


# Annual Report



children's  
ground

# 2023



**Children's Ground honours First Nations peoples. We pay our respect to ancestors, Elders and Traditional Owners and custodians of these lands. First peoples did not give up their land and we recognise their ongoing sovereignty.**

In Naarm (Melbourne), we work on the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. In Mpartnwe (Alice Springs) in Central Australia, we work on the land of the Arrernte people. In the Top End of the Northern Territory, we work in West Arnhem on the land of the Bolmo people. In Garramilla (Darwin), we work on the land of the Larrakia people. We are thankful to live and work on these lands.

## **Our commitment to First Nations peoples**

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. First Nations peoples did not cede their lands and continue to live by the laws and customs that have evolved for over 65,000 years.

# Contents

Who we are	4
2023 data snapshot	6
Tribute to our Elders	8
Message from the Chair	10
Message from the CEO	12
Children's Ground	14
The Children's Ground Approach	16
2023 timeline highlights	22
Where we work	26
Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe (Central Australia)	28
Wurdurd Garriygarrmerren (West Arnhem)	42
Garramilla (Darwin)	52
Children's stories	62
Research and evidence	66
National leadership and systems reform	72
Governance	76
Ambassadors	80
Thank you to our team	82
Supporters and partners	84
Financials	86

First Nations people are warned that this report contains images of people who have passed. Photography by Children's Ground staff and families © 2023 except where noted. All photographs, filming and recordings of First Nations people and Country are owned by First Nations people and used by Children's Ground with their permission.

# Who we are

## Children's Ground is a national First Nations organisation.

Our evidence-based approach is successfully addressing structural disadvantages and improving education, health, economic, cultural and community outcomes of First Nations people.





## Our vision

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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 purpose

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To achieve systemic reform over 25 years through the Children's Ground Approach led by our First Nations people, and to evidence this approach for national reform.

To celebrate and uplift First Nations knowledge, creating equity and access to high quality education, health and economy in community for the next generation of children.

## What we value

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- Respect
- Inclusive and collective leadership
- Self-determination and agency
- Honesty
- Family
- Bravery and disruption
- Love
- Creativity



# 2023 data snapshot

1486

Community members across generations engaged with Children's Ground

456

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

**Our way of learning includes everything our children need in their minds, spirit, body, culture and wellbeing.**

*"Anwerne akngerre angkeme nthakenhe anwerne-kenhe ampe akweke anwerne-kenhe mape anwerne akaltyele anthetyeke. Anwerne arrule akaltyele antheke anwerne-ke artweye mapele nthakenhe - nthakenhe akaltye-irremele anetyeke."*

"We are fighting for the right to teach our children our way, with all the knowledge that has been taught for generations and generations by our great leaders – our Elders and Ancestors."

Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe (Children's Ground) Governance Committee Central Australia

## Learning & Wellbeing

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401 

children (0-8 years) engaged in early learning activities in their First Language and culture as well as in English.

## Health & Wellbeing

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1354 

children and their family members engaged in targeted and universal health promotion and support.

## Economic Development & Wellbeing

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112 

First Nations adults were employed with Children's Ground, role modelling active engagement in work for children and young people.

## Community Development & Wellbeing

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184 

community members engaged in governance, designing and directing Children's Ground in their communities, for their children and families.

## Cultural & Creative Development & Wellbeing

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1126 

children, young people and families engaged in cultural knowledge and practice including strengthening and revitalisation of First Languages.

# Tribute to our Elders

Over recent years we have lost many of our Elders. This year, we lost two founding Elders of Children's Ground and the Arrernte Nations, Dr. M.K. Turner OAM and Kwementyaye Ryder.

Dr M.K. Turner OAM was a visionary. She was one of the most prominent leaders of the Arrernte Nation.

M.K. was an Arrernte Elder, cultural professor, translator, linguist, artist, author and human rights champion. She was a strict law woman who never sought power but held power.

She was involved in the development and leadership of Aboriginal organisations across Central Australia. Her passion was the preservation of language and culture. She was instrumental in revitalising her critically endangered Akarre-Akityarre languages. In 2010 she published her book *Iwenhe Tyerrtye: What It means to be an Aboriginal person*, laying the knowledge foundations for an enhanced and extended dialogue, so that 'two cultures can hold each other'.

She was a daily presence at Children's Ground when she was not on renal dialysis. Her humour, her dancing, her singing and her love surrounded us all. She was the cultural guide and strategist for all we do.

In 1996, M.K. received an Order of Australia for her service to the Aboriginal community of Central Australia. In 2022, she was recognised by Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education with the bestowal of an Honorary Doctorate. She was honoured with a State Funeral in recognition of her significant contribution and leadership in the Northern Territory.

Kwementyaye Ryder was a strong and unwavering Elder and leader of Children's Ground.

She was a leading linguist and our most senior expert and authority in orthography for written Arrernte and for Children's Ground written language resources.

She was also an exceptional and celebrated artist and published author. She recorded the cultural and environmental significance of birds through the region, both painting and recording their significance, and publishing the book *Ayeye thipe-akerte: Arrernte stories about birds* (2017).

As an Elder with Children's Ground, she loved going on Country at every opportunity. Over recent years she hosted the National Network of First Cultural Educators, Utyerre Apanpe, on her Country at Inteye Arrkwe (Ross River).

Both Dr M.K. Turner and Kwementyaye Ryder had over forty years of experience as interpreters and educators. Both were key contributors to the Eastern and Central Arrernte-English Dictionary published in 1994.

They knew that law and culture is where the people and the land will always find their peace and wellbeing—that the power to heal, to learn, and find solutions are held in language, land and ways of being that have been held by ancestors for time immemorial.

They set the standards for humility, culture, giving, responsibility and care.

Along with Mrs Palmer who passed in 2021, they generously gifted their knowledge to many, so that it would continue for future generations. Throughout their lives they worried about the loss of culture through loss of language, and promoted standards of excellence and integrity.

Their life's work, passion, and responsibility was ensuring First Language and First Cultural education was revitalised as a right for future generations.

**We will forever hold their vision.**

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**Along with these two incredible founding Elders, we lost many other significant people this year who have contributed to Children's Ground through the years in their own special way. We recognise all the family who were lost to us this year and pay our respects to them and their families.**



**Before Children's Ground, we had it all inside of us, locked away in us all the time. We were waiting for the right person to come along and bring it all out. We really trust Children's Ground. We tried to do this before, but it just got broken up. Maybe they just want Australia to be a white country now.**

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Kwementyaye Ryder,  
Children's Ground Director

Images of Dr M.K. Turner OAM are used with permission from her family.

In respect to ongoing Sorry Business and family, images of Kwementyaye Ryder are not used in this report.

# Message from the Chair



It has been a year of great hope and deep sadness. As Children's Ground continues to prove that change is possible, we were reminded at a national level that there is still a long way to go.

I was honoured this year to be named Male Elder of the Year at the National NAIDOC Awards. But for me, the Elders are those men and women who have come before me. This year we lost two great Elders of Children's Ground, Dr M.K. Turner OAM and Mrs Ryder.

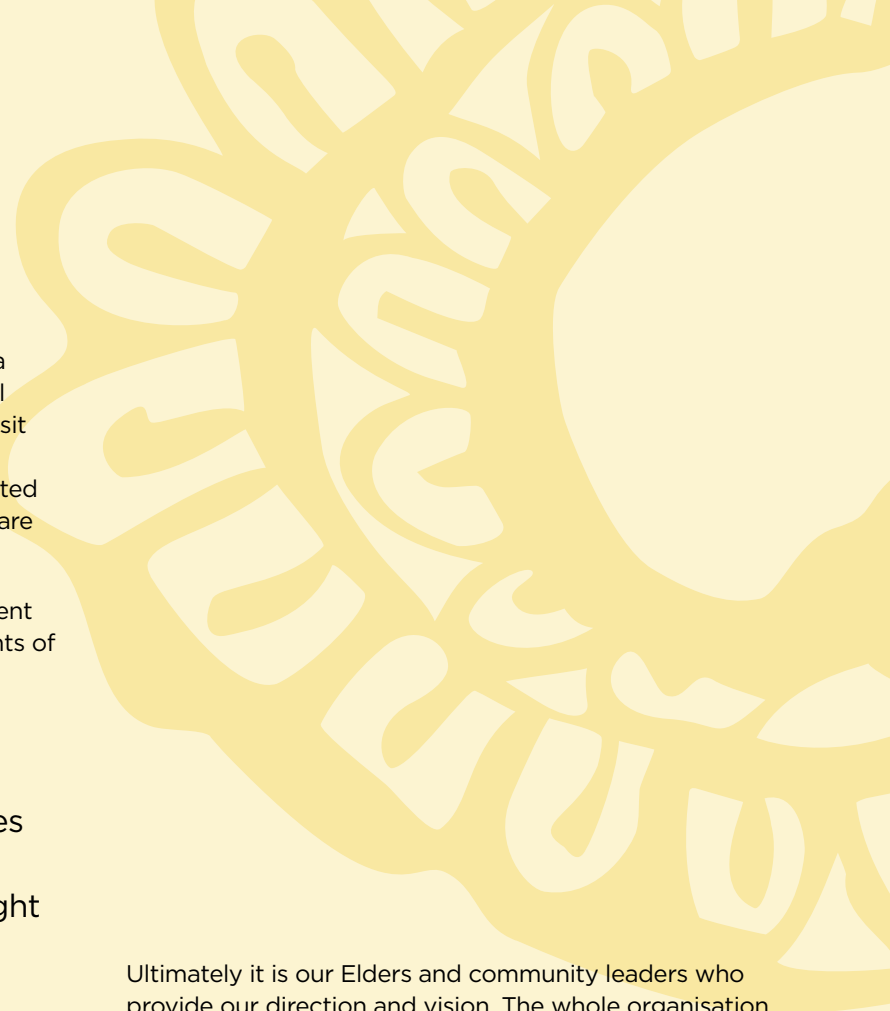
Both cultural and humanitarian leaders, experts in their fields and visionaries. Theirs were lives of dedication and when I think of them, and our Elders before them, I am reminded that as Aboriginal people we are raised not with a notion of individual entitlement but with the notion and expectation of upholding our responsibility to people and the land. This is what I have seen and learnt from our old people. That our lives are one of service to others.

As each of them passed, their legacy message was the preservation and strengthening of language and culture. And so we continue their vision.

In 2023, as we debated the Voice at a national level, it was not lost on me that the voices of these Elders, our most important leaders, are rarely heard in any arena outside of their communities, yet inside our communities they are, and remain, our authority.

The 2023 referendum on a First Nations Voice to Parliament created another deep wound for our people - yet another scar we will carry into future generations. For me, it felt like our voices, our history and our aspirations meant nothing. But our Elders did not miss a step in their responsibilities and leadership. They have never looked for affirmation from others. They are centred in our law and culture, and this is unwavering.

And like them, we remain steadfast at Children's Ground.



We were deeply honoured this year by Dame Graça Machel's visit to Children's Ground. To have a global Elder, leader and freedom fighter of her standing visit us was empowering for us all. She understands the deep human rights challenges we face, and connected with the deep cultural power and strength that we are fighting to retain.

Despite the loss of our Elders and the disappointment of the referendum, I am inspired by the achievements of our people.

In each of our communities I see leadership, empowerment, hope and strength. I see children learning, families employed, young people finding their voice and I know that we are on the right track.

We have an approach that works, is governed by our people and is creating the change that we have long awaited. We are still on our journey and it will take some years yet before we can fulfill our entire vision, but I know that with the right levels of support, we can transform a history of injustice to one where our people have agency and are fully empowered.

The young people, our next generation leaders, give me hope. I listen to them and I know that we are hitting the right notes. From Mparntwe to Larrakia Country and out to Bolmo Country – it is the same – from the city to the bush we are seeing talent and leadership and change.

I want to thank all our governance members who bring together extraordinary expertise to lead our work. We have two arms of governance at Children's Ground: the Children's Ground Board which holds the responsibility of Western Corporate Governance, as well as our Local Governance authorities who hold the responsibility for cultural governance standards. It is the integrity of both that is critical to our success. Both are equally recognised at Children's Ground.

Ultimately it is our Elders and community leaders who provide our direction and vision. The whole organisation ensures that we can fulfill this vision with quality, accountability and integrity. On behalf of them I also thank our partners. What we do cannot be achieved without your incredible support. This includes our philanthropic partners, our corporate and government partners and our organisational partners on the ground.

To the staff of Children's Ground, I thank you. Our First Nations and non-First Nations staff who work tirelessly to achieve our vision. This is not an easy path to forge – a path of equity and justice amongst the relentless impact of racism, trauma and colonisation. I thank you for all that you do. You are leading a revolution that is impacting our communities at a local level but I can also see the appetite for change emerging at a systems level.

When I hear the languages of our children – the same languages that were denied me as a child; when I see people find their voice from a history of oppression; when I listen to our old people and see the brilliance of our children having the freedom to be expressed – I feel hope. I see hope.

It is now time for governments to be bold, to walk in partnership and to listen to our voice. We have the solutions.

**William Tilmouth**  
**Chair, Children's Ground**

# Message from the CEO



There is so much to celebrate, and at the same time it has been a year of change and deep reflection for all of us this year with the passing of Dr M.K. Turner and Mrs Ryder.

Two Arrernte Elders, champions of culture, two brilliant minds and knowledge holders. Two women who suffered some of the greatest indignities and violence from colonial and structural oppression and racism. Yet they never let this define them; instead, they defined great leadership - always generously sharing their knowledge, love, humour, care and respect, while providing clear direction, standards, mentoring and strategic acumen.

Both worked closely with non-Aboriginal people throughout their lives and were leaders of reconciliation and truth telling well before these terms were part of any strategy or government priority. They fully embodied Arrernte leadership and responsibility to land, to language, to culture and to community, upholding with integrity the laws that have lived through these lands for time immemorial. Our responsibility at Children's Ground is to continue their legacy.

It is a time of significant change for many First Nations communities as the Elders born on country and into a continuous law are passing. What is inspiring is the next generation of Akngerre-pate (Elders and knowledge holders) as they adjust to the significance of their new responsibilities to hold and share their laws and cultures for future generations.

At a time when our country grapples with a failed referendum, the ongoing politicisation of challenges in Alice Springs, and a concerning lack of progress in the Government's Closing the Gap policy, the Children's Ground Approach stands as a solution for reform and innovation. With outstanding First Nations strategy and leadership, growing evidence, the backing of incredible philanthropists and endorsement of leading national researchers, we await a substantive government commitment.

We are delivering the Children's Ground Approach in Mparntwe (Alice Springs), Marlkwawo (remote West Arnhem) and Garramilla (Darwin) - three diverse cultural and geographic regions at different stages of their 25-year journey. The Children's Ground Approach is showing flexibility and scalability. We are achieving the building blocks for long-term change in key areas of early childhood education, child and maternal health, nutrition, local employment and family engagement in children's learning and wellbeing.

