
- Creative and cultural arts activities are 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.



Black Rock Band emerged from Children's Ground's Creative, Cultural and Enterprise platforms in West Arnhem, NT and our work with young men at risk of engagement with the criminal justice system. Early in 2022, we celebrated the incredible achievements of First Nations musicians Black Rock Band. Later, this turned to grief.

Black Rock Band gave an incredible performance at the Port Fairy Folk Festival in March on a stage hosted by First Nations music legend Archie Roach – their first live set in almost two years. Devastatingly, just a few weeks later, one of the founding members of Black Rock Band passed away in a tragic car accident. His passion for music, family, and connection to Country and culture were unwavering. We send our love to all the families affected by this tragic loss – a father, brother, son, musician and friend gone too soon. Rest in Power RR.





Shirley Djandjomerr is a First Nations leader and educator at Children's Ground in Marlkawo in the Top End of the Northern Territory. Here, she shares a story about a blended learning activity at Children's Ground, where culture, language and health promotion all combine to provide an enriching educational experience:

*"On Country learning sessions allow us to watch how our wurdurd (children) grow."*

*Last week we were teaching the wurdurd about the Djang sites - Djurungdjurung and Ngalkordow. We visited these two special sites and talked about taking care of them. We then went to Miyuku for a swim and fish. While we were there, Angela caught a burarr (water goanna). The wurdurd were so excited to show us that they knew all the names for body parts in Kunwinjku. They went from the kunkodj (head) to the morlawnoh (tail) and said all the names. It made us proud seeing them share their cultural knowledge and their First Language.*

*The wurdurd took turns learning how to pull the guts out and clean the burarr up ready for cooking. They had been learning about internal organs and their functions the day before with the health promotion specialist. When they pulled the kunnjam (intestines) out of the neck, they washed it out to study it and relate it to their learning from the day before in the Children's Ground learning centre.*

*This is how we do things at Children's Ground. We combine the learning we do in the centre with the learning on Country. Everything is done together and supports one another."*



# Top End: Darwin



Children's Ground is being led in Darwin by Minmarama/Kulaluk, 15 Mile and Knuckey's Lagoon communities. It remains in its early stages after three years of Covid interruptions. Despite this, there has been exciting growth in employment, governance, health and learning activities and the development of infrastructure in communities to support delivery of key activities.

The NT Covid wave of early 2022 had a significant impact on our families, with operations in the early part of the year focused on health. Unlike the rest of the country, Covid only spread through our communities in 2022. Our work in preparation, education, support, immunisations and planning in previous years was profoundly important. Our teams were ready and family and community members were informed and able to respond as best as possible to the huge impact we all knew Covid would have. Due to overcrowding, Covid spread quickly through all communities. Staff grappled with the virus and supported family members in isolation. This was an added challenge for many First Nations families in our communities who live in insecure or overcrowded housing, forcing some people to live in their cars to isolate themselves with Covid. There is a long-term housing crisis in First Nations communities and Covid has only exacerbated this insidious issue.

Each community has been working on their short term and long term community plans, looking at each area of the Children's Ground Approach and their differing realities, priorities and needs. Both 15 Mile and Knuckey's Lagoon have community centres and have a focus on early years, young people and local employment. Early years learning at 15 Mile and Knuckey's Lagoon is a highlight, and is the on-Country learning. Minmarama has found it difficult without any community facility and progress is slower. All communities have provided important support for primary aged children and school engagement. In Minmarama/Kulaluk we facilitate after hours activities which are open to all children in community and have a strong focus on play.

We have had additional funding to modestly boost local First Nations employment.

**Some kids are seeing their parents work for the first time, with community enjoying work and training across learning, health, community development, governance and more.**

In 2022, Children's Ground opened two hubs in the communities of Knuckey's Lagoon and 15 Mile in collaboration with the community and local Aboriginal organisations. These office spaces complement the already established community halls in both locations that we have helped re-establish and operationalise over recent years. This work now allows us to be place-based in our delivery. This is a critical part of the Children's Ground Approach – for community to be able to lead with the resources based where they live. The stakeholder partnership work is exciting as organisations come and meet with the community to work together on behalf of the community. Big highlights have been working with Ironbark at Knuckey's Lagoon to support employment engagement, the community office space and the establishment of a wonderful garden project that the kids have loved.

First Nations local governance has benefitted from increased local employment and strengthening of our place-based approach. In 2022, the three Darwin communities held monthly governance meetings and participated in the regional Top End governance meetings alongside the Marlkawo community. This was a milestone for the Top End, and an indication of the commitment Elders, families and children have to growing the Children's Ground Approach in all our communities.





## Learning + Wellbeing

- 38 children (aged 0-5 years) engaged in Learning and Wellbeing, supported by 60 family members (18+ years).
- Covid lockdowns, sorry business and staff illness impacted learning in 2022. In Darwin, many communities imposed their own lockdowns to keep safe from Covid, which indicates a wider story of strong community governance.



