**MEDIA RELEASE**

**REMOTE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY IRRKERLANTYE WELCOMES SUSTAINABLE DRINKING WATER SOLUTION AFTER YEARS OF CAMPAIGNING**

*SOURCEHydropanel technology is bringing reliable drinking water to the underserved community, Irrkerlantye (White Gate), in the Northern Territory. Children’s Ground – a First Nations community led organisation – is working in partnership with SOURCE to improve drinking water access in remote communities.*

*Alice Springs, March XX, 2023*

The remote Indigenous community of Irrkerlantye near Alice Springs has advanced their access to basic services with a new supply of drinking water. For decades the community has campaigned for improved amenities including power, sewage services, and drinking water. A collaboration between First Nations community led organisation, Children’s Ground, and SOURCE Global, the creator of renewable drinking water technology, establishes a sustainable, reliable and resilient source of drinking water in Irrkerlantye.

“It’s tough,” said Felicity Hayes, an Irrkerlantye elder who has consistently advocated for the small community. "We live just 3 kms from the centre of Alice Springs. You can turn a tap on and drink the water at houses down the road from us, less than a kilometre away. The installation of SOURCE Hydropanels changes everything regarding safe drinking water for our families. The fact we can access our own high-quality drinking water right here makes a huge difference.”

SOURCE® Hydropanel technology uses the power of the sun to draw pure, constantly replenished water vapour out of the air to transform it into fresh, perfectly mineralised drinking water on site. Produced entirely off-grid, the array of Hydropanels provides a powerful solution to help meet the needs of remote communities that may lack access to traditional infrastructure. Irrkerlantye is not the only community to lack access – Children’s Ground has already identified numerous outstations and homelands, including Burt Creek and Mt Undoolya in the Northern Territory that struggle with lack of consistent access to adequate drinking water supply.

Jane Vadiveloo, CEO of Children's Ground, has welcomed the installation, but emphasises it is clear more needs to be done. "At Children's Ground, we believe that every child and family should have access to the essential services they need to thrive. Clean drinking water is a fundamental human right, and it is unacceptable that so many remote Indigenous communities in Australia still face significant challenges in accessing this essential resource. Our collaboration with SOURCE demonstrates how innovative technologies can begin to address the critical, long-term issues of remote Indigenous communities across Australia."

Community leaders want to stress that SOURCE will provide important clean drinking water. However there remains a gap in water security and the need for the community to be connected to the town water supply so that they can meet all of their water needs. They remain hopeful that the Federal and Territory Government will come to the table and support communities like Irrkerlantye. The recent commitment of $150 million in new funding to support drinking water delivery in remote and regional Indigenous communities by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Indigenous Affairs Minister Linda Burney has been welcome news, however the situation requires an immediate solution.

"We want all Australians to join us in advocating for clean drinking water as a basic human right and to support efforts to address the issues that contribute to water insecurity in remote Aboriginal communities,” said Felicity. “There are real solutions that can work to solve these problems now.”

“This installation is a great example of how SOURCE Hydropanels can provide renewable, drought-proof drinking water to support the health and sustainability of local indigenous communities,” said Alex Polson, Director Market Development for SOURCE. “Water stress and climate change presents an ongoing challenge to remote families that we see manifested in the cost and environmental burden of bottled water and high-sugar drinks.”

**About Children's Ground:**

[Children's Ground](http://www.childrensground.org.au/) is a First Nations not-for-profit organisation led by local communities to transform the future for their children. Children’s Ground is designed for long-term change in whole communities - to shift the status quo from one where kids face a lifetime of trauma and disadvantage to a future for First Nations children filled with opportunity, joy, justice and empowerment. Working where people live, Children’s Ground builds generational change by supporting each child, in every family within a community over a 25-year period. The approach integrates education with health, community development, economic development, and cultural life. Prevention and opportunity replace a history of isolated, crisis-driven programs. We seek excellence over the long-term to create enduring change.

**About SOURCE:**

A Public Benefit Corporation, SOURCE Global, PBC’s mission is to make drinking water an unlimited resource. The company’s SOURCE Hydropanels create drinking water using sunlight and air as the only inputs, and can put the power of safe, sustainable drinking water in the hands of every person in nearly every climate and corner of the world. SOURCE is on Fast Company’s 2020 list of “most innovative social good companies”. The company is headquartered in Scottsdale, Arizona, and operates in 52 countries and on six continents. SOURCE is a registered trademark of SOURCE Global, PBC. For more information, visit www.source.co and follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram.

**PROJECT BACKGROUND**

SOURCE and Children’s Ground are collaborating to improve drinking water access across remote Indigenous communities by demonstrating innovative, technology-led solutions that improve drinking-water resilience. This installation at Irrkerlantye (also known as White Gate) sees ten Hydropanels installed which will provide high-quality drinking water created on-site. SOURCE Hydropanels can service households, communities, and worksites of any size, with arrays sized to meet drinking water requirements.

The issue of water access in Australia is significant, with many remote and regional communities lacking access to traditional piped infrastructure, instead relying on;

* Trucked drinking water, which is both expensive and environmentally damaging due to increased carbon miles;
* Untreated ground water, which faces natural contamination issues including elevated salinity, uranium, and nitrate inclusions;
* Water treatment such as reverse osmosis and desalination, which is electricity-intensive and often reliant on diesel generation;
* Plastic bottled water which is both environmentally and financially costly.

[Key research conducted by ANU Professor Paul Wyrwoll in 2022](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41545-022-00174-1) highlighted how significant the issue of clean drinking water is for our country. His report identified that Australians in more than 400 remote and regional communities do not have access to high quality drinking water, with a further 8% of Australia’s population (over 2,000,000 people) not included in the reporting on the issue. 40% of locations that did not comply with Australian Drinking Water Guideline health parameters were remote Indigenous communities.

For more information on Irrkerlantye and Elder Felicity Hayes’ campaign for improved services visit: [*“How governments have forgotten this NT community for 40 years,” NITV, SBS.*](https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/nitv-news/article/how-governments-have-forgotten-this-nt-community-for-40-years/xzco8jrxd)