**The greatest driver for change is empowerment and our local governance in each location is outstanding.**

We continue our systems change work. This year, in partnership with the Utyerre Apanpe Network of First Nations Educators we completed the M.K. Turner Report, recommending national First Nations education reform. Following a community launch in 2023, the report was officially launched in Canberra in March 2024. This critical work provides the national and international evidence and framework to achieve equity and educational justice for all communities across Australia. We will continue this work in 2024.

In 2023 we achieved income of \$11.9M, a 23% increase from the year prior. We ended the year with an unexpected loss of \$381,270. Children's Ground Limited has been in receipt of annual Federal Health Department (FHD) funding since 2018. All indications through discussions with the Government and formal correspondence was that the contract would continue for an additional year from 1 July 2023. In November 2023 the Government advised the funding agreement was to commence 1 January 2024 and end 31 December 2024. A deferral of 6 months for the continuation of a new contract. As a result Children's Ground Limited incurred 6 months of expenditure to provide continuity of health services between 1 July - 31 Dec 2023. This resulted in an \$800,000 loss of grant revenue for the July-December 2023 period.

Children's Ground continues to model an innovative public-private investment strategy, displaying the power and importance of philanthropy as leaders in addressing one of the greatest social injustices of our time. This year 33% of our income came from government, lower than we would like to see, and 61% from philanthropy. We are working with our philanthropic partners to present a compelling investment proposition to increase government investment in future years and to achieve our full funding requirements. Our talks with government will continue with renewed positivity in 2024, in our efforts to achieve a sustainable partnership that will provide the funding scale, and certainty required to secure long-term change.

This is a wonderful organisation of great people. Our staff are committed and give everything. Our incredible board and cultural governance committees hold the integrity of our vision, strategy and culture with enormous expertise. Our funders and our supporters are simply brilliant, providing not only funding, but strategy, advice, talent and care. Our Ambassadors are passionate and use their talent to promote our work and honour the voices of our communities. Our Research Advisory Group are leaders in their field and offer independent rigour and advice. Our fabulous volunteers give their time and skills generously, supporting key areas of the organisation. I am honoured to work with them all and thank everyone for their contribution.

In early 2024 the Productivity Commission presented a damning assessment that business-as-usual in Government is condemning First Nations people to enduring injustice and disadvantage. Children's Ground was designed to replace the existing status quo with a new state-of-affairs that delivers dignity, equity and justice. Each day we see change. We can feel the moments of magic and we share hope. We will continue to build a new future where children, young people, adults and Elders are honoured and celebrated - and children are empowered through their culture and enjoy opportunities and freedoms.

**Jane Vadiveloo**  
**CEO, Children's Ground**

# Children's Ground

Children's Ground was founded in 2011 under the guidance of community Elders from Central Australia and the Top End of the Northern Territory, and incubated by the Australian Government as a model of innovation to achieve systems change.

Children's Ground is known as **Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe** (figure. 1) in the Arrernte language of Central Australia and **Wurdurd Garriygarmmerren** in the Kunwinjku language of West Arnhem.

The Children's Ground Approach is a First Nations system, led and championed by Elders and governed community by community. We have the most evolved systems of knowledge and practice in the world, and our strategies hold the solutions to our future.

Our children, families, and communities are the experts. Our history, our culture and our knowledge inform our way forward.

We are reforming core economic, social and cultural systems to privilege First Nations experience and achieve essential, lasting change.

We are investing in prevention, early intervention, empowerment and the future of our children, and we're complementing this with Western and global practice.

The visual representation of Children's Ground below shows how our children connect with their family, land, community, Elders and with the broader world. It shows how they grow and learn, now and in their future.

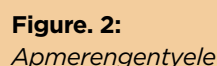
It also shows how our Children's Ground partners are an essential part of our approach, and how they are supporting First Nations people to achieve long term change.

## Figure. 1:

*Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe*

*Design by Jane Davis, painting by Amunda Gorey*





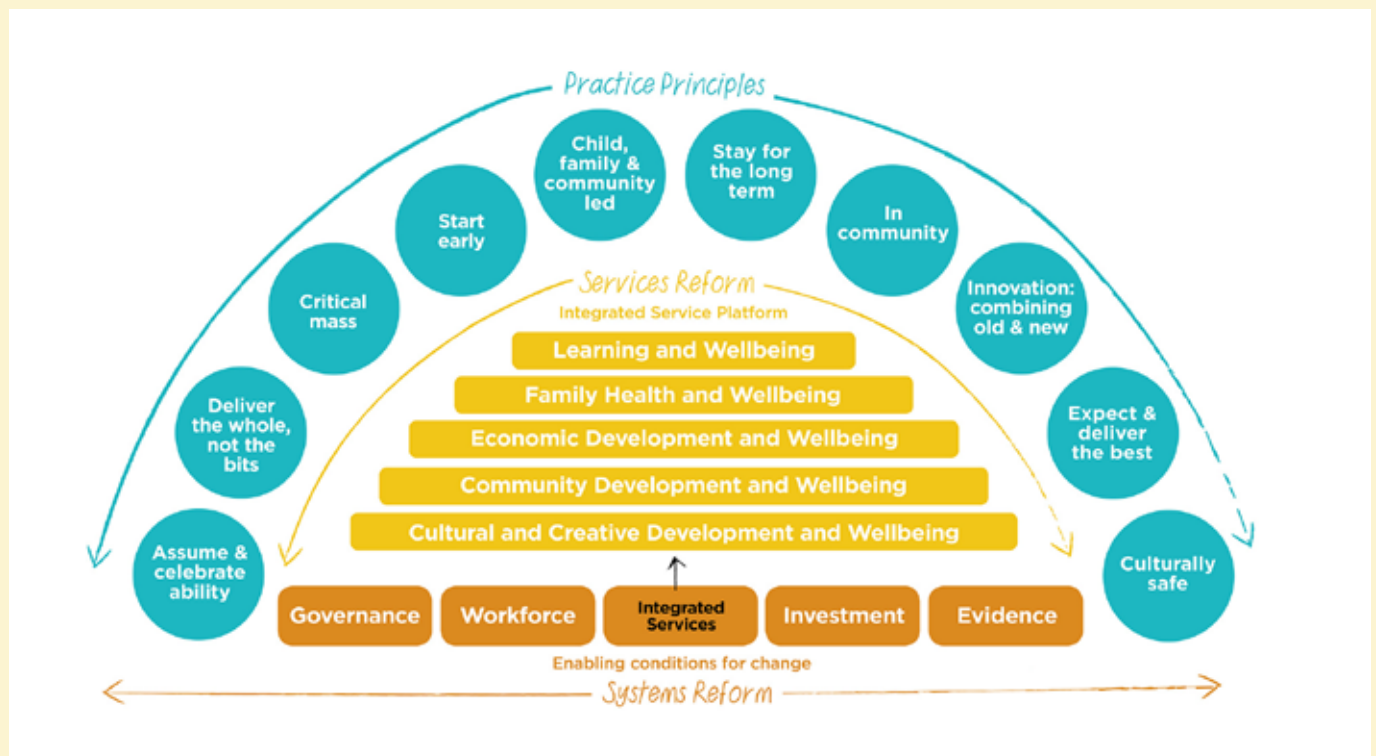
# The Children's Ground Approach

The Children's Ground Approach (CGA) (figure. 3) is a 25-year strategy to achieve systemic and enduring change by addressing the key economic, social, cultural and political drivers that create and sustain complex and extreme inequity.

## The CGA is reforming:

- 'How' services are delivered and governed (ten Practice Principles);
- 'What' services are delivered (integrated and culturally responsive service platform across five key Services Reform areas); and
- System structures that are 'enabling conditions for change' (four System Reforms).

**Figure. 3:** The Children's Ground Approach



The CGA is underpinned by a robust Theory of Change (figure. 4) that operates across three levels - community, systems and society.

Figure. 4: Theory of Change

INPUT	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	IMPACT
The Children’s Ground Approach (Practice Principles; Service Reform; System Reform)...	...is implemented in collaboration with communities experiencing extreme inequity...	...to bring about Community, Systemic and Societal change over the course of a generation...	...so that children, families and community enjoy social, cultural, political, economic wellbeing.

Achieving our vision requires significant change across each of the three levels:

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 systems.

Society change

- First Nations history and culture are celebrated as central to our nation’s identity.

The CGA's 25-year strategy speaks to the amount of time and dedicated investment it takes to break the cycles of economic, social and cultural disempowerment and exclusion. Fully implementing the CGA over 25 years begins with community engagement, establishing the approach and fostering community growth and empowerment, leading to consolidating and sustaining changes.

Simultaneously, Children's Ground undertakes a 25-year longitudinal evaluation within community, building an evidence base of the CGA to influence policy and lobby for change.

Currently, 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. Development and growth in delivery are based on available resources. We are working towards implementing the full CGA in each community as resources increase and enable growth.

Early evidence from our triennial evaluation reports is demonstrating that the CGA is putting key foundations in place to change the status quo.

Figure. 5 represents the percentage of delivery against the full CGA by the end of 2023.

**Figure. 5:** Where are we now - Dec 2023



The Children's Ground Approach is an 'in-community' approach, implementing a bottom-up system, directed and delivered by First Nations people to achieve long-term impact and sustained change. The Children's Ground Approach is about what we do and how we do it.

The CGA is informed by cultural knowledge and practices, as well as national and international Western evidence and leading practice.

First Nations systems of knowledge are placed in the centre, and around this we include Western knowledge, ensuring our children are placed in the best position to succeed.

Implementation of the CGA is phased as children grow. The 25-year approach starts with children pre-birth to eight years and Children's Ground grows with them and their families through to adulthood.

This includes primary and secondary school education, and post-secondary vocational training. As an intergenerational approach, we work with whole communities - from babies to Elders and all of our families in between. This is our strength, structure and responsibility as First Nations people.

On the ground in communities, the CGA delivers services, referred to as the integrated 'Learning, Wellbeing and Development platform' (LWD platform). The platform recognises that an early start in education, health and wellbeing, safety, a healthy family and community environment, cultural identity and economic wellbeing are all critical foundations to a child doing well in life.

The LWD platform integrates the CGA's five key areas of service reform (figure. 6).

The Children's Ground Approach is designed as a partnership approach, and provides a strategic framework for delivery that can be executed by a range of organisations working in a coordinated system that centres the child and the community.

Children's Ground, the organisation, is implementing and evidencing the approach. We do not replicate services, and we work in partnership with other service providers to provide a whole of systems approach, underpinned by the CGA principles.

Over time our aim is to see the CGA as the preferred system being offered to First Nations communities, delivered by organisations beyond Children's Ground.

**Figure. 6:** Five key areas of service reform



Designed as a whole of community approach, Children's Ground seeks to engage and walk with the majority, 'a critical mass' (75%) of children within a community. The assumption is that if a critical mass of children enjoy high quality education, positive health and wellbeing and equity in life opportunities into adulthood, whole communities currently experiencing intergenerational inequity can grow into communities that experience wellbeing, justice and opportunity.

The services that are delivered are important, however, *how* they are delivered is what leads to engagement, empowerment and sustained change and impact.

Our 25-year approach aspires to excellence, recognising that children, families and communities who need the most, deserve the best, that they are the experts in their own lives, and that it is their voice and talent that will create change.





**Children's Ground is our mechanism for change. We designed the 'Children's Ground Approach' to create transformational change in community, by centring our culture, practices, solutions, and governance, with learning and well-being at the heart of our approach.**

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Felicity Hayes,  
Senior Arrernte Educator and Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe  
(Children's Ground Central Australia) Co-Director.

# 2023 highlights timeline

## January

2023 started with all staff coming together in each region for planning, training and reconnecting.

After a flood of negative stories about Mparntwe (Alice Springs) across national media outlets, Senior Arrernte leaders of CG called on Australia's leaders to sit down, discuss the rising issues taking place in Alice Springs and listen to First Nations voices (p.74).

Cherisse Buzzacott, Head of Health at CG in Central Australia, appeared on ABC's The Drum to discuss First Nations-led solutions and empowering Aboriginal children.



## February

The year of learning began for our children with excitement!

CG-CA realises the vision of our Elders to establish schooling on their homelands north of Alice Springs. Our primary program for Mpweringke Anapipe families in partnership with Yipirinya School begins. A first for CG-CA, we are delivering primary learning on Country in our health and wellbeing hub in Anapipe (Burt Creek), with learning also taking place outside the classroom (p.30).



## March

We hosted a First Cultural Maternal and Child Health (MCH) forum in Mparntwe, bringing together women from all CG regions for our research project 'Arelhe ante areyele arntarnte-arelhetyeke ampe akweke arle atnyenetyenheke (Women guiding women having babies)' (p.66).



## April

We launched 'Tyerrtye Atyinhe (My Body)', our first single from our album of Arrernte songs for children 'Ampe-mape Alyelheme! (Kids Sing!)' (p.34).

Emma Memma and Elvin Melvin visited ampe (children) in Central Australia for a day of hand-signing, singing, dancing and sharing.



## May

CG First Nations women attended the three-day Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) National Summit alongside over 800 other First Nations women (p.71).

At Marlkwawo (West Arnhem Land), the entire community came together for an intergenerational day of learning on Country. Children learned from adults how to prepare a kunkerri (ground oven). They collected kundulk (wood) and kunwarde (rocks) for the fire and learned how to cook bulikki kunkanj (beef) and kandidjdjawa (damper) (p.50).

## June

CG in Central Australia was honoured to be visited by Dame Graça Machel.

One of the world's leading social justice champions, Dame Graça is a former freedom fighter and Education Minister of Mozambique. As a founding member of the global Elders, she commits her time to achieving and upholding peace and human rights around the world. Dame Graça Machel was hosted in Australia by our key partner Igniting Change (p.73).

CG presented at the 2023 World Community Development Conference in Darwin. First Nations leaders Veronica Turner, Bridgette Beer and Pauline Grant delivered a presentation and interactive workshop. As part of the conference, CG's 15 Mile community held a practice exchange, hosting 20-30 conference delegates in their community (p.71).



# 2023 highlights timeline

July



William Tilmouth won Male Elder of the Year at the 2023 National NAIDOC Awards, and five CG leaders were recognised for their contribution to community with local NAIDOC Awards (p.72).

We celebrated our Elders, led by Arrernte leader Dr M.K. Turner OAM in a whole of community event. Soon after we mourned the passing of Dr M.K. Turner and celebrated her life, achievements and family.

The 5th Utyerre Apanpe (First Nations Educators') Forum is held. Over 80 First Nations educators from many Nations came together to continue their collaboration on First Nations education systems and for the community launch of the M.K. Turner Report (p.75).