## Health + Wellbeing

- 66 children (aged 0-5 years) engaged in health promotion and wellbeing support.
- 323 people family members engaged in health promotion and wellbeing support.
- We worked with the NT Health Mobile Vaccination Team to provide vaccinations at Minmarama and Kulaluk enabling families to feel safe, comfortable and educated about their choices.
- Sexual health and wellbeing sessions for girls facilitated by a Western-trained specialist in collaboration with cultural leaders created a safe space for conversation, health promotion and education.
- Five staff attended a suicide awareness and prevention workshop 'Suicide Story...Our Way' facilitated by the Suicide Story Aboriginal Advisory Group in collaboration with Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory.

## Economic Development + Wellbeing

- 14 First Nations staff worked with Children's Ground in 2022.
- Some kids are seeing their parents work for the first time, with community enjoying work and training across learning, health, community development, governance and more.



## Cultural + Creative Development + Wellbeing

- 219 people of all ages engaged in cultural and creative activities with Children's Ground in 2022.
- Creative and cultural arts activities were integrated into all learning activities.
- We collaborated with Proper Creative to facilitate a 2-day creative school holiday workshop teaching kids the techniques of spray painting. This process was child-led, and the children are very proud of the final product – a painted shipping container.

## Community Development + Wellbeing

- 38 people engaged in community governance – making decisions about Children's Ground for their children, families and whole community.
- A new basketball court was opened in Minmarama/Kulaluk with an afternoon of sports and community celebration.
- We supported Minmarama/Kulaluk to organise a NAIDOC celebration. This event was community led, and featured lots of cultural cooking including kangaroo tails and barramundi cooked in a ground oven.

### Children's Ground NDIS Work

Children's Ground has an NDIS Support Coordinator, working with First Nations Families to access NDIS funding and services. We help navigate the Western system, linking families to accessible services and the most culturally appropriate providers we can find. We advocate for and are led by our families and what they want and need to achieve their own goals.

Over the last 12 months, our Support Coordinator Holly Cunningham, who is based in Darwin, visited our families living in Maningrida, Alice Springs and Jabiru and is now place based in 15 Mile and Knuckey's Lagoon communities in the Top End region. She rotated every month throughout these regions to provide health support and stay connected to families and their mainstream supports. Working in remote communities does have its challenges, but our Support Coordinator follows our principles and is guided by the community leaders to make the best decisions for our families accessing the NDIS.

Children's Ground's principle of 'expect and deliver the best' drives Holly. We research and coordinate allied health assessments with occupational therapists, speech therapists, physiotherapists and many more services, to ensure choice and control to families who can often feel overwhelmed and not sure where to start. The majority of our caseload is working with children, to support their early life living with a disability. It can be difficult in very remote locations and with allied health assessment waitlists that are sometimes 6-12 months.

We celebrate our successes, like when people feel less pain in their bodies during hydrotherapy, or when spirit, mental and cultural health are strengthened when people get to go back on Country. It can be hard to secure the level of funding to meet people's needs but when we are successful it can be life changing and empowering for families and children to have the support they need.





# How Our Children Are Learning and Growing

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



## Tylar

At Marlkawo, 10-year-old Tylar learns about the land from his mamam (grandma). He is learning through his language and culture and the oldest learning systems in the world. When Tylar goes to the waterfalls, he understands and learns about the rainbow serpent egg and other cultural ways of knowing and being. This knowledge keeps him strong.

This year, Tylar has learned from his ngabba (father) and mamam about how to welcome new people to his mother country. He is surrounded by Kunwinjku language and regularly watches his mawah (grandpa/Raymond) create bark paintings. Tylar has been learning how to protect Bim (rock art) and Djang (sacred sites) on his mother land (Marlkawo). He knows when bush tucker is coming up, and when it is ready.

Tylar has also strengthened his health and wellbeing by growing, preparing and cooking healthy foods with Children's Ground. He has developed his Western numeracy and literacy skills, reaching key learning goals. Tylar has been developing his understanding of measurement and numbers through inquiry projects based around crocodiles (kinga), his community plan and bush food (manme) that continues as an extension of his learning from Country. He has been focused on developing creative stories and recording his ideas. Tylar has been growing his understanding of community development and entrepreneurial practices when planning forward for his mother land, Marlkawo.

Children's Ground is supporting Tylar to live and learn on his Country at Marlkawo. This enables him to have a rich childhood and learning journey, rooted in his culture, so he can grow up to be a strong and healthy young person.





## Kielan

Five-year-old Kielan has loved learning with Children's Ground over the past three years. Here, he is surrounded by supportive family in a culturally responsive educational environment. Kielan's grandmother Marita and educator Amber have noticed some big changes for Kielan:

*"He used to be really quiet and always hiding, not really wanting to be seen much. Now he's the first kid running out when he hears the bus in the morning. We can see he has a strong sense of belonging now. Kielan loves bringing his little brother along to learning sessions and teaching him about Country. He's always helping his brothers and others learn. This is what we want to see – our children being themselves and finding their place."*



## Chy Chy

Chy Chy knows who she is and feels comfortable expressing herself and her emotions at Children's Ground.

Chy Chy has been engaging with Children's Ground for three years, since she was one year old. When she started at Children's Ground she was struggling to find her voice. Now Chy Chy knows where her Country is, Daly River and Tiwi Island, and proudly says 'I'm from Knuckey's Lagoon'.

Chy Chy loves fishing and making her own damper. Through Children's Ground, Chy Chy has developed healthy routines – like washing her hands and keeping clean – which she takes back to her home and family. She loves bush trips and learning different cultural practices from different countries. When she picks up a stick, she often explains 'mum look I've got a manmarli' which is a tool to collect pandanus. This is something she has learned from Bolmo families during her time at Children's Ground.

Chy Chy knows Children's Ground is for her; it's for the kids.



## Joaquin and Alphonses

Senior Arrernte Educator Susan has seen first-hand the impact Children's Ground is having on the health and wellbeing of her grandchildren Joaquin and Alphonses. Prior to attending Children's Ground, both children were perceived to be nonverbal, finding it challenging to communicate their needs and wants. Now, when Joaquin and Alphonses attend learning sessions, they speak their First Language (Arrernte) and learn to use English as a second language. This shows that, at Children's Ground, we can create a safe and supportive space for children to learn to engage with others and express their thoughts and feelings. Joaquin and Alphonses now comfortably participate in activities such as sport and play. We are noticing an increase in their motor skills as they watch and learn from adults in the group.



## Mahalia

Mahalia is a clever, kind and resilient 14-year-old girl. Mahalia has been learning with Children's Ground since she was 4 years old, when Children's Ground was in Jabiru. When she was a little girl, she would sit down with her mamam (grandfather Jaykuk) to pluck magpie goose at Mudjinberri community and learn other cultural practices from her family.

Now she is older and living on her mother's Country at Marlkawo. Mahalia has been learning how to collect dye and pandanus for weaving and about cultural health practices from her morlah (aunty). Mahalia knows where bim (rock art) and djang (scared sites) are, and how to get there. She can now teach this to the young ones.

Mahalia is eager to learn because she knows this will keep her strong. This year Mahalia began welcoming new people to her mother country. This is important knowledge for her to learn as she grows up.

Mahalia has always been an engaged and bright learner. Along with her cultural knowledge she is always looking to strengthen her skills in Western literacy, numeracy and knowledge. Our Western-trained educators have been supporting Mahalia to extend her skills and knowledge, including comprehending complex English texts like poetry and short chapter books. She is also working with larger numbers and using mathematical concepts to build things for community, including a community garden. Mahalia has been actively nurturing the garden, which is growing zucchinis, beans, tomatoes and pumpkins. Mahalia also loves cooking with her family through nutrition workshops.

Mahalia is now looking at how she can continue with additional support in 2023 through Katherine School of the Air and is supported by Children's Ground.



# Research and Leadership



## Honorary Doctorate for MK Turner OAM

Senior Arrernte Professor and Children's Ground leader, Elder and Board member, the incredible MK Turner OAM, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Batchelor Institute in September for her professorship and commitment to First Nations education.

Children's Ground Founding Chair William Tilmouth shared these powerful words about MK at the ceremony:

*"Someone who never stops learning and teaching is MK Turner... Today she is being recognised for her knowledge and work teaching others. She has shared her deep understanding of our culture with so many people. She is a published author. She is an interpreter. She is our eminent cultural knowledge holder. She is a law woman. She is respected by both First Nations and non-First Nations people. We have known MK to be a professor for many years now.*

*She hasn't needed a piece of paper to be recognised and respected throughout the community. Through Aboriginal law we respect her cultural authority as an Elder and we respect her knowledge. We are grateful that she has supported so many of us to understand and know our culture. Being awarded a doctorate gives her the rightful recognition in the Western world."*

## Children's Ground represents at international education conference

Representatives from Children's Ground participated in the 2022 World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education (WIPCE) on Kurna Tarndanya (red kangaroo place) in Adelaide. More than 2000 delegates represented 90 Nations for an inspiring week of learning and sharing about First Nations governance, education and decolonisation.

This is the second WIPCE for Senior Arrernte Educator and Traditional Owner for Mparntwe Felicity Hayes, after attending the 2017 conference in Canada. *"We have the same issues so we can share our solutions with each other,"* says Felicity. *"We want to de-colonise together. Make it strong for the next generation. It is good to have this conference on home-soil – on Country."*

*"Attending WIPCE was inspirational because I met a lot of First Nations people from across the world,"* said Children's Ground Educator Pauline Grant from Knuckey's Lagoon. *"I am excited by the new friendships made, and the sharing of our ideas and knowledge. We're here all as one to make a change for our next generation. We need more opportunities like this."*

Children's Ground delegates delivered two presentations during the week-long conference. The first centred around the First Nations-led approach of Children's Ground and how we are the decision-makers, service designers, deliverers and evaluators of a system designed to privilege our language, culture and voice. Utyerre Apanpe (First Nations Educators' Network) members also joined to present a screening of *In My Blood It Runs* followed by a panel about building a First Nations-led education system in Australia.