August

Children's Ground, Central Australia and people across the nation farewelled Dr M.K. Turner OAM at her State Funeral. Over 1000 people came together to celebrate Dr M.K. Turner's achievements, leadership and life (p.8).



September



Children's Ground in partnership with the Irrkerlantye community and SOURCE Global launched a new supply of quality drinking water at Irrkerlantye (White Gate Town Camp) near Mparntwe (Alice Springs) (p.36).

Children's Ground Research & Evaluation team members facilitated a successful full-day workshop at the Australian Evaluation Society Conference.

Our first Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe Art Exhibition was held to rave reviews and excellent sales (p.35).

## October

The Australian Indigenous Voice referendum is defeated.

In Darwin, bi-monthly interagency collaboration meetings were established in 15 Mile and Knuckey Lagoon. Local services came together to respond to the aspirations, needs and solutions of community leaders and families (p.59).



## November

Ampe-Kenhe Ahelhe (Children's Ground Central Australia) welcomed the Mparntwe community to celebrate the launch of the *In My Blood It Runs* book, authored by Djuwan Hoosan, Carol Turner and Margaret Anderson and illustrated by Blak Douglas (p.75).



CG's research partnership with The Remedy Project was awarded the 2023 Griffith University Vice Chancellor's awards for Research Excellence in a team, recognising and enacting leading principles for First Nations research, transforming research practices, creating new spaces for Indigenist and creative arts-health research at Griffith University and participating organisations (p.69).

Children's Ground grieved the loss of one of our founding Elders, Kwementyaye Ryder. Mrs. Ryder was a renowned Arrernte linguist, author and artist (p.8).

## December

15 Mile Community placed based delivery got stronger and stronger with refurbishments to the community center and hub to create a space for early years learning, nutrition, and an office and meeting space. This in turn supported local governance and interagency meetings, and created more local jobs and economic opportunities in 15 Mile (p.59).

CG wrapped up another incredible year with Christmas parties in every community. Children received their 2023 learning reports and families and community came together for basketball, facepainting and BBQs.



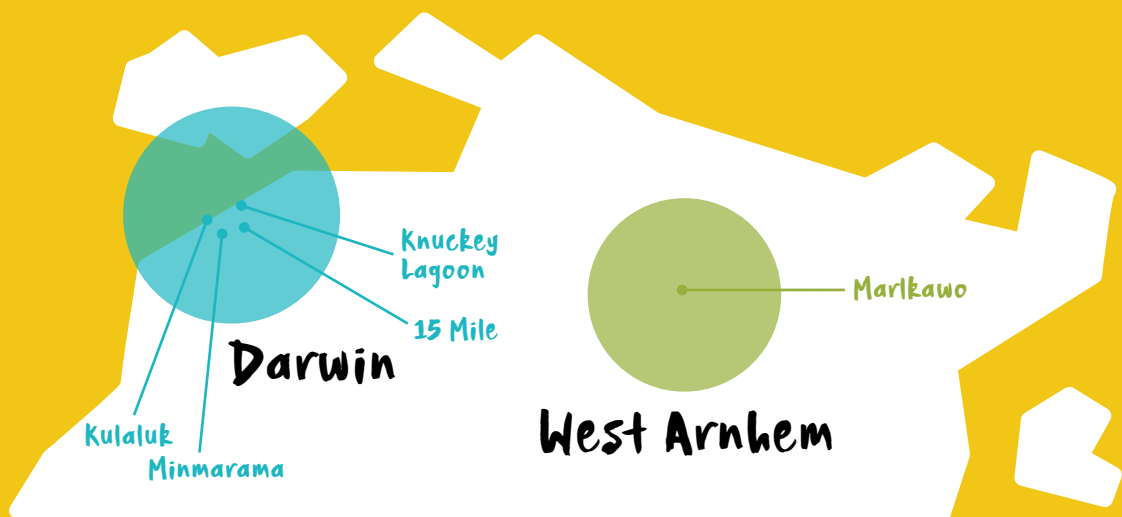
# Where we work



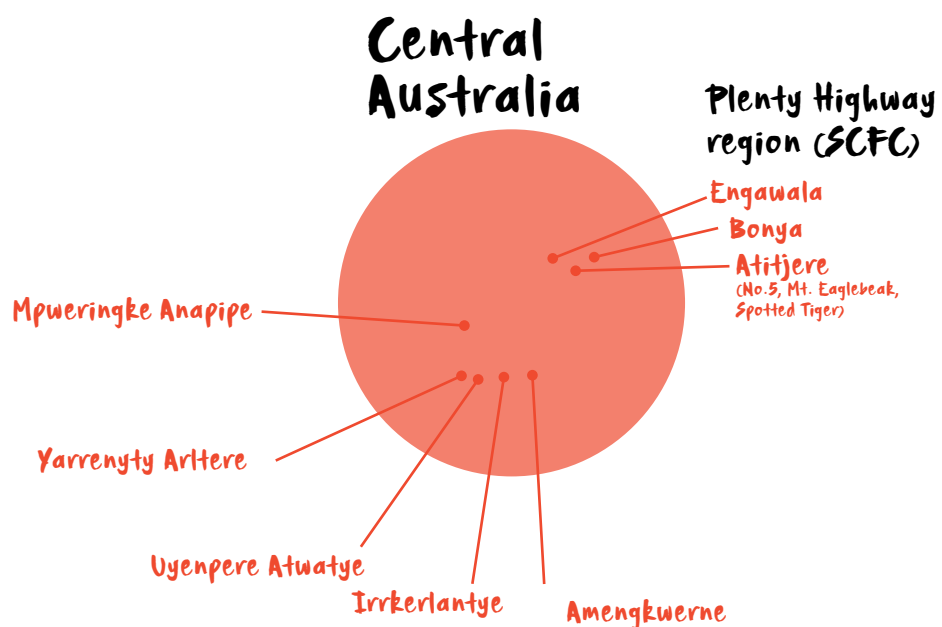
In 2023 Children's Ground delivered

425

Learning on country sessions  
across all regions



# Northern Territory



# Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe

## Central Australia

In Central Australia, communities deliver Children's Ground on Central and Eastern Arrernte and Western Arrarnta Country in and around Mparntwe (Alice Springs).

- Mpweringke Anapipe (Northern Outstations, North of Mparntwe)
- Irrkerlantye (Whitegate, East of Mparntwe)
- Uyenpere Atwatye (Hidden Valley Town Camp, Mparntwe)
- Yarrenyty Arltene (Larrapinta Valley Town Camp, Mparntwe)
- Amengkwerne (Amoonguna community, East of Mparntwe)
- *Children's Ground is also the facilitating partner for the federally funded Stronger Communities for Children program along the Plenty Highway in the remote communities of Engawala and Atitjere (220km+ north of Mparntwe).*

## Regional summary

In 2023, Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe was once again centred around our smallest children who are the beating heart of everything we work towards.

**1056** children, young people and adults engage with Children's Ground

We are watching these children grow, immersed in the CG Approach, surrounded by their families who support their journey and guide them in a first culture first system of learning and development that focuses on their strengths. It is our greatest privilege.

We recognise children's birth into the world's longest continuous culture on this earth and that it is their Elders who are guiding everything and setting the standards for how we work. We also recognise the talent of those coming behind these Elders to lead the way for the next generation of children born each year, strengthening the transmission of language and cultural knowledge and understanding.

We centre our children in everything and support all of the key areas that will ensure they have the best opportunity to learn, grow and enjoy safety and good health. To support our children, we must support our families and strengthen our communities. We want our children to wake up each day proud, safe and excited by their community with amazing resources where they live. That is what we work towards every day at Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe.

We continued to see five communities leading change for future generations through the CG Approach. We also continued to strengthen delivery of the Stronger Communities for Children program funded by the Commonwealth Government.





# The CG Approach in ACTION:

## Learning and Wellbeing

Again, this year, the thing that inspired children through to adults was learning on Country. It is not just learning; it is health, wellbeing, our spirit, our healing, identity, kinship and building a knowing for our children about their connection, their relationships and their responsibilities from the moment they are born.

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**213** children (0-5 years) engaged in learning (alongside 340 family members (18+ years))

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Whether we are close to town or 100kms away in any direction, we are working on land that holds importance to our children and is the best place for them to start their learning journey. We see this foundation in culture and language translate to increasing proficiency in English numeracy, literacy and Western learning and development benchmarks.

All sites saw new little babies come into their groups and begin their journey with Children's Ground (CG), while the children that have been here that little bit longer increased their knowledge and understanding of the plants, seasons, animals, medicines, cultural practices, maths, science, geography, history and physical activity involved in learning everywhere. Through camps, day trips and learning on site in our central hub, children and families came together with local educators, developing their skills to lead education for their kids.

It was a wonderful year with the beginning of our primary aged learning at Mpweringke Anapipe, in partnership with Yipirinya School. The vision of Dr M.K. Turner and Mrs Palmer, our founding Elders, to have a school on their homelands has started to come to life. Our little ones, born into CG, can now continue their learning with CG beyond their early years, led by families and Western trained educators. While still in our early stages, we have a long way to go, but we can see a future where our children can enjoy high-quality learning where they live.

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**36** children 6-11 years engaged in primary learning on Country

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We also saw large numbers of children supported in primary learning while living at Sandy Bore during Sorry Business. Some of these children came down from Top End communities for Sorry Business, and if not for Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe primary learning, would have missed many weeks of schooling. With staff sleeping over during learning days, Western and cultural teaching was occurring around the clock.

We had two senior Arrernte educators spend two weeks in North America conducting a knowledge exchange with First Nations communities through our partnership with Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE). Lots of learning occurred and our ongoing partnership with BIITE through their funded LEGO – A World of Play program will be exciting in the years ahead.

The year finished with wonderful celebrations of our children's learning and wellbeing journey in each community. Through individual reports for each child we sent a story home celebrating how much they have developed, learned and grown over the year.





# The CG Approach in ACTION:

## Health and Wellbeing

Health promotion continues on learning sessions (both early years and primary) and individual and family health supports remain an important component of supporting improved health outcomes. We continue to increase engagement in universal and targeted health promotion and support.

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**970** people engaged in health promotion and support (incl. 342 children aged 0-8 years)

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Making sure children coming through are aware of how to keep themselves healthy, and when they need to go to the clinic to get sores or coughs checked is key to lifelong personal health agency, an outcome we strive for.

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**895** people engaged in nutrition education and increased nutritional intake (incl. 222 children)

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Nutrition continues as a strong foundation ensuring our little ones have healthy nutritional intake as a norm. Our integrated health and wellbeing delivery continues to embed an incredible nutrition program at the centre of our health delivery. Daily, healthy meals or their makings, go out in all directions with teams ensuring families and children are getting a wholesome, nutritionally rich meal while on session. The Nutrition team also works with the Learning teams to support cooking on country, engaging children directly in preparation, cooking and understanding nutritional value of foods.

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**91** children 0-3 years and 212 adults engaged in maternal and child health promotion

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Alongside this our Maternal and Child health promotion has taken exciting steps with more babies being supported in regular smoking ceremonies and our mums and bubs program starting to flourish, with mostly first-time mothers engaging in regular activities. Bringing traditional health practices alongside clinical practice is vital in this area.

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**547** people engaged social/emotional wellbeing promotion and support

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Our Social/Emotional Wellbeing team continues to see a growth in demand for services, both at a counselling level and in their support and advocacy role. Being available and flexible, rather than structured by set appointment times, assists the team to meet people where and when they are ready to talk. Over time it is expected that this will change, however, for now it is working to assist people in their healing journey, overcome barriers to employment, address long term and intergenerational trauma and domestic and family violence. This team also works with our Early Years team to build the social and emotional literacy and wellbeing of children coming through Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe.

Collaboration with other services around health has been fantastic and brings in clinical health expertise that is an important part of people's health literacy, agency and management.

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**312** people were supported to engaged with clinical health

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We partnered with Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (Congress) to tackle hearing health. Congress supported the Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe nurse to deliver hearing tests and ear health with children in our Early years. Taking health into community and involving families is critical in preventing chronic hearing issues and ensuring our children have a great start to life and learning.

Funding uncertainty in our health arena has created challenges in staff sustainability this year, however, our health promotion has continued for children, families and community with extensive health support provided across all communities and cultural health continuing.



**Iltye alkarle atnyenetyeke, merne mwerre arlkwetyeke, ante unthetyeke tyerrtye mwerre atnyenetyeke.**

*Clean hands, healthy food and play are so important to the health and wellbeing of our young people.*

**Felicity Hayes,**  
Senior Arrernte Educator and Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe  
(Children's Ground Central Australia) Co-Director

# The CG Approach in ACTION:

## Economic Development and Wellbeing

What makes a difference to learning and wellbeing for our children is having their families walking with them. Our leaders set this as one of the most important evaluation outcomes for Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe. Each child has a family member present in their learning. We also know that working families create engagement, role modelling and economic wellbeing for families.

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### **63** First Nations people employed at Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe

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Employing local First Nations staff from each community is central to the CG Approach. In 2023, Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe saw continued growth in staffing, with nearly all staff coming from our local communities.

First Nations staff worked across all areas including Learning, Health, Men's and Youth, Administration, Finance, Research and Evaluation, Community Development and Governance. This year, we celebrate the nine First Nations staff who have been on the journey with Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe since 2016, when we began modestly to grow to where we are today.

For many staff, this may be the first time they have worked or had ongoing sustained employment. Many of our staff live with trauma, ill-health and family stress. Supporting people to enter and stay in employment is a key part of our work at CG. The Women's Leadership and Development Program has continued to be pivotal in providing workforce support and development, including a Social and Emotional Wellbeing position, supporting holistic staff development and growth. Project activities include access to employment support, on-the-job training, mentoring, financial literacy and supporting the social and emotional wellbeing of the women at risk through counselling.

The project also includes new employment opportunities for women. Supported by an in-house, part time Financial Literacy Counsellor, CG is addressing barriers that affect employment access and sustainable employment. Our women hold the burden of care for their families as well as being the drivers of community change. They live with complex pressures and huge demands.

Their expertise is sought across all areas of delivery, and at the same time they are going home to be the key support in their families. This program is about supporting them in their work, family, cultural and personal needs.

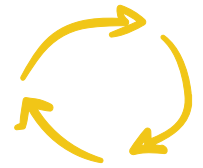
***"You changed my life... cause I was really stressed I didn't know what to do and I couldn't see the help."***

— Community participant

***"It's everything, being out on Country, but you do need people there for people that are going through hard times. Sometimes when people have lost a family member, they can't take it, or they're stressed. Maybe their house has gone down, money wise. A lot of stuff can stress you out in this world. Even people who can't read and write need help. They need to get skills and they're too shamed to get help. They can be good for something, but they need a bit of a push to help show it to people, build their confidence."***

— Community participant

One of our areas of economic development is resource development. It has the dual outcome of creating employment and enterprise opportunities while at the same time developing the critical resources for learning. For children to learn in First Language, we need to develop the resources. This year the Resource Development and Enterprise team worked tirelessly to produce and release CG's first album of songs in language, Ampe-mape Alyelheme – Kid's Sing, currently being distributed globally by ABC Kids.