## Utyerre Apanpe Update

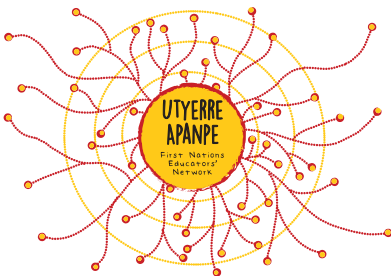
In April 2022, Children’s Ground facilitated the sixth meeting of Utyerre Apanpe (National First Nations Educators’ Network) in Central Australia to progress the First Nations Education Reform agenda started in 2019. The group comprises over 20 different languages and Nations and calls for a First Nations-led education system in line with Article 14 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. At the April forum, Utyerre Apanpe developed a message to the incoming Federal government:

*“Australia has many languages and many Nations. In every homeland, in every community, we want to see our education come back to life and we want it run by our people. It is time that the Australian Government establishes laws and funding for our education system. Utyerre Apanpe invites the Government to sit down with us. We have a national plan and framework. We ask the Australian people to support this plan and investment for the future for our next generations. The Government spends millions of dollars on our kids going to prisons, kids going into care and kids in hospital. We feel this pain and we still wait for our voices to be heard. We want investment in our educational systems. We are the educational leaders from many First Nations and many languages. We have one plan for the future for all of our children. We are one voice.”*

Read the full statement [here](#).

### Utyerre Apanpe Working Group

- Stephanie Armstrong** | Gamilaraay / Bigambul
- April Campbell Napangardi** | Anmatyerr
- Rhonda Coopes** | Palawaa Pairrebenne
- Lisa Fieldhouse** | Koori
- Felicity Hayes** | Arrernte
- Dr Lizzie Marrkilyi Ellis** | Ngaanyatjarra/Ngaatjatjarra
- Hayley McQuire** | Darumbal/South Sea Islander
- Veronica Turner** | Arrernte
- Jo Willmot** | Wakka Wakka
- Yalmay Yunupingu** | Yolgnu Matha





# Governance

A dual governance structure: cultural and corporate governance

Balancing cultural and corporate governance ensures we have the cultural integrity, community leadership and organisational quality and standards to achieve real change.

Our Cultural Governance Committees have 100% First Nations membership. They represent each community and region and provide both local and national leadership.

Our corporate board has over 50% First Nations membership and Directorship. It provides compliance, guidance and oversight of strategy in line with Western principles and practices.

First Nations governance and Western corporate governance are equally important.

**“We want to share who we are; we are here standing up and doing the right thing for our wurdurd (children). We Bininj (Aboriginal people) are not here for Balanda (non-Aboriginal people) going around in circles. We are Bininj and Balanda walking together on one path.”**

– Roxanne Naborlhborlh, Cultural Governance Top End



## First Nations Governance

First Nations Governance systems are complex, sophisticated and relational, rather than hierarchical Western structures. They are collective and are underpinned by land, law, language, culture and relationships and kinship with each other. Our First Nations Governance is specific to each region and each community recognising First Nations Governance principals and practice. They provide local leadership and ensure cultural integrity is upheld across the organisation’s dual governance system.

### Central Australia

*Ingkerrekele Arntarnte-areme (Everyone Being Responsible)*

Agnes Abbott	Christopher McMillan
Shaqualla Alum	Cheryl McMillan
Purina Anderson	Marita McMillan
Cherisse Buzzacott	Stella McMillan
Dorrie Campbell	Tim McNamara
Tyson Carmody	Larissa Meneri
Susan Chalmers	Cassandra Neil
Edmond Doolan	Louise Robertson
Mitchell Doolan	Annette Robinson
Blanche Ebatarinja	Marlene Rubuntja
Janella Ebatarinja	Therese Ryder
Alison Ferber	Dulcie Sharpe
Nakita Ferber	Roxanne Sharpe
Antoinette Ferber-Gorey	Nanette Sharpe
Melarli Gorey	Kaylene Splinter
Michael Gorey	Delvina Splinter
L. Gorey	Veronica Turner
Natassia Gorey-Furber	Cathy Turner
Angelina Hayes	C. Turner
Harry Hayes	Amanda Turner
Eva Hayes	Bianca Turner
Felicity Hayes	Dianne Williams
Trudy Inkamala	Genise Williams
William Lowah	Rosario Young

### Top End

*Karridjarrkre manborlh mankudji (Walking together on one path)*

<b>Marlkawo:</b>	<b>Darwin:</b>
Christine Alangale	Bridgette Beer
Angela Bangarr	Talitha Goodman
Annie Cameron	Pauline Grant
Antonia Djandjomerr	Esther Kenyon
Cecily Djandjomerr	Michelle Nelson
Christianna Djandjomerr	Kathleen Thomsen
Jaykuk Djandjomerr	Jackie Treves
Kaylene Djandjomerr	
Shirley Djandjomerr	
Alio Guymala	
Raymond Guymala	
Kamahl Hunter	
Roxanne Naborlhborlh	
Kimberley Namarnyilk	
May Nango	
Lee Nabarlambarl	
Lindsay Whitehurst	