**80,000+** streams of Ampe-mape  
Alyelheme – Kid's Sing

The album was launched at the NT Writers Festival held in Mparntwe, and by the end of the year the album had 56,000 streams on Spotify and over 26,000 on Apple Music. Videos were developed to accompany the first few songs and there will be more to come. Watch this space.

Developing new resources for learning and early development is underway, including learning kits that are guided by Apmerengentyele. All groups are supporting this work and the quality of output by teams is outstanding.

The early years book, *Lanhe Araye* by the Yarrenyty Arltere team was launched and the resource development team were pivotal in supporting the work with the Plenty Highway team on the Akarre/Akityarre endangered language work and the Little Akarre/Akityarre Picture Dictionary.

The team also facilitated our first Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe Art Exhibition in September to rave reviews and excellent sales. We continued to hold a stall at the Todd Mall Night Markets, as a great way to get out amongst the wider community and raise awareness of our work as well as sell our products.

At the same time, we reviewed standards for artists contracts to maintain leading industry practice and ensure artists' protection for their intellectual property and talent. As we develop our Enterprise space the ongoing review of standards will be critical.



## Community Development and Wellbeing

We saw greater resourcing of our community development platform this year, building up governance supports across sites, and assisting communities with work on their dynamic community plans that focus on the aspirations of community members for today and into the future.

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### 122 First Nations people engaged in Community Governance

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In these Community Plans we look forward and ask, 'What do we want for our community in 25 years?' and 'What is our plan for achieving this?' We include infrastructure aspirations as the greatest area of need – to fully support place based and community led delivery.

Governance and local decision making are about empowering and strengthening each community into the future. Community level governance is central to this. Local governance is based in each community. Regionally, everyone comes together across communities to govern Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe as the Ingkerrekele Arntarnte-areme (Everyone being responsible, Regional Governance). We encourage the voice of all of our community members to make sure that everyone can be involved in decision making. That is how Arrernte law and governance must be.

Irrkerlantye families continue to live in tin sheds with no running water despite years of negotiations with the Northern Territory Government to secure water, tenure and basic infrastructure. Felicity Hayes and her families have continued their work with the NT Government towards securing these basic rights to live with dignity on a small part of their traditional lands. This year we supported the governance for the Kweyenpe Aboriginal Corporation to secure this outcome. The donation of ten hydropanels to Irrkerlantye by SOURCE in 2023, supplying 90L of drinking water each day, has been of great significance for the community (please see image).

Men's breakfasts and lunches began in Yarrenyty Arltere, Uyenpere Atwatye and Irrkerlantye in the last part of the year and have been a positive way to engage men in the community.

Our leaders want to see the engagement of more men at Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe. These get together are place based and engage men in planning and activities directly related to the community plan.

The Mpweringke Anapipe men's team remained strong and continued their focus on work with children and young boys. They have some solid plans for 2024 for weekly camp outs and bringing more cultural practice into their work.

The work of the community development team is pivotal to achieving place-based planning, governance, delivery and whole of community engagement. It also helps to organise logistics for events, family nights and camps.

In 2023, we held several camps including one large camp at Salt Bore with over 80 people in attendance, and a two-night women's camp which was part of women being supported in employment, wellbeing, safety and leadership. This included 23 women attending to share knowledge and support social and emotional wellbeing. We also held many events (large and small), family nights and smaller camps throughout the year. Over 500+ people attended our Children's Ground NAIDOC Week 2023 Open Day event. Celebration is key to Children's Ground's work and is a major contributing factor to community wellbeing.

It is important to note the many partnerships, both formal and informal, with other organisations, both local and national, that support us and make it possible for us to do the work we do. Of particular significance this year is the donation of a bus and a troop carrier by the Graça Machel Trust and Virgin Unite. Expanding our vehicle and seating capacity makes all the difference to children and families wanting to access learning, wellbeing and development activities as well as events and camps. Thank you.



## Cultural and Creative Development and Wellbeing

2023 was filled with celebrations of language and culture. This year, after a long process of writing, rehearsing, and recording the new Arrernte-led musical project: *Ampe-mape Alyelheme Kids Sing!*, the team launched their latest single *Tyerntytye Atyinhe* at the Alice Springs mall as part of the Alice Springs Town Council activation project.

Over 200 people attended the launch with children and families giving live performances.

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**843** children and families engaged  
cultural learning and wellbeing

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Our inaugural art exhibition at Watch This Space celebrated our artists and their artworks created through our language and learning programs. The artworks included visual art, digital art, animation, music, and video with over 150 artworks created by at least 40 children, young people, adults, and elders. Over 350 people attended the exhibition launch.

Our Elders hold the oldest languages and systems of knowledge in the world. With each passing year this knowledge and practice is further placed under threat. Each year we work to revitalize and strengthen these through every area of practice, learning, health, employment and community development. We know through our Elders and through international evidence, that our children need a strong sense of identity and cultural and linguistic prowess to support their learning and wellbeing. We are now seeing this generation of children speaking their First Language more proficiently and through this their learning of English and global knowledge will be strengthened.

Dr M.K. Turner OAM spent her last four years translating the Arrernte world view, a lived knowledge system and way of life, into a framework that could be shared with Children's Ground and the world. *Amperengentyele* (from the land) articulates the key foundations for Arrernte law, society, standards, ethics and knowledge. This was finalised only months before she passed away.

Kwementyaye Ryder and Susan Chalmers provided valuable knowledge and advice to document important learning steps in our primary program and contribute to learning plans. At times the knowledge of our Elders is overwhelming.

Their commitment to making certain their knowledge is passed on is a legacy we will forever be grateful for.

This year some of our First Nations staff were honoured for their cultural leadership in the annual NAIDOC awards. First, Mitchell and Edmond Doolan attended the National awards to receive the award for our Chair William Tilmouth who was honoured as the National Male Elder of the Year. In the local awards, the following four staff members were recognised for their contribution to community in the following categories: Edmond Doolan, Youth of the Year; Felicity Hayes, Caring for Country (female); Michael Gorey, Caring for Country (male); C. Turner, Community Impact.

The recognition of staff for their work is validation of the importance of their place in the community, their responsibility at work and their responsibility to their children and families to continue their culture and to ensure knowledge is passed down the line, strengthening it into the future and forever.

***"Teaching culture is why I am here at Children's Ground."***

— C. Turner

First Nations Language Educator, Central Australia

Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe and the whole CG family said farewell to Dr M.K. Turner, founding Elder and a cultural authority of highest standing this year. Dr M.K. Turner spent her last day with us surrounded by family and Mparntwe community members at our annual NAIDOC Week Open Day. We saw over 500 people come through the gates to share in the love of learning, development, family, culture, employment, resource development, health promotion, history and achievement that is Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe.

Open Day 2023 will remain in our hearts as the greatest celebration and unplanned farewell of Dr M.K. Turner who gave her everything to Children's Ground.



On that day our young people spoke on stage to the importance of Elders in their lives, amplifying the theme of 2023 NAIDOC Week – For our Elders. Dr M.K. Turner was the last person on the microphone that day, and she sang loudly and proudly in language for the kids – always for the kids.

With the loss of two of our founding and other significant Elders in 2023 we have been left bereft of their guidance and knowledge.

But with each end there is also a beginning, and we look to our next leaders as they step into their eldership, supporting them to take hold of their responsibilities. We carry their legacy each and every day at Ampekenhe Ahelhe.



## Stronger communities for children – Plenty Highway

We continue as the facilitating partner for the Australian Government program, Stronger Communities for Children, in the Plenty Highway region with the communities Atitjere and Engawala, and with outreach to Bonya, Mt. Eaglebeak and No.5 outstation as we are able.

Local governance and delivery have become stronger year by year and the community outcomes are visible.

A key achievement has been language revitalisation workshops and resource development for the Akarre/Akityarre language. With only a small number of language speakers alive, the work was championed by Dr M.K. Turner who was one of the few language speakers left and feared the full loss of her original language. This amazing project has resulted in language resources in Akarre Akityarre including a picture dictionary and several children's books. The publication of Ayeye Akelye Akerte Akarre-Akityarre (Little Akarre-Akityarre Picture Book) was launched at Bonya School and the NT Writers Festival with huge pride. We now have a new generation learning and revitalising Akarre Akityarre.

In the same region, we re-established Early Years activities at Engawala through a partnership with the Northern Territory Department of Education. Aboriginal Benefits Account funding was used to renovate the Atitjere learning and activity centre, which was previously a bare shed structure. The renovations included the lining and insulation of walls and ceilings, and installation of air conditioning, veranda, kitchen and landscaped fire pit area. The precinct is now used to run cultural and youth activities, such as bush medicine making, language resource development and arts and craft, a gym, bike project, health promotion and provides space for fantastic events run by the community.

Local employment has increased as the shed provides greater opportunity for organising and running activities run by local community members. Activities need transport in bush locations, and we were deeply grateful for the donation of a Troop Carrier organised by Emily Kloss (a young person who volunteered with us in 2022) who mobilised family and donations from people in their network to gift this fabulous vehicle for the community.

**“We are starting to see it everywhere in community on the noticeboards, every announcement is written in Akarre-Akityarre and everyone is starting to understand and read in Akarre-Akityarre. It makes me happy to see my families learning my language I was taught as a young woman.”**

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Cecilia Schaber,  
Atitjere Elder





# Wurdurd Garriygarrmerren Marlkawo, West Arnhem

In the Top End of the Northern Territory we are led by the community of Marlkawo on Bolmo Country in West Arnhem Land.

In Marlkawo, the community delivers a small-scale homeland model of the CG Approach. Marlkawo is approx. 522km from Darwin, 278km from Jabiru, 226km from Gunbalanya and 130km from Maningrida.

This is a small community with high mobility. Some families live semi-permanently at the Marlkawo homeland/outstation and others move between larger communities and their homeland.

## Regional summary

89

children, young people  
and adults engage with  
Children's Ground

In late 2017, Bolmo families from Marlkawo wanted to return to their homeland. Families have lived across the West Arnhem region in larger towns like Gunbalanya and Jabiru and have experienced generational dislocation from their traditional lands and family stress from living in towns.

They wanted to return to Marlkawo, establish Children's Ground and re-establish their home as a place for learning, culture, employment, wellbeing and safety.

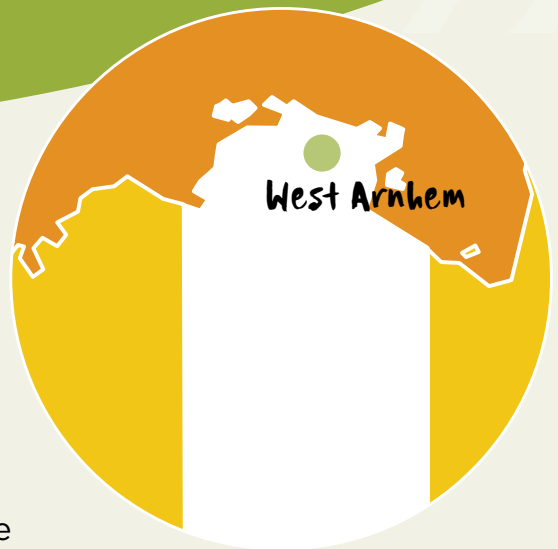
Since 2018, led by senior members of the Djandjomerr family, the small outstation has grown from two broken down houses to a small community with a working airstrip, basic infrastructure, learning and wellbeing hub and staff accommodation for balanda (non-First Nations) staff.

Bolmo families have now re-established themselves on their homeland.

Approximately 100 people are connected to Marlkawo with up to twenty-five people living in the community at any time and a handful of wurdurd (children) are experiencing learning and wellbeing on their traditional lands.

The learning is intense and culturally rich and has included a strong focus on English, numeracy and literacy.

Marlkawo is cut off in the wet season (December – May) and only a small number of family members stay there during this time when it is only accessible by air.



When the dry season begins, the whole region starts with funerals of loved ones who have passed away since the previous dry season. People travel community to community to honour those who have passed through ceremony.

Since 2018 there have been significant health issues resulting in both young people and adults passing away as well as families members forced to relocate to Darwin due to renal failure and dialysis. Our work with Marlkwawo occurs primarily in the location of Marlkwawo but extends to working with families in the communities of Jabiru, Gunbalanya and Darwin.

In the 2023 wet season, key Marlkwawo families relocated to Darwin and were supported by Children's Ground. In May, the dry season learning began. There was a sense of excitement with children back on country and key family members leading learning, nutrition and wellbeing. However, in June, the sudden death of a senior family member as a result of heart failure was devastating. Following cultural protocol, family were in Sorry Business until her funeral, which occurred in October. During this time delivery in Marlkwawo was limited to basic community development, governance, cultural wellbeing and health and wellbeing. Children's Ground continued to support people located in Darwin throughout this period.

Despite the difficulties of 2023, following the funeral, term four proved remarkable with children and families actively engaged in learning and the next generation of young adults stepping into leadership roles following the passing of their parents. This continued to the end of the year as the wet season came in.

Due to the impact of family ill-health and Sorry Business each year for the past six years, Marlkwawo families undertook a planning and review process in the last quarter. Through this process they discussed governance, delivery, learning and employment. This is part of the continuous learning and development process of Children's Ground to understand and refine the model for small populations. This process was led by local governance (families) as they planned to achieve sustainability on their homelands while dealing with persistent trauma. In 2024 they want to focus on a strong dry season operation, supported by a few balanda staff.

The significance of, and need for, a long-term commitment and adaptability is regularly evident at Marlkwawo.



# The CG Approach in ACTION:

## Learning and Wellbeing

This year children continued to engage in Learning and Wellbeing alongside their family. Western learning focused on written and spoken English and numeracy, and Cultural learning included First Language, kinship, country, bush foods, medicines, safety and wellbeing.

**14** children (0-15 years) engaged in learning alongside 31 family members (18+ years)

At Marlkawo each day learning sessions start with healthy routines of face and hand washing, teeth cleaning and nose blowing. Such health promotion is integrated into all learning sessions with children and their families learning important preventative health behaviours and routines.

All learning sessions then include cultural and Western learning. Biniŋ educators lead learning activities and games that focus on children learning Kunwinjku, their First Language. In 2023 the focus was on body parts, local animals and seasonal bush foods. Educators have created picture and word cards with a game involving children matching the cards and speaking the words.

The learning session focus then moves into Western English literacy and numeracy learning – ensuring that children are building their learning foundations in their First Language, culture and identity, as well as learning foundations for Western education.

At Marlkawo, all learning sessions occur on country because people are living on their country.