**“Children’s Ground is different to other organisations because it is run by us – our Elders, our families and all the community. We speak with our own strong voices.”**

*Ingkerrekele Arntarnte-areme*



# 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 directors 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:** 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
- Board and sub-committee non-voting members**
- **Tony Lawler:** BPharm, JP, Member of Pharmacy Guild of Australia
  - **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
- **Associate Professor Sally Brinkman:** Professor of Education and Paediatric Epidemiology. University of South Australia
- **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.



We have an amazing group of Ambassadors. As always, we honour our Patron, **Aunty Joy Murphy** and her support not only of Children's Ground but the many people and organisations that she uplifts.

**Dan Sultan's** incredible talent and voice have led to another year of partnering with Fender and brilliant First Nations artists, Kiya Watt and Kirli Saunders who all donated their craft and talent to raise money for our work. A huge shout out and thanks and we encourage you to have a look at the brilliant work of these amazing artists.

This year, renowned Australian singer-songwriter **Missy Higgins** visited Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe with her two children. She witnessed the revitalising of Arrernte ceremonial baby smoking in a riverbed east of Mparntwe, spoke with Elders and saw first-hand the impact of the Children's Ground Approach – each child and family being supported to build a stronger future.



New ambassador and rock legend, **Shane Howard** and Goanna Band sat with staff for a cup of tea and invited senior Traditional Owner and educator Felicity Hayes to open the band's Mparntwe concert. Shane's long-standing commitment to First Nations justice and the power of his music inspires us all.

While **The Cat Empire** line-up changes, its ambassadorship grows in new and wonderful ways. **Emily Lubitz** and **Harry James Angus** brought their energy and passion to work alongside the Arrernte music program and helped the team to write and deliver new songs in the Desert Festival in September, all of which we can use in our learning and wellbeing program.

A choir of young First Nations women – **Marliya** – has been working with Ambassador **Felix Riebl** and **Ollie McGill** (of The Cat Empire) in their project called **Spinifex Gum**. Marliya and Children's Ground staff swapped music and shared lunch in the riverbed during their visit.



## Exciting visitors

While not a formal ambassador, **Kasey Chambers** was right at home in the red dirt country with her guitar and a circle of singing children.

Towards the end of the year, **The Wiggles** rocked the world of our children and families as they passed through town. They made the time for more than 100 children and family members to meet the band. It was incredible!



# Supporters and partners

A big thanks to our great supporters and partners who make it possible for us to deliver the Children’s Ground Approach.

## Philanthropy

5 Point Foundation  
Aurizon Community Giving Fund  
Benjamin Duncan  
Beverley Jackson Foundation  
Capricorn Foundation  
Carlene and Tony Lawler  
Centrecorp Foundation  
Clayton Roddy  
Donald Fraser Family Fund (managed by APS Foundation)  
Edward Ring  
Glenholme Foundation  
Good Thnx Foundation  
Good2Give  
Graf Family Foundation  
Gravel Road Foundation  
Hecand Private Ancillary Fund  
Igniting Change  
Jack and Ethel Goldin Foundation  
John & Anna Woods Trust (managed by State Trustees)  
John & Betty Laidlaw Legacy (managed by Equity Trustees)  
Joy Woods & Phoebe Jagoe  
JRA Support Fund - a subfund of Australian Communities Foundation  
Judy Avisar  
Juno Fund - a subfund of Australian Communities Foundation  
Keo Charitable Foundation  
Lisa Banks & Stuart Brown  
Macpherson Kelley Foundation Pty Limited  
Mamoma Foundation  
Mattiske Family  
Modara Pines Charitable Foundation  
Moose Happy Kids Foundation  
My Cause Donations  
Paul Ramsay Foundation  
Payton Foundation  
Peter and Ruth Chiodo  
PMF Foundation Pty Ltd  
Prior Family Foundation  
Ramses Foundation  
River Capital Foundation  
Ryan Cooper Family Foundation  
St.George Foundation  
State Street Foundation  
Stephen Hale  
The Antipodean Family Foundation  
The Armour Endowment (managed by Equity Trustees)  
The Besen Family Foundation  
The Bowden Marstan Foundation  
The Cat Empire  
The Duggan Foundation  
The English Family Foundation  
The Hoffman Foundation  
The Ian Potter Foundation  
The Rogers Household  
Tingari-Silverton Foundation  
Tom Gleisner & Mary Muirhead  
Valeska Bloch and Ben Friis-O’Toole  
Virgin Unite  
Women of the University Fund