Cultural and Western learning occurs at the education balabala in between family and staff houses and accommodation. In-depth experiential and immersive language and cultural learning also occur on bush trips each week – reported on in Cultural & Creative Development and Wellbeing further on. Western learning also occurs on bush trips through cultural learning; when children learn how to carve up an animal ready for cooking they are also learning about biology and anatomy.

In Western-based learning sessions children write and talk about their cultural learning that week and count and assess things they have collected during bush trips. Such experiential based learning reinforces language, knowledge, practice, skills, identity, health and wellbeing.

This year Katherine School of the Air was engaged to support primary and early secondary school aged children to engage in Western learning from their country, supported by their family and Western-trained educators. Family mobility meant that it was challenging to achieve consistent engagement with children attending different schools in places where their family was staying for different periods of time.





# The CG Approach in ACTION:

## Health and Wellbeing

2023 continued to see children and families actively engage in health promotion and support. This included ongoing daily integration of preventative health activities and education into all Learning & Wellbeing sessions to ensure universal access to health promotion.

It also continued to include targeted health promotion and support undertaken with children, young people and adults as individuals and family groups.

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**80** people engaged in health promotion and support (including 25 children aged 0-15 years)

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After identifying health worries in community, including skin sores and body pains, a group of First Nations cultural educators led a learning on Country session to collect and prepare traditional bush medicine. The focus was on learning to identify specific trees, and the correct season to use the tree, extracting bark, boiling it, and using the infusion for skin and body ache relief. Beyond the practical skills, the day emphasized the importance of being on Country to access cultural health responses and telling stories about country for our own health and for country's health.

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**57** people engaged in nutrition education and increased nutritional intake (incl. 15 children)

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Children and families engaged in targeted and universal nutrition education and activities, including improved nutritional intake with healthy meals and snacks provided in all learning sessions. During cultural nutrition promotion the wurdurd (children) loved collecting manme (bush foods), such as manmorlak (billy goat plum), manwodberr (green plums), and kabo (green ants) for use in traditional medicines and foods. During learning sessions, children and families created a community garden, teaching wurdurd about gardening, food security, health and nutrition.

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**37** people engaged maternal and child health promotion

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Maternal and child health promotion continued, with mothers and families being supported to access infant and maternal health and wellbeing check-ups and child health and development promotion. Women's health was also a specific focus in 2023. Daluk (women) held female only afternoons on Country where Cultural Health experts led sessions, with a focus on social/emotional wellbeing and cultural health practices. This provided an emotionally and culturally safe space for women to express and share their feelings and for young women to learn from older women. During these sessions a Western-trained Health Promotion specialist also supported delivery of a broad range of Western health promotion topics, tailored to the individuals including rheumatic heart disease, kidney health, scabies and environmental health promotion. The relationships and trust built through these afternoons led to women feeling comfortable to develop holistic health and wellbeing plans for themselves and their families.

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**74** people engaged social/emotional wellbeing promotion and support

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Social/emotional wellbeing continued to be embedded in learning sessions, employment and all Children's Ground environments. In learning sessions, educators play a social/emotional wellbeing check-in game with children developed by educators. Children take turns spinning a spinner which stops on one of a range of emotions – each emotion is described and discussed as a group. When there are Kunwinjku words for an emotion, the Bininj educators use cards to teach children the spoken and written words. This activity engages children and adults in learning about different emotions and discussing associated feelings, actions and reactions in a safe place. These activities are building social/emotional literacy of children and families and contributing to children's foundational skills in self-regulation and social/emotional wellbeing. Adults have reported learning about their own emotions and wellbeing, learning alongside their children.



**57** people were supported to engage with clinical health

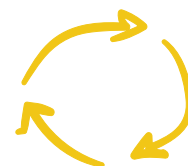
2023 also saw ongoing work with children and adults to empower people to have agency over their own health and wellbeing. 10 Family Health & Wellbeing plans were formalised with families, bringing together the health story for children, young people, adults and Elders within the family and planning health actions to improve or resolve any health concerns people were living with. The health plans include cultural and Western health goals and actions.

For one young adult, this led to her engaging in her first telehealth consultation with her specialist - online from her very remote homeland outstation on her Country.

At Marlkawo many people live with chronic physical and emotional health conditions and have limited access to clinical health services and systems they feel comfortable and confident to engage with. Supporting people to increase access to, and engagement with, clinical and specialist health services from their Country will be an ongoing strategy to alleviate and reduce the burden of chronic illness.



## Economic Development and Wellbeing



Local First Nations employment is central to economic development and wellbeing and is an important enabler for local governance, leadership and cultural safety in service design and delivery. At Marlkawo most people have part-time flexible work arrangements based on mobility and community priorities.

### 31 First Nations people employed with Children's Ground

All staff have opportunities to engage in training and professional development. This includes job-related training and opportunities to increase knowledge and skills in areas of interest for individuals.

In October 2023, there was enthusiasm, engagement and teamwork all around first aid and CPR delivered by Care Flight at Marlkawo. 19 people were supported to complete a certification in basic first aid training, with 15 people also certified in remote first aid. Access to such extensive training on country at Marlkawo provided important in-location upskilling for people as part of their job and as critical knowledge and skills for people who live large distances from clinical health and emergency services.

After being long-term cultural educators with Children's Ground, two First Nations staff expressed interest in undertaking a qualification in Western Early Childhood Education and Care. In 2023 they were supported to sign up with Charles Darwin University and have been engaging in their studies online from Marlkawo.

Significant financial coordination support was provided by Children's Ground around the funeral of the Elder who passed this year. Sharing the cost of funerals amongst family groups can be challenging to navigate and people are not often aware of the supports available. Children's Ground was able to identify local organisations which offer financial support for funeral costs and worked with families to navigate systems and access support to meet their cultural obligations.

One of the key challenges identified by family members is that due to communities being cut off by rain in the wet season, and due to the high levels of family loss, there is a long wait between people passing and a funeral. This means that family members are in the morgue for extended periods of time and this cost places a significant burden on families. These are some of the systems challenges and financial inequities that we want to understand better and resolve at a systems level as they contribute to economic hardship and emotional stress.



## Community Development and Wellbeing



Our Community Development & Wellbeing platform was a significant focus in 2023 as we responded to local priorities and circumstances and continued to assess the small-scale homeland CG Approach model.

### 36 First Nations people engaged in Community Governance

Community governance continued to strengthen through ongoing development, refinement and review of Community Plans, including service and infrastructure needs, staff recruitment, policy development, reporting and evaluation.

2023 also saw the establishment of Malbak Aboriginal Corporation, with five family members as the Directors. The corporation development is a key strategy to self-determination. It is a charity with a focus on promoting health, education, housing, employment and social wellbeing for First Nations people living on Marlkawo homelands. Children's Ground supports the corporation members and management in a non-voting capacity. Malbak held its first AGM in November 2023. This has contributed to strengthening community governance and is building experience of families in Western governance systems.

2023 saw Warddeken Land Management Inc. work with the Marlkawo community to build another balabala to increase accommodation in the community. Families were involved in building the structures. This has been an important contribution to ongoing planning for sustainable living at Marlkawo.

Marlkawo has faced a challenging year with extended periods of closure for Sorry Business, mourning and feeling the loss of three senior women in the last three years. Significant cultural and community development support was provided to families to ensure that cultural obligations and ceremony relating to Sorry Business occurred, including support with logistics.

Children's Ground's place-based approach of being and delivering in and with community means that families feel comfortable and confident to share their worries and challenges with non-First Nations staff. It also means that when Sorry Business concludes, children and families return to delivering and engaging with Children's Ground quickly because they know that delivery and engagement will go at their pace through their leadership.



## Cultural and Creative Development and Wellbeing



At Marlkawo, all learning sessions occur on Country because people are living on their country. Cultural and Western learning occurs at the education balabala/centre in between family and staff houses and accommodation.

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**71** children and families engaged  
cultural learning and wellbeing  
on Country

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In-depth experiential and immersive language and cultural learning also occur on bush trips each week, including visits to sacred sites and ancestors.

On-Country learning bush trips bring everyone in the community together. On a few learning on-Country sessions, children and young people learned how to carve meat and prepare it for cooking in a ground oven. They learned how to collect kundulk (wood) and kunwarde (rocks) for the fire, different leaves to use for flavouring and the right bark to prepare the ground oven. They also learned how to monitor the ground oven to cook bulikki kunkanj (beef).

This year families created wurdurd's (children's) books to support cultural learning and knowledge being passed down to the younger generations. One of these resources identified five pivotal djang (sacred sites) drawing on the knowledge of recognised cultural knowledge holders with the authority to share this information. The first book tells the story of Djiurung Djiurung (Green Plum Man) and has been documented in both Kunwinjku and English.

While cultural learning and wellbeing sessions focus on children's education, First Nations young people and adults in their 20s-30s have reported enjoying and benefiting from learning cultural knowledge and practices alongside the children.



*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?'*

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**Roxanne Naborlhborlh,**  
Top End Cultural Governance



**Children's Ground teaches our kids in Balanda way (Western) and Bininj way (First Nations). This is what I have, and this is important to me for our kids.**

Cecily Djandjomerr,  
Wurdurd Garriygarrmerren Co-director

# Garramilla

## Darwin

In the Top End of the Northern Territory we are also led by communities on Larrakia Country in Garramilla (Darwin), including communities of:

- Knuckey Lagoon
- 15 Mile
- Minmarama and Kulaluk

### Regional summary

Children's Ground in Darwin remains in its early stages of delivery due to limited funding. Despite this, 2023 saw exciting developments in employment, governance, health and learning activities and community development.

374

children, young people and adults engaged with Children's Ground

A key focus this year has been on community development and governance. Community engagement and delivery at both 15 Mile and Knuckey Lagoon communities has been a highlight. Both communities have strengthened local governance and engagement through place-based delivery. This has led local leaders and families to become empowered in decision-making about their communities, for their children and families. It has also led to the emergence of effective coordination and interagency partnerships; with the service priorities determined by each community's respective plan and people.

***"I always say and advise anyone who is wanting to engage with our Town Communities (Knuckey Lagoon and 15 Mile/Palmerston Indigenous Village), you need to introduce yourself to the staff at Children's Ground. They have local community-based staff and strong relationships with all visiting stakeholders and community members."***

— **Mr Kevin Tilmouth**

Northern Territory Government, Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet, Regional Development Officer



From quarter three 2023, local community leaders of the Children's Ground team have convened and facilitated stakeholder meetings in Knuckey Lagoon and 15 Mile communities, ensuring the communities are at the centre of planning and decision making.

Conducting the 'Walk, Talk & Act' phase in early 2023 gave the Minmarama/Kulaluk community representatives an opportunity to formulate a clear vision of community aspirations and needs. It was a quiet year for delivery due to lack of community infrastructure and ill health of community members impacting governance. However, the walk and talk has renewed local governance and planning for 2024.



# The CG Approach in ACTION:

## Learning and Wellbeing

2023 saw Learning & Wellbeing continue and strengthen in 15 Mile and Knuckey Lagoon, enabled by community engagement breakfasts and events as part of the ongoing Walk, Talk & Act engagement approach.

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**56** children (0-5 years) engaged in learning alongside 64 family members (18+ years)

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In Knuckey Lagoon, for the first time we saw two fathers join early learning with their daughters. They attended almost all sessions and actively engaged in reading and cultural teaching with the children. It was spectacular to see how they enjoyed engaging with their children and all the little ones. The dads started engaging with Children's Ground through informal in-community events and activities such as community breakfasts and movie nights. At the end of the year, one of the dads played Santa at the Christmas party and end of year celebration.

Community leaders in the 15 Mile community raised concerns about low school engagement of primary school-aged children. Through collaboration with the local school, Children's Ground established an after-hours learning program in community each afternoon.

This initiative, endorsed by the local school, provided nine school-aged children with targeted mathematics and English learning, delivered by local community staff and a Western educator. The collaboration with local schools and participation in after-hours learning program activities led to an increase in school attendance among previously disengaged young people. A year on, all nine children are actively engaged in school. These after-hours learning sessions will continue in 2024 with a new group of children and young people disengaged from primary school. Of the nine young people, three were in Year 6 and successfully completed primary school at the end of 2023. They have also been enrolled in the local secondary school for 2024.

The initiation of this program also led to securing multiple grants for after-hours programs in additional communities, including Youth Leadership funding which has enabled the employment of local young leaders to oversee and run these programs. Being able to support our young people has been a priority for our families.

***Communities feel like they have a voice now. They know that Children's Ground is here for the people. It's not an organisation that comes in and tells them what to do.***

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**Pauline 'Paw Paw' Grant,**  
Children's Ground Learning, Health and Wellbeing Support



# The CG Approach in ACTION:

## Health and Wellbeing

While only in early-stage delivery, Darwin communities continued to provide health promotion and support, working with communities to plan key priority areas and deliver universal health integrated into early learning and targeted health with individuals and family groups.

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**304** people engaged in health promotion and support (including 66 children aged 0-5 years)

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This year Children's Ground launched two community laundries – one at 15 Mile and one at Knuckey Lagoon. The laundry has become an important contribution to environmental health, enabling families to do their washing while the children and women engage in early years learning and women's group. The laundries are run by community staff. Having a laundry fosters healthy routines, supports good environmental health and supports social and emotional wellbeing. A lack of secure white goods is an issue in many communities and the important initiative has allowed families access to a laundry facility which is critical to health.

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**113** people were supported to engage with clinical health

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The Health Team developed a partnership with Danila Dilba Health Service (DDHS) to support access to health checks and ongoing clinical support in communities, bridging access to the clinic by bringing the clinic to the community. Visits to the clinic in community were embedded in wider Children's Ground session delivery.

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**270** people engaged in nutrition education and increased nutritional intake (incl. 62 children)

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Nutrition continues to be a health prevention priority. The partnership with Danila Dilba enabled Children's Ground to develop a targeted nutrition program to respond to a lack of important iron and minerals in children. As well as increasing nutritional intake, nutrition education and health promotion conversations happened with children and families in learning sessions and while preparing meals.

Our Learning team also worked with the Health team to create age-appropriate activities to teach children about their organs and bones, and what healthy foods are needed to keep them working well.

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**153** people engaged maternal and child health promotion

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Maternal and child health promotion and support was again a key priority for Darwin communities this year. Activities and support included:

- infant health education and support;
- family support;
- health information sharing to support strong maternal and child health behaviour;
- antenatal and post-natal education;
- hygiene health promotion and support;
- vaccination drives;
- supported clinic visits for health checks;
- medication support; and,
- linking mothers and families with external Maternal and child services.

Maternal health and social/emotional wellbeing support also occurred through the Women's Group established at Knuckey Lagoon.

2023 also saw the establishment of a Young Alidju (women) Group in 15 Mile, led by local First Nations women and supported by the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) specialist. This group was a safe space for young and adult women to come together to engage in sexual health education and support, including healthy relationships, mental health promotion, sexual health and wellbeing and cultural health practices. All young women whose families identified as being the right age within 15 Mile were engaged; as more young women grow and develop in community, local First Nations staff expect the group to expand.