## Corporate

Arrotex  
Aussie Broadband  
Bared Footwear  
Bendigo Bank  
Coffee Tools Distributing  
doTerra Healing Hands Foundation  
Ethical Jobs  
Eventbrite Inc  
Google Australia  
Go-To Skincare  
Hero Packaging  
Johnson & Johnson  
Kennedy Nolan Architects  
Magellan Logistics  
MDI-Global  
MECCA M-POWER  
Shopping Centre Council of Australia on behalf of Charter Hall Shopping Centres  
Sika Australia Pty Ltd  
Trippas White Group  
Who Gives a Crap

## Government

Australian Government, Department of Health  
Australian Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications - Indigenous Languages and Arts (ILA)  
Australian Government, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Office for Women  
National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)  
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) Research  
City of Darwin  
City of Palmerston  
National Disability Insurance Scheme  
Northern Territory Government, Department of Chief Minister  
Northern Territory Government, Department Territory Families, Housing and Communities  
West Arnhem Regional Council

## Pro bono legal support

Allens  
Arnold Bloch Leibler  
Austin Legal  
Bowden McCormack, Lawyers + Advisers  
Clayton Utz  
Justice Connect  
K&L Gates  
King & Wood Mallesons  
Landers & Rogers  
Maddocks  
Peterson Haines  
White & Case

## NT Organisational Partners

Akeyulerre Aboriginal Corporation  
Alice Springs Desert Park  
Alice Springs Language Centre  
Amity Community Services  
Anglicare - Communities for Children  
Arrernte Language Centre  
Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education  
Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation (BAC)  
Bonya (Orrtipa-Thurra) School  
Central Australian Aboriginal Congress  
Central Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Unit (CAAFLU)  
Central Craft, Araluen Cultural Precinct  
Charles Darwin University  
Child Friendly Alice  
Connected Beginnings  
Danila Dilba  
Demed  
Dharpa Consulting  
Gunbalanya Clinic  
Gwalwa Daraniki Association (GDA)  
House of Darwin  
Institute of Aboriginal Development (IAD)  
Ingkerreke Services  
Ironbark  
King’s Narrative  
Larapinta Child and Family Centre  
Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation  
Lutheran Community Care  
Mala’la Health Service  
Maningrida Clinic  
Mental Health Association of Central Australia  
Menzies  
Narwarddeken Academy  
Ninti One  
Northern Land Council  
NT School of Music  
Olive Pink Botanical Gardens  
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College  
Purple House  
Red Cross  
Red Hot Arts Central Australia  
Red Lilly  
Remedy Music team  
Save the Children  
Tangentyere Council  
Triptic  
Waltja Tjutanku Palyapayi Aboriginal Corporation  
Yarrenyty Arltere Artists  
Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation  
Yipirinya School

## Peak Bodies

APONT  
Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC)  
First Languages Australia

Children’s Ground wishes to thank our family of community, philanthropic, corporate 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.

“We continue to see our family of supporters grow at Children’s Ground. Relationships are strengthened over time and opportunities continue to expand. And just like family it is important that we nurture these relationships, because without our supporters, no matter how they may have contributed, we could not do what we do. Whether you have just started your journey with Children’s Ground or whether you have been part of growing us up, your partnership is key, not just to our approach but to being part of a movement for change.”

– Mel Kean, Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe Director





For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

The Directors present their report on Children's Ground Limited for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.

(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
William Roy Tilmouth	Chair
Kon Karapanagiotidis OAM	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 OAM	Non-Executive Director
Annalee Stearne	Non-Executive Director
Joanne Willmott	Non-Executive Director
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 period was to deliver the Children’s Ground Approach, led by communities to achieve long term equity and justice. Such activities included early years learning and care, child and family health and wellbeing (including nutrition, social and emotional wellbeing, maternal and child health, family health promotion, environmental health), community development, cultural and language revitalisation and development and employment and economic development services.

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 2022

Meetings of directors

During the financial year, 6 meetings 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	6	5
Kon Karapanagiotidis OAM	6	3
Clive William Ringler	6	6
Margaret K Turner OAM	6	4
Josie Rizza	6	6
Jordan Cory*	6	1
John Lochowiak	6	4
Jane Shanthini Vadiveloo	6	6
Amy Poynton	6	5
Amunda Gorey	6	5
Annalee Stearne	6	5
Joanne Willmott	6	5

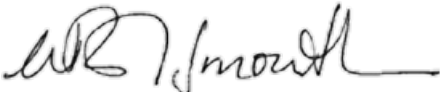
\* Leave of absence

Auditor's independence declaration

The auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 31 December 2022 has been received and can be found on page financial report.

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

Director:  .....

Director:  .....

Dated this 23 day of March 2023





## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 31 December 2022, 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

  
Matthew Crouch  
Partner

Blackburn

Dated: 24 March 2023

## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

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

For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue	2	9,697,800	7,742,453
Employee benefits expense		(7,625,797)	(5,888,350)
Motor Vehicle Expenses		(260,228)	(201,832)
Travel and accommodation		(248,682)	(134,802)
Client Support Consumables		(247,612)	(161,468)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(216,464)	(201,446)
Balabbalas expenses		(172,566)	-
Utilities and cleaning		(130,206)	(85,270)
Professional fees		(118,128)	(69,971)
Asset Purchases < \$1,000		(97,432)	(33,879)
Client Service Support		(94,731)	(45,133)
Rent		(83,547)	(93,538)
Computer expenses		(83,383)	(59,417)
Repairs and maintenance		(78,354)	(58,340)
Printing and stationery		(67,962)	(30,409)
Advertising and Promotion		(67,282)	(11,924)
Insurance		(49,258)	(24,054)
Training and development		(27,986)	(26,154)
Telephone and fax		(24,517)	(26,490)
Interest expense on lease liability		(5,471)	-
Other Expenses		(171,321)	(137,661)
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>		<b>(173,127)</b>	<b>452,315</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year</b>		<b>(173,127)</b>	<b>452,315</b>

Notes 3 and 4 provide a breakdown of more details on expenses.



# Financials

## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	4,541,148	5,511,726
Trade and other receivables	6	243,546	20,665
Inventories		26,552	21,641
Contract assets	7	756,565	-
Other assets	8	109,121	98,924
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		5,676,932	5,652,956
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Right of use asset	9	312,756	-
Property, plant and equipment	10	1,805,303	1,577,622
Intangible assets	11	40,773	31,247
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		2,158,832	1,608,869
TOTAL ASSETS		7,835,764	7,261,825
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Lease liability	9	44,984	-
Trade and other payables	12	680,928	458,913
Other liabilities	13	1,818,997	1,686,928
Employee benefits	14	593,105	493,332
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		3,138,014	2,639,173
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Lease liability	9	270,591	-
Employee benefits	14	112,913	135,279
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		383,504	135,279
TOTAL LIABILITIES		3,521,518	2,774,452
NET ASSETS		4,314,246	4,487,373
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained surplus		4,314,246	4,487,373
TOTAL EQUITY		4,314,246	4,487,373

## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

2022	Retained Earnings \$	General Reserve \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2022	4,487,373	-	4,487,373
Deficit for the year	(173,127)	-	(173,127)
Balance at 31 December 2022	4,314,246	-	4,314,246
2021	Retained Earnings \$	General Reserve \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2021	3,976,234	58,824	4,035,058
Surplus for the year	452,315	-	452,315
Transfers to/(from) retained earnings from general reserve	58,824	(58,824)	-
Balance at 31 December 2021	4,487,373	-	4,487,373



# Financials

## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
Note	\$	\$
<strong>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</strong>		
Donations, grants and other income received	9,147,323	8,658,862
Interest received	37,270	7,953
Payments to suppliers and employees	(9,704,320)	(7,414,207)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	17 (519,727)	1,252,608
<strong>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</strong>		
Payment for intangible asset	(27,841)	(13,450)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(412,231)	(94,905)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	(440,072)	(108,355)
<strong>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</strong>		
Payment of lease liabilities	(10,779)	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	(10,779)	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	(970,578)	1,144,253
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	5,511,726	4,367,473
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	5 4,541,148	5,511,726


## Children's Ground Limited

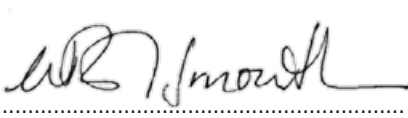
ABN 74 154 403 086

### Directors' Declaration

- In accordance with a resolution of the Directors of Children's Ground Limited, the directors declare that, in the directors' opinion:
- The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 8 - 32, satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and:
    - comply with Australian Accounting Standards applicable to the entity; and
    - give a true and fair view of the financial position of the registered entity as at 31 December 2022 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.
  - 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.

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

Director 

Director 

Dated 23 March 2023





**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 2022, 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 2022.

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 24 March 2023.

##### **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**

Matthew Crouch  
Partner

Blackburn  
Dated: 24 March 2023

20 Albert St, Blackburn VIC 3130  
T +61 3 9894 2500 F +61 3 9894 1622  
[contact@sawarddawson.com.au](mailto:contact@sawarddawson.com.au)  
[sawarddawson.com.au](http://sawarddawson.com.au)



Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation



Member of Russell Bedford International





# Thank You To Our Brilliant Team

## Staff

Agnes Abbott	Lisa Dunn	Julie McDonald	Ash Steel
Chloe Abbott	Blanche Ebatarinja	Rachael McDonald	Rebecca Stillwell
Christine Alangale	Janella Ebatarinja	Christopher McMillan	Jeff Tan
Perpethua Ali	Anthea Edmunds	Marita McMillan	Timothy Thomaidis
Shaqualla Alum	Lucy Elliot	Larissa Meneri	Amber Thompson
John Anderson	Alison Ferber	Dominique Mercuri	Kathleen Thomsen
Purina Anderson	Nakita Ferber	Tracy Minniecon	William Tilmouth
Grace Anthony	Joanne Ferguson	Kirsten Mitchell	Jacqueline Treves
Sophie Aylward	Shanice Frankish	Hannah Moffatt	Amanda Turner
Caitlyn Bakes	Emma Franklin	Jacqui Molensen	Bianca Turner
Angela Bangarr	Emma Fulgenzi	Janine Morton	CT Turner
Kathryn Bannister	Antoinette Furber-Gorey	Donna Mulladad	Cathy Turner
Megan Battaglia	Jacqueline Goodman	Megan Mundy	Margaret Turner
Bridgette Beer	Talitha Goodman	Talia Murphy	Myles Turner
Tiffany Beggs	Amy Gordon	Lee Nabarlambarl	Siobhan Turner
Chris Bird	Amunda Gorey	Richie Nabarlambarl	Veronica Turner
Kevin Bloomfield	Grace Gorey	Roberta Nabarlambarl	Jesse Tyssen
Marie Bloomfield	L. Gorey	Roxanne Naborlhborlh	Damon van der Schuit
Jane Bosward	Michael Gorey	Ethan Nabulwad	S van Son
Dillon Brennan	Natassia Gorey-Furber	Margaret Nabulwad	Bianca Vasiliadis
Doris Bundy	Pauline Grant	Jack Namarnyilk	Lucy Volard
Jacinta Bush	Callisha Gregg-Rowan	Neville Namarnyilk	Robert Wallace
Cherisse Buzzacott	Lisa Grieve	Julie Namdal	Tyrone Wallace
Keisha Buzzacott	Raymond Guymala	Beatrice Namundja	Andrena Webb
Toni Byrne	Russell Haines	Elijah Namundja	Jamie Webb
Annie Cameron	Susanne Haines	Sonya Nango	Louise Webb
Bessina Cameron	Angelina Hayes	Kieran Naylibilibilj	Bernadette Wheeler
David Cameron	Earl Hayes	Cassandra Neil	Lindsay Whitehurst
Jarius Cameron	Felicity Hayes	Dianne Neil	Andrina Williams
Dorothea Campbell	Tyrell Hayes	Michelle Nelson	Betty Williams
Rosslyn Campbell	Madeline Hayman-Reber	Cristina Nobleza	Dianne Williams
Stacey Campton	Georgia Hicks	Hayley Otter	Genise Williams
Tyson Carmody	Emily Hill	Philip Parsonson	Lawrence Williams
Lee Causer	Catherine Holmes	William Pheasant	Riley Williams
Alice Cazalet	David Holmes	Tracey Phillips	Sarah Williams
Susan Chalmers	Megan Hoosan	David Rankine	Anna Wommatakimmi-Chapman
Alan Collins	James Howden	Irene Reiff	Annamae Woods
Holly Cunningham	Grace Huck	Raymond Reiff	Sandra Woods
Lisa da Costa-Alves	Rhonda Inkamala	Erin Riddell	Rosario Young
Sharna Dakgalawuy	Sheree Inkamala	Luke Roberts	
Rosina Dixon	Shae Johnson	Louise Robertson	
Antonia Djandjomerr	Mel Kean	Annette Robinson	
Cecily Djandjomerr	Amelia Kearney	Marie Ross	
Christianna Djandjomerr	Savannah Kelly	Maria Ross	
Corianne Djandjomerr	Esther Kenyon	Marlene Rubuntja	
Duane Djandjomerr	Lucas King	Theresa Ryder	
Kamahil Djandjomerr	Kaitlin Koh	Milyika Scales	
Kaylene Djandjomerr	Jyoti Kulikowski	Cecilia Schaber	
Kestianna Djandjomerr	Tosh Kunoth	Tony Schaber	
Selone Djandjomerr	Gregory Lippo	Shekira Scrutton	
Shirley Djandjomerr	Maria Lippo	Lisa Scully	
Joyce Djogibar	Jen Lorains	Lorrelle Shadforth	
Edmond Doolan	William Lowah	Dulcie Sharpe	
Mitchell Doolan	Vito Lucarelli	Nanette Sharpe	
Marilyn Drover	Desley Mather	Roxanne Sharpe	
Peppi Drover	Georgie Mattingley	L. Sheedy	
Erik Duffin-Lowah	Victoria May	Layla Smith	
	Adrian McCann	Tessa Staley	

## Volunteers

Christina Bautista  
Tenika Greig  
Peter and Lesley Holmes  
Emily Kloss  
Lucy Markoff  
Gabrielle Murray  
Kathleen O'Brien  
Muhammad Owais  
Patrick Pheasant  
Liz Reece  
Zoe Smithie  
Amanda Sutherland  
Audrey Warren  
Fair Tradies





**Melbourne, VIC**

2/10 Hoddle St | Abbotsford 3067

+61 447 903 084

**Central Australia, NT**

Gate 3, 2 South Terrace | Alice Springs 0870

PO Box 140 | Alice Springs 0871

+61 418 512 277

**Darwin, NT**

45 Hickman Street | Winnellie 0810

GPO Box 138 | Darwin NT 0801


+61 472 608 385

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


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

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

 [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)