**74** people in engaged social/emotional wellbeing promotion and support

Young women expressed that Alidju Group was a safe space for asking questions and learning about sexual health. The cultural leader said the girls felt comfortable discussing topics like women's business, periods and sexual health.

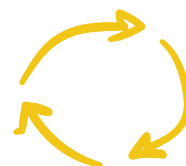
Social/emotional wellbeing is embedded within all Children's Ground service areas and environments.

This year the social/emotional wellbeing workers facilitated staff wellbeing sessions with a focus on self-care and wellbeing. They also worked closely with families, engaging with children and families in therapeutic counselling sessions. They further worked with families to develop safety and wellbeing plans when required by families, particularly with people living at risk of harm.



# The CG Approach in ACTION:

## Economic Development and Wellbeing



First Nations employment from local communities in Darwin is limited due to limited resources. However, there are First Nations staff working regularly from each community in a flexible employment model. We have young staff working from communities, for most this is their first job – they are working and their children are engaging in learning.

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**18** First Nations people employed with Children's Ground

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We continue to work towards increasing local First Nations employment as an evidenced enabler for community governance, leadership and most importantly for cultural safety in design and delivery of the CG Approach.

All community-based staff were supported with employment, including financial planning and money management. Children's Ground's payroll system provides opportunities for people to plan and manage their wages, including choices to receive portions of wages as food vouchers or divert some of their pay to savings. These individual choices can change week-by-week based on their priorities and circumstances.

In 2023, all staff engaged in a range of training and professional development opportunities. Including formal and informal training, delivered internally and by external providers.

Staff participated in job-related mandatory and compliance training as well as individualised learning opportunities.

This included computer literacy training and social/emotional wellbeing sessions around self-care and wellbeing.

Two staff were supported to obtain their drivers licence which is valuable in their working and personal lives.

In June, 15 Mile community hosted a 'Practice Exchange' as part of the World Community Development Conference held in Darwin. The community leaders were proud to host over 30 national and international conference delegates. The community prepared a ground oven that cooked lunch while the delegates participated in an Early Years learning session run by cultural and Western educators. Over lunch, First Nations community leaders held a Q&A session with the visitors. The leaders shared information about the CG Approach, how and why it is important in their communities, and its impact on their children and families.

This was a great experience for many of our First Nations leaders and staff, and contributed to building confidence in public speaking. It was also affirming for their leadership and an opportunity to celebrate and showcase the amazing work and leadership within their community, and other Children's Ground communities.



## Community Development and Wellbeing



This year saw an increase in place-based community governance, in addition to Darwin and Top End regional governance. Local First Nations people have been actively engaged in making decisions about Children's Ground for their children, families and whole community.

### 50 First Nations people engaged in community governance

In-community governance was enabled by engaging family and community members in a range of informal social events and activities that are based on the interests of different groups. Knuckey Lagoon community leaders identified that we deliver activities and provide spaces for children, but not as much for young people and adults. Community activities and events included in-community movie nights, community breakfasts and establishing a Women's Group. The Women's Group started meeting at the community centre while learning was occurring with children and families at the same time. Both groups then came together for lunch, turning the community centre into a hub of activity and energy!

Regular meetings of the Women's Group at the community centre led to Knuckey Lagoon holding their first in-community governance group that brought together men and women with representatives from almost all houses in the community.

Community leaders in Minmarama also held movie nights as a fun and social activity for people to engage with. Such events provide opportunities to bring people together in their communities, in informal and social activities which are key to our 'Walk, Talk & Act' community engagement process. This is an ongoing feature of the CG Approach to continue building social capital and connectedness within communities.

Children's Ground's community-based staff at 15 Mile and Knuckey Lagoon communities began holding bi-monthly community stakeholder gatherings. These are opportunities for local services and other stakeholders to hear from the community about their priorities for services and supports, based on their community plans and priorities. These meetings also support a 'Supporting Young People working group' focusing on listening to what young people want in community.

Knuckey Lagoon and 15 Mile continue to become place-based through the development and revitalisation of buildings and space. Both communities now have functional community centres. The centres operate daily, hosting early years learning sessions and inter-agency collaborative meetings. Minmarama does not have a community centre or adequate communal areas for children, young people and families. This creates serious challenges in achieving place based delivery and uplifting local governance and community centred events and activities.



## Cultural and Creative Development and Wellbeing



Due to the impact of colonisation, many people living in Darwin and in the communities leading Children's Ground are not living on their Country. Some families are impacted generationally by the Stolen Generation. Nevertheless, culture and identity remains as strong as in any Children's Ground community.

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**212** children and families engaged in cultural learning and wellbeing on Country

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This year community leaders discussed where on country learning can occur, ensuring all cultural protocols are being followed. They also discussed the revitalisation of languages. There are many languages spoken across the communities. There are a few language speakers for some languages and other languages have no current language speakers. Each community and language group must determine how they want to strengthen and revive language and this is an ongoing journey.

Learning on Country trips occurred in and around Darwin as a regular part of our early years program. Community leaders identified where the country and traditional lands of children were and planned learning session content based on each country. Throughout the year learning on-Country was delivered across these areas. For some, learning occurred on the country of other people, with permission and respect.

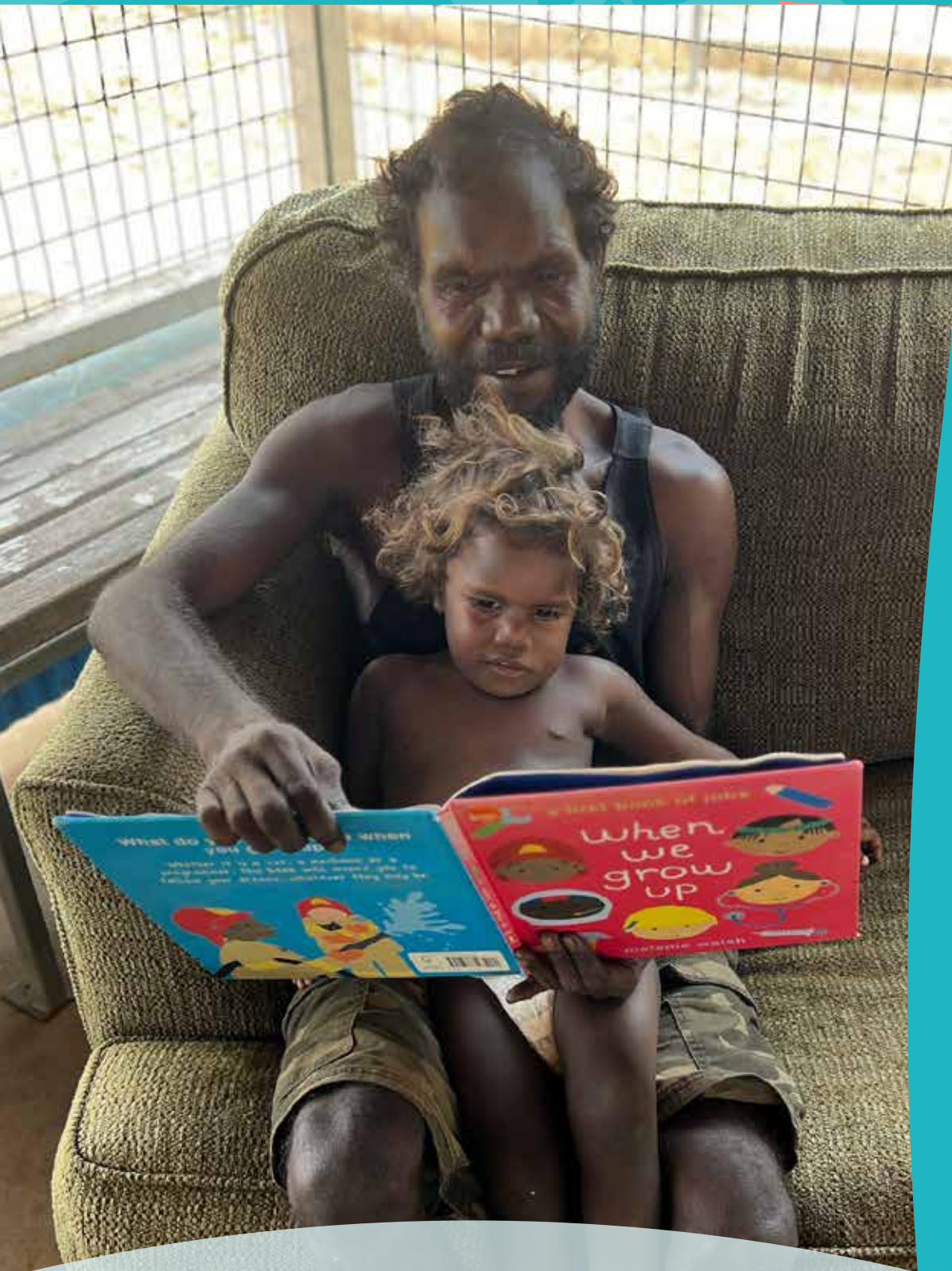
In the Young Alidju Group, more than five language groups are represented. During these group sessions, cultural health experts shared their knowledge on cultural protocols and women's business with young girls who were connected to various countries but live on one shared country. The conversation delved into the significance of this shared country and its associated cultural story, while acknowledging the diverse cultural knowledge present across different regions. This example underscores the ongoing complexities and nuances involved in navigating cultural practices and knowledge sharing, where considerations such as language, cultural authority, and regional diversity contribute to the intricacies of the process.

However, this has not prevented the young women learning their First Languages and culture.

Over a number of sessions, the group annotated the human body in both English and a number of First Languages, integrating health promotion conversations about body parts, organs, reproductive health and overall wellbeing. Multiple language holders supported the young women, fostering intergenerational knowledge sharing. This is an example of integrated practice through Children's Ground, where young women are learning about health and learning their First Language.

Darwin community leaders reflect on the challenges of not having many, and in some places no, First Language speakers in their communities. The impact of colonisation has devastated First Language in this region. Leaders have been discussing how to revive languages into 2024 and beyond. As communities work through these challenges, Children's Ground learning is centred on first cultural learning practices and knowledge, learning on-Country, and combining this with Western learning.





**It's given me confidence and it's helped me believe in myself and my own judgement.**

Knuckey Lagoon community member reflecting on their growing confidence to support the health and wellbeing of their three children.

# Children's stories

Ja'shaelyn



Evidence shows that when children learn through their First Language and culture, they will perform better in education, will have improved social and emotional wellbeing, will more likely stay in school and will improve the empowerment and engagement of families in their learning.

At Irrkerlantye sessions, Ja'shaelyn is a bright and keen attendee. She listens and learns from her family and Elders, bringing her joyful energy to every learning session.

Ja'shaelyn has been spending more time on her Country, exploring, playing and developing knowledge of land. She is starting to recognise significant locations. When the bus turns off the highway to go to Mt Undoolya, Ja'shaelyn exclaims "Mt Undoolya". Ja'shaelyn is becoming aware that language, kinship and identity connects to Country. She is starting to understand that language identifies who she is - Arrernte and Anmatyerr.

At Children's Ground, her family and cultural educators watch as she grows into a strong child. They are teaching her to smoke herself and collect the bush

medicines arrethe (rock fuchsia), utnerrenge (emu bush) and aherre-intenhe (harlequin fuchsia).

She is developing a love for books and reading in both English and Arrernte. After listening to someone read her a story, Ja'shaelyn will quickly go back to the start of the book, turn the pages and retell the story using the pictures and her memory.

Ja'shaelyn enjoys communicating using painting, drawing, dancing and songs, especially drawing pictures and telling her educators who she has drawn (often her family). One of her favourite songs is Akaperte pwerlepe. Akaperte pwerlepe is a Children's Ground version of 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes'. The song is sung in language to immerse children and families in learning through music.



**Winston**

Winston has been coming to Children's Ground for many years. At Children's Ground he's grown into a smart and confident learner. He's most happy being on Country, connecting and learning from his family.

Through Children's Ground's partnership with Yipirinya School, Winston learns with his family and is supported by cultural and Western educators, both on-Country and in town.

Winston's comprehension and ability with Arrernte language is developing as he spends more time around his family. He's learning about thiye (birds), the different species and what they look like. He also learns about bush medicines, collecting and crushing different ingredients to make medicine for himself and others.

Winston has been learning that each Country has its own medicinal plants and is learning their names - arrethe, utnerrenge and ilpengke. Winston has learnt his skin name, Kngwarraye and Penangke. He knows how he's connected to Burt Creek and his Country through his kinship. This gives him pride and care for the land; he knows Country looks after him and he looks after Country.

As Winston has become older, his educators have watched him become a caring, older sibling. He brings his younger siblings to Children's Ground sessions and helps them learn. Repeating instructions and sitting by them as they play, he keeps them calm and happy.

Winston's stand out project for 2023 was drawing a map of his apmere (houses and community area). On the map he showed the educators where people live and where different community areas were located. Winston loves sharing his success and being celebrated.



**Melarli**

Melarli lives between her two Countries - Ti Tree and Hidden Valley. At Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe (Children's Ground Central Australia) she learns how to respect her countries and how to walk on them.

When Melarli first came to Children's Ground she was very shy. With support, her confidence has grown. Now she never misses sessions. She is very excited to learn and grow.

Melarli's favourite activity is sand play. She sits with her grandmother Marita and they make mud cakes together. Melarli stirs, mixes and pours sand and water. She is getting strong hands and good coordination. Melarli is learning Warlpari and Arrernte languages with the help of her mother, father and grandparents.

As Melarli grows and spends more time on her Country, she develops a strong, harmonious relationship with it. The Country listens to her, as do her ancestors. One day she will be able to hear them.

Melarli is growing stronger and developing life-long skills to be a proud and confident person.

Evidence shows that the quality of family engagement in a child's life and early education is one of the most powerful predictors of a child's development. Learning and wellbeing research links this engagement to empowerment of parents within the child's learning journey, improved family well-being, improved cognitive development, learning performance, social-emotional development, and health. Family engagement is critical in high-quality early childhood care.

# Children's stories



**Verna**

Verna always arrives to education sessions with a beaming smile and a keen curiosity about the day's learnings.

She has developed a good relationship with one of the other children who regularly attends Children's Ground sessions and they now love to do everything together.

Verna loves to play with water and has started using English words to express herself.

Verna's family have taught her her skin name which they use to refer to her at home and during learning sessions. She loves playing with dolls, telling them her name and practicing her conversation skills.

Verna loves to read with her dad. She will choose a book from the shelf that she wants to read and helps turn the pages. She talks about the pictures to help tell the story.

Verna can wash her hands and brush her teeth independently. She goes to the sink and uses the stool to help her reach the basin. She always uses soap to wash her hands and makes sure she cleans them anytime she's finished playing or preparing and eating food.

Her educators and parents say that Verna has become more confident and independent during her time at Children's Ground.



**Gregory**

Gregory enjoys attending early years learning sessions at Marlkawo homeland, and is always excited about doing his healthy routine - cleaning his teeth, eyes and blowing his nose.

He is beginning to learn Kunwinjku, his First Language. He has learnt the names of his different body parts, and is beginning more complex learnings like distinguishing between emotions, first articulating them in English and then translating them in Kunwinjku.

He loves asking people how they feel and is improving at listening to their responses.

Gregory initiates learning by asking to read books and trace letters. He can identify and name various objects starting with the 's' and 'm' sound and loves sharing this knowledge with his dad.

Since starting with Children's Ground, Gregory has learnt the concept of fairness and how to be kind to others and take turns when playing. He enjoys playing Kunwinjku memory games focused on animals that are found in Marlkawo and often hunted for bush tucker.

Recently Gregory has been learning about the significant bim (art) sites around his Homeland. His father and uncles have been teaching him when learning and walking on-Country.

Experiential learning is a foundation to First Nations learning and considered leading practice in early childhood learning and care. Children are learning through Apmerengentyele - the Arrernte world view - which teaches them how to learn, how to be, how they are connected and their responsibilities to both the land and to people. This begins from birth. Through this they learn information, knowledge and skills. Learning is about creating the space for children to become who they are meant to become. To ensure that their spirit and sense of belonging is firm. This is foundational to their social and emotional wellbeing for life and allows a child to open their minds and bodies to learning.

## Mason

First Nations people have the oldest early childhood and learning systems in the world, with practices, standards and expertise that are leading practice.

Mason has been coming to Children's Ground since he was one month old. He regularly attends sessions at Yarrenyty Arltere and frequently visits the Children's Ground office when his mother Nanette is working. He's often the youngest person at governance meetings!

Mason is learning West Arrarnta language so he can better learn the cultures of his family. Mason asks for "apa" when he wants kwatja (water). He is also learning to say yes and no, often wagging his finger and saying "itja" (no).

Mason can understand some English and Luritja, and is learning to communicate his needs through verbal and non-verbal cues like hand signals. Nanette teaches Mason language through song.

Mason is happiest when he's on-Country, regularly visiting Peyperintja and Kwale Kwale. He is proud when he's on-Country. He likes to dig in the sand and mix it together with water, feeling new textures and sensations.

Mason has been doing lots of cultural learning on-Country with family and friends. He recently went on a trip to the Ochre Pits where Elders taught Mason and the other ampa (kids) how to find, crush and mix ochre with water to make a paste. He was excited to paint the ochre paste on his skin.

Mason's Great Grandma Dulcie has been teaching him about bush foods, including yirrampa (honey ant). On a trip with Yarrenyty Arltere families, Mason helped dig a big hole to find yirrampa. Now it's one of his favourite foods.

Nanette wants Mason to keep learning about his skin name and his dreaming. Mason's dreaming is irnparrka (centipede).

He's learning these things so he can grow up strong, so he can be connected to culture and know where he is from and who his family is.

# Research and evidence

Children's Ground recognises the history of First Nations people being the subjects rather than leaders of First Nations focused research. Children's Ground upholds the principles and practice of data and evaluation sovereignty, working to achieve this fully. This includes a full participatory approach to research and evaluation. It's conducted with and by First Nations people with First Nations families, working alongside non-First Nations staff with Western research qualifications.

In this way First Nations people are at the centre of research, in design, execution, analysis and communication.

## First Nations Cultural Maternal & Child Health

Children's Ground was awarded an innovation grant from the Medical Research Futures Fund to research and improve Maternal and Child health experiences for First Nations people. In 2022-2023 Children's Ground's First Nations leaders and Research team undertook a research project to understand, map and articulate cultural maternal and child health (MCH) knowledge and practices, and First Nations people's experiences of Western MCH services and systems.

Titled **Arelhe ante areyele arntarnte-arelhetyeke ampe akweke arle atnyenetyenheke** (Women guiding women having babies), the research was conducted with First Nations leaders and cultural authorities connected to Children's Ground across three regions of the Northern Territory (Central Australia, West Arnhem and Darwin).

A key research output was a culturally centred MCH framework that could be used nationally to provide guidance and practice examples.

This framework will be available to multiple audiences to support First Nations mothers, babies, women and families to access culturally responsive and centred MCH knowledge systems and practices.

The framework is being finalised and will be ready for public release by mid-2024.

The information gathered throughout the research, and the framework, are being used by First Nations women in communities leading the CG Approach.

Cherisse Buzzacott (Head of Health and Wellbeing, Central Australia) and Amunda Gorey presented 'Arelhe ante areyele arntarnte-arelhetyeke ampe akweke arle atnyenetyenheke: Women guiding women who are going to have babies' Maternal Child Health Cultural Research Framework at the SNAICC 2023 Conference in Garramilla (Darwin).



**Ampe mape putyele aneme mwerre anthurre. Utnenge itnekenhe rltterke ileme apmere arenye mapele itne akaltye irreme itneke-artweye mapenge.**

*When we have our children out bush it's much better, they are away from town and on their country. Their spirits are settled. They learn much more, the families are there and leading the teaching.*

---

Cathy Turner,  
Arrernte Cultural Early Years Educator

## Cultural learning impacts Western learning

With research funding from AIATSIS, in 2022-2023 Children's Ground's First Nations leaders and Research team developed, validated and piloted a culturally safe and appropriate, strength-based, summative child learning and wellbeing measurement tool.

Titled **Nthakenhe ampe akweke akalbye-irreme** (How our little children learn), the tool collects data about the cultural and Western learning and wellbeing of First Nations children across the following domains and sub-domains:

- **Tyerrtye-kenhe Iterrentye** (Cultural knowledge and learning): Country. Family and Kinship. Plants and animals. Intergenerational learning. Cultural ways of teaching and learning.
- **Akalbye Irretyeke & Arne Mpwaretyeke** (Learning, Exploring and Creative): Approaches to learning.
- **Arntarnte arelheme** (Looking after self/safety).
- **Utnenge & Ingkerrenyeke Anyenteke-Irreme** (Spirit and Social): Social and Emotional.
- **Angkentye** (Language): General verbal communication (in main Aboriginal language and English).
- **Iterrentye** (Mind): Formal.

Statistical validation assessed the way each domain changes compared to others. If they go up together and down together that means they are correlated.

Findings from the initial pilot demonstrated that the Cultural Knowledge domain is strongly correlated to all other learning outcomes - numeracy, reading, writing, communication, as well as approaches to learning. There is also a correlation to social and emotional wellbeing.

### Key finding

Being strong in cultural knowledge means you will be strong with other learning and wellbeing outcomes.

The tool was validated culturally (First Nations Elders and cultural knowledge holders) and statistically (Professor Sally Brinkman, University of South Australia).

Child Learning & Wellbeing data is collected by First Nations and Western educators together.



## Research partnership with The Remedy Project

Since 2022, Children's Ground has partnered with The Remedy Project ([remedyproject.org](https://remedyproject.org)) to research 'First Nations Music as a Determinant of Health'. The project honours the historical role of music as a cultural remedy in First Nations healing and ceremony and reflects the resolute strength of First Nations musical practices despite ongoing colonisation.

The Remedy team has epitomised how research can, and should be undertaken with First Nations people. Children's Ground's First Nations researchers and leaders are involved in all levels of research, from approving the project's approach, to informing yarning questions and surveys, to undertaking and supporting data collection and data analysis.

In Cairns, on the lands of the Gimuy-walubarra Yidi people, two First Nations leaders, Amunda Gorey and Veronica Doolan presented alongside the Remedy team at the Lowitja Institute International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference.

The Remedy Project research team, including current and former community researchers from Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe (Children's Ground Central Australia), was awarded the 2023 Griffith University Pro Vice Chancellor and Vice Chancellor's awards for Research Excellence in a team.

The award recognises the team enacting leading principles for First Nations research, transforming research practices, creating new spaces for Indigenist and creative arts-health research at Griffith University and participating organisations.

The Remedy team and Children's Ground Research & Evaluation team recently published an article about research process and will continue to collaborate and share research findings on the value of First Nations music for health, wellbeing, and healing.



## Children's Ground evaluation workshop

In September, members of Children's Ground's Research & Evaluation team facilitated a successful full day workshop at the Australian Evaluation Society Conference.

Amunda Gorey and Veronica Doolan (Arrernte First Nations researchers), and Jen Lorains (non-First Nations researcher) shared how Children's Ground is working to ensure not just First Nations data sovereignty, but also First Nations ownership and sovereignty in all research and evaluation about, and with, First Nations people.

The workshop shared the strengths, successes and challenges of doing evaluation with, and by, First Nations communities. The delegation received overwhelmingly positive feedback about the workshop.

Kiri Parata, President of the Australian Evaluation Society, chaired the workshop. She reflected:

*You shared examples of best practice when describing the work of Children's Ground... You did this with such grace and humility. Many of the principles and values and the way in which you work seem natural, and the right way to do things from an Indigenous perspective. It seems we could all learn and apply these values in our everyday life, in our homes, in our workplaces, with our communities... You provided us with hope for change in Australia.*



## Wiyi Yani U Thangani National Summit

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In Canberra on Ngunnawal and Ngambri Country, four of Children's Ground's female First Nations leaders presented at the Wiyi Yani U Thangani National Summit. Children's Ground First Nations leaders presented 'Country is our classroom', discussing the importance and evidence of First Nations led, designed and evaluated learning across the early years, guided by Apmerengentyele which is a complex system of knowledge and practice that underpins a First Nations world view – this is a shared foundation of a First Nations education system.

With over 800 First Nations women delegates, the team shared and learned from each other over a week of empowering and celebrating First Nations women from across Australia.



## World Community Development Conference

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In Darwin on Larrakia country, three First Nations leaders delivered two presentations at the World Community Development Conference on First Nations community governance and decision-making and the CG Approach.

On the last day of the World Community Development Conference, the Children's Ground's community of 15 Mile held a practice exchange, hosting 20-30 conference delegates in their community. From early in the morning they prepared a ground oven which cooked away while the delegates participated in an early years learning session run by cultural and Western educators. Over lunch community leaders and other Children's Ground First Nations staff held a Q&A session with the visitors.



# National leadership and systems reform

Historically, the voices of those in community, who speak English as another language and who do not have the economic, cultural or political power are not heard. Through both our research and in our leadership development, we aim to empower our young people and adults in all arenas to share their voice. We are excited by the leadership shown across generations and that the future of Children's Ground will be in the hands of community for generations to come.

## Children's Ground leaders recognised at 2023 NAIDOC Awards

During 2023 NAIDOC Week, Children's Ground's leaders across generations were honoured with a number of awards.

Our founding Chair, William Tilmouth was awarded NAIDOC National 'Male Elder of the Year.' For the ceremony, held in Meanjin (Brisbane), William invited two young men and next generation leaders from our communities, Edmond and Mitchell Doolan, to accept the prestigious award on his behalf.

It was an amazing opportunity for these young men, and they soaked up the attention and the wonderful national celebration of First Peoples.

As reported in section 'Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe' five Children's Ground First Nations leaders were recognised for their contribution to community with local NAIDOC Awards for Youth leadership, Caring for Country and Culture and Community Impact.



## Global social justice champion visits Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe

Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe and families were honoured by a special three-day visit by Dame Graça Machel in June. A global Elder, Graça is one of the world's leading social justice champions. She is a former freedom fighter and Education Minister of Mozambique and is a founding member of the global Elders, founded by her late husband, Nelson Mandela.

As a founding member of the global Elders, Graça commits her brilliance and time to achieving and upholding peace and human rights around the world. She has fought the greatest humanitarian injustices in the world, and she supports the rights and development of women throughout Africa through the Graça Machel Trust.

She was hosted in Australia by Igniting Change, one of our key partners, and we thank Jane Tewson, Igniting Change and the Graça Machel Trust for making the visit possible. Graça spent her three days in Central Australia with Arrernte Elders, leaders, children and families on Arrernte Country, connecting through land, ancestry and history. Culminating in a night on-Country, enjoying traditional food, dancing and singing, all of Children's Ground's Central Australian communities came together to share time with Graça. It was an incredible coming together of powerful women and deep spiritual connection that will remain forever.



## Sharing our voice at a time of unrest

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Early in the year there was a flood of negative stories about Mparntwe (Alice Springs) across all media accompanied by fraught public discussion of First Nations young people, alcohol, and long-running social unrest.

This period highlighted the critical issues that First Nations children and families live with daily.

Children's Ground families spoke with media throughout this period, offering lived experience and calling for respect and support for their solutions.

Unfortunately, media coverage failed to show the long-awaited solutions, or the incredible strength and resilience of First Nations people. A powerful statement was released by Children's Ground and Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation, highlighting the challenges and calling for genuine partnership to change the status quo and create a different reality for the next generation.

Our leaders worry constantly for young people and are frustrated by the lack of political will to back immediate solutions. We applauded the strong voices of our leaders at Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe (Children's Ground Central Australia) who engaged with local, national and international media during this time, including publishing an opinion piece in The Guardian and being featured on the ABC.

They shared the perspectives of communities who experience the complex daily reality that our First Nations leaders are working to change through Children's Ground. William Tilmouth, Children's Ground Chair, Cherisse Buzzacott, Children's Ground Head of Health and Wellbeing, Felicity Hayes, Senior Arrernte Educator and Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe Co-Director and Jane Vadiveloo, Children's Ground CEO were featured across a range of media outlets including The Drum, SBS, ABC News, the Guardian, Crikey and the French news outlet Le Monde.



## In My Blood It Runs Book launch

In November 2023, Children's Ground Central Australia welcomed the Mparntwe (Alice Springs) community to the launch of the book *In My Blood It Runs*, authored by Djuwan Hoosan, Carol Turner and Margaret Anderson and illustrated by Dhungutti artist and Archibald-winner Blak Douglas.

The book follows the acclaimed documentary featuring Djuwan and his family as he navigates life as a First Nations boy in Central Australia.

It was a wonderful celebration of a young man finding his voice, first through film and now through this important book. The book is based on the film by director Maya Newell in partnership with Children's Ground. It amplifies the voice and truth of children and young people, the complex threats they face in a system not designed for them and the fear they experience. But mostly it celebrates the power of family, love and culture.

On the night of the launch, ampe (children) took part in a drawing workshop with Blak Douglas to create his iconic flat-bottomed clouds. Meanwhile, the young people got involved in a bush-wok cook-off to make kangaroo, chicken and vegetable curries for dinner.

The large audience of supporters watched a performance from young Arrernte dancers before hearing powerful speeches by Djuwan and Carol, Blak Douglas and Children's Ground Chair William Tilmouth. The special evening finished with a big chocolate cake and all Children's Ground families taking home a signed copy of the book.



## The M.K. Turner Report launch

Education reform is a key area of systems reform being promoted by Children's Ground and Utyerre Apanpe (a national First Nations Educators' Network). Two weeks after the passing of Dr M.K. Turner OAM, The M.K. Turner Report was launched with First Nations educators at the annual Utyerre Apanpe gathering in July. This important report, named in her honour, presents a First Nations review and recommendations for First Nations education reform. It was designed to sit in parallel to the Gonski Education Reports.

Co-designed with over 60 First Nations educators from Utyerre Apanpe, and supported by strong local and international evidence and the United Nations Declaration of Rights for Indigenous People (UNDRIP), the report offers six recommendations and outcomes to Australian governments. The key recommendation is for governments to commit to the establishment of a new First Nations education system, governed by First Nations people.

The M.K. Turner Report was launched and presented to Australian politicians and key figures at Parliament House in February 2024.



# Governance

## A dual governance structure: cultural and corporate governance

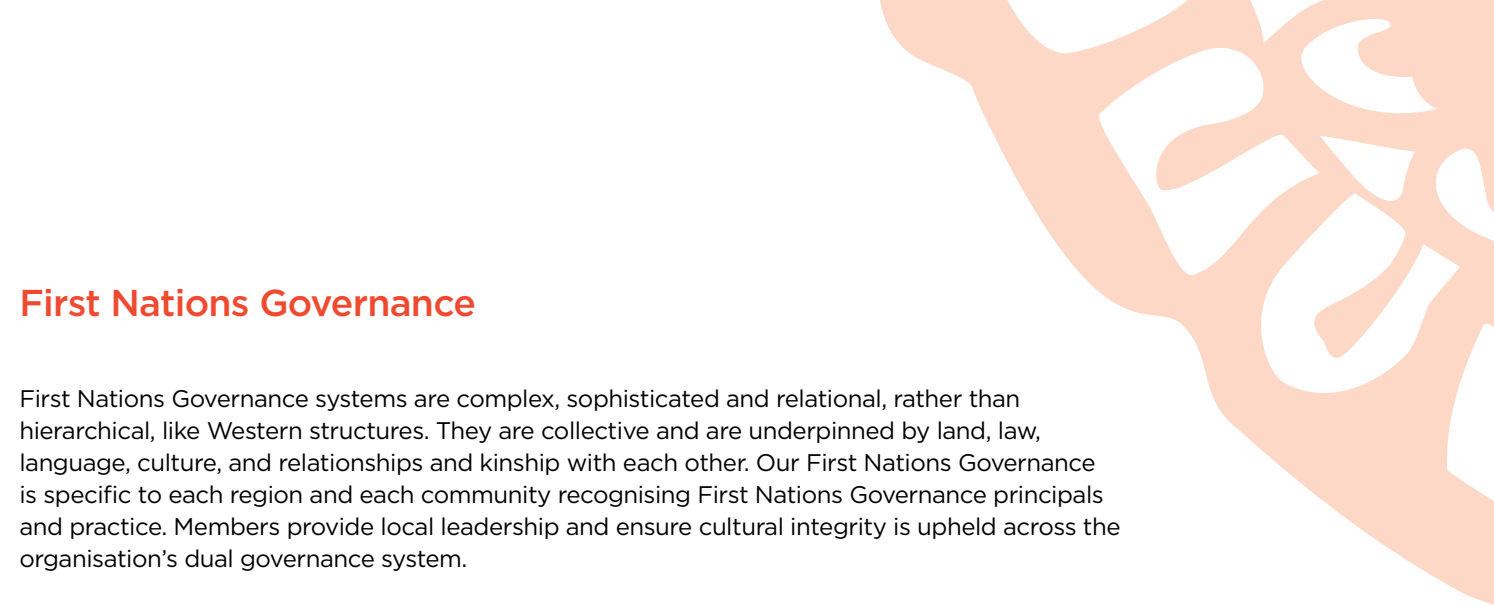
Balancing cultural and corporate governance ensures we have the cultural integrity, community leadership and organisational quality and standards to achieve real change.

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

Our national Children's Ground Ltd. 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.





## First Nations Governance

First Nations Governance systems are complex, sophisticated and relational, rather than hierarchical, like 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. Members provide local leadership and ensure cultural integrity is upheld across the organisation’s dual governance system.

Our governance includes all First Nations people who have participated in Children’s Ground and our governance meetings. Here we are naming key Elders and senior cultural authorities and next generation leaders who have been instrumental to our local leadership and the integrity of our work in 2023. Please see our list of staff which includes a broader list of First Nations community members who have contributed to governance this year.

### Central Australia

#### **Ingkerrekele Arntarnte-areme** *Everyone Being Responsible*

M.K. Turner (dec. 2023)	Rosario Young
Kwementyaye Ryder (dec. 2023)	Alison Ferber
Dulcie Sharpe	Michael Gorey
Eva Hayes	William Lowah
T. Inkamala (dec. 2023)	Cassandra Neil
Susan Chalmers	Natassia Ferber-Gorey
Felicity Hayes (Co-Director)	Louise Robertson
Veronica Turner (Co-Director)	Cathy Turner
Marita McMillan	Cherisse Buzzacott
C Turner	Christine Doolan
Marlene Rubuntja	Mitchell Doolan
Blanche Ebatarinja	Edmond Doolan
	Veronica Doolan
	Amunda Gorey
	Melarli Gorey

### West Arnhem

#### **Karridjarrkre manborlh mankudji** *Walking together on one path*

Djaykuk Djandjomerr	Annie Cameron
Cecily Djandjomerr	Christianna Djandjomerr
Shirley Djandjomerr	Christine Alangale
Raymond Guymala	Kamahl Hunter
Kaylene Djandjomerr	Kimberley Namarnyilk
Roxanne Naborlhborlh	Lee Nabarlambarl
May Nango	Lindsey Whitehurst
Angela Bangarr	Duane Djandjomerr
Alio Guymala	Sonya Nango

### Darwin

Jackie Treves	Kathleen Thomsen
Pauline Grant	Bridgette Beer
Jacqui Goodman	Michelle Nelson
Esther Kenyon	Lorelle Shadforth
Talitha Goodman	Phillip Goodman

## 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.

### **Dr M.K. Turner OAM (dec.)**

Arrernte Elder, founding Elder of Children's Ground, cultural, educational and linguistic specialist.

### **Amunda Gorey**

Arrernte woman, Board member and member of the People and Culture Subcommittee.

### **Dr Jordan Cory**

Kamilaroi woman, BSc, MBBS, GDip Surgical Anatomy, 2020 Fulbright Future Scholar, MPH '21 Candidate, Harvard University. Member of the Research Advisory Group.

### **John Lochowiak:**

Pitjantjatjara man, BA of Education, Board member.

### **Annalee Stearne**

Nyungar woman, Post Grad Dip Public Health, Health Sciences; Grad Dip Secondary Education, Education; BA Aboriginal and Intercultural Studies. Member of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

### **Joanne Willmott OAM**

Wakka Wakka woman, activist and educational specialist.

### **Jane Vadiveloo**

BSc, MPsy (Forensic), CEO, member of the Finance, Audit & Risk Subcommittee, member of the Partnerships, Investment and Communications 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.

### **Amy Poynton**

BA, MBA, Board member, Chair of the People and Culture Subcommittee, member of the Finance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee.

### **Josie Rizza**

CA, BEc, GradDipAppFinInv, GAICD - Board member, member of the Finance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee and member of the Partnerships, Investment and Communications Subcommittee.

### **Clive Ringler**

BEc, MCom, ASX Accredited Adviser, Level 1 & 2 - Board Deputy Chair, Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee.

## **Board and subcommittee non-voting members**

### **Mr Tony Lawler**

BPharm, JP, Member of Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

### **Ms Cindy Wei**

External member of the Partnerships, Investment and Communications Subcommittee.

We've got many different leaders amongst Children's Ground. We work across different platforms such as learning, health, economic development, community development and cultural development. Across those five platforms, this is a whole systems approach to reform. So, we're trying to overhaul the whole system that works with First Nations people and design our own future for our kids, to try to have that generational change.

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### **Cherisse Buzzacott,**

Children's Ground Head of Health and First Nations Governance - Central Australia

## 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 Fiona Arney**

Director, Positive Futures Research and Arney Chong Consulting.

### **Professor Sally Brinkman**

Professor of Education and Paediatric Epidemiology, University of South Australia.

### **Mr Matthew James**

Senior Executive, Deputy CEO, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

### **Dr Tim Moore**

Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Community Child Health, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.

### **Professor Sven Silburn**

(ret. previously) Director, Centre for Child Development and Education, Menzies School of Health Research.

### **Associate Professor David Thomas**

Head, Wellbeing and Preventable Chronic Disease, Menzies School of Health Research.

### **Professor Komla Tsey**

Tropical Leader/Research Professor, The Cairns Institute and College Arts Society and Education, James Cook University, Bebegu Yumba campus.

Komla retired from the Research Advisory Group in November 2023. Children's Ground thanks him for his years of contribution.

### **Dr Jordan Corey**

BSc, MBBS, GDip Surgical Anatomy, MPH '21 Candidate, Harvard University, 2020 Fulbright Future Scholar, Director of Children's Ground Board.

### **William Tilmouth**

Arrernte man, founding Chair of Children's Ground, Board Chair and Chair of Research Advisory Group.

### **Jane Vadiveloo**

BSc, MPsy (Forensic), CEO of Children's Ground.

### **Convenor**

### **Jen Lorains**

Director, Research and Evaluation - Children's Ground.

## 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.

# Ambassadors

Children's Ground ambassadors use their voices and platforms to grow our profile, further our reach and add weight to our advocacy and fundraising. Through their public position in the community, this fantastic group of people advocate for change for First Nations families.

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.

Our influencers, ambassadors and supporters are a key part of the Children's Ground family.



## **Dan Sultan**

An Arrernte/Gurindji man, Dan Sultan is a musician, writer, performer, artist and six time ARIA Award winner. In 2023 he again hosted a fundraising auction of two one-of-one Fender guitars for Children's Ground, in partnership with Fender and artists David Cragg and Salty One. It's a privilege to have Dan's ongoing support.



## **The Teskey Brothers**

This year the internationally recognised musical duo The Teskey Brothers held a livestreamed concert from Nashville, USA with all funds raised donated to Children's Ground. The Teskey Brothers are incredible supporters of Children's Ground, regularly advocating for our work at their live concerts.



## **Rachel Naninaaq Edwardson**

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



#### **Shane Howard**

Shane Howard is one of Australia's most influential writers and singers and a proud Ambassador of Children's Ground. Shane and his legendary band Goanna recently embarked on an extensive national tour reigniting the Goanna spirit that champions First Nations rights and environmental justice.



#### **Corinne Grant**

Corinne Grant is a practicing lawyer, author, accomplished emcee and performer. Corinne is a passionate defender of human rights, including the rights of First Nations people and those seeking asylum. She was a recipient of the John Gibson Memorial Award for Refugee Law while studying at the University of Melbourne.



#### **Dr Jan Owen AM**

Jan Owen is a social entrepreneur, innovator, influencer and author. In 2000, Jan was awarded membership to the Order of Australia for services to young people, including as CEO of the Foundation of Young Australians.

#### **The Cat Empire**

Australian icons The Cat Empire continue to be global Ambassadors for Children's Ground, a position they've held since 2019. While the Cat Empire has undergone changes, the band as well as original members, continue to support the work of Children's Ground. Harry Angus, now an independent artist, and his partner Emily Lubitz were instrumental (literally!) in our first ever Arrernte song production.



# Thank you to our team

## Staff

A Djandjomerr  
Abel Naborlhborlh  
Adrian McCann  
Aengus Cassidy  
Aino Koskinen  
Alice Cazalet  
Alicia Williams  
Alison Ferber  
Amanda Turner  
Amber Thompson  
Amelia Kearney  
Amunda Gorey  
Amy Gordon  
Andrena Webb  
Andrina Williams  
Angela Bangarr  
Angelina Hayes  
Anna Whybird  
Anna Wommatakimmi-Chapman  
Annabelle Gray  
Anneke Barnes  
Annette Robinson  
Annie Cameron  
Anthea Edmunds  
Antoinette Furber-Gorey  
Ashleigh Steel  
Bernadette Wheeler  
Bessina Cameron  
Bianca Turner  
Bianca Vasiliadis  
Blanche Ebatarinja  
Bridgette Beer  
Brigitte Johnson  
Caitlyn Bakes  
Callisha Gregg-Rowan  
C Turner  
Caroline Holliday  
Cassandra Neil  
Cassie Oblowitz  
Catherine Holmes  
Cathy Turner  
Cecilia Schaber  
Cecily Djandjomerr  
Cherisse Buzzacott  
Chloe Abbott

Christianna Djandjomerr  
Christine Alangale  
Christine Doolan  
Christopher McMillan  
Corianne Djandjomerr  
Cristina Nobleza  
Crystal Butcher  
Daisy Weller  
Damon van der Schuit  
David Holmes  
David Paton  
David Rankine  
David Williams  
Deborah Wood  
Desdemona Shee  
Dianne Neil  
Dianne Williams  
Dominique Mercuri  
Donna Mulladad  
Dorothea Campbell  
Duane Djandjomerr  
Dulcie Sharpe  
Earl Hayes  
Edmond Doolan  
Emily Hill  
Emma Franklin  
Emma Fulgenzi  
Erin Riddell  
Esau Lawrence  
Esther Kenyon  
Ethan Nabalwad  
Farooq Yousaf  
Faye Ebatarinja  
Felicity Hayes  
Frazer McKinlay  
Genise Williams  
Georgia Hicks  
Georgie Mattingley  
Georgina Blue  
Geraldine Bundy  
Grace Anthony  
Grace Gorey  
Grace Huck  
Hannah Moffatt  
Hayley Otter  
Helen Fitzgerald

Holly Cunningham  
Howard Neal  
Howard Veatupu  
Irene Reiff  
Ivan Namarnyilk  
Jacinta Bush  
Jack Namarnyilk  
Jacqueline Goodman  
Jacqueline Molensen  
Jacqueline Treves  
James Howden  
Jamie Webb  
Jane Bosward  
Jane Vadiveloo  
Janella Ebatarinja  
Janesse Mendoza  
Jasmine Nabobbbob  
Jeff Tan  
Jemima Saw  
Jennifer Lorains  
Jennifer Wallace  
Joanne Ferguson  
Jocelyn Uibo  
Josabella Cameron  
Josephine Bundy  
Judy Dakgalawuy  
Julie McDonald  
Justin Campbell  
Jyoti Kulikowski  
Kaitlin Koh  
Kamahl Djandjomerr  
Kate Mugavin  
Kathleen Thomsen  
Kathryn Bannister  
Kaylene Djandjomerr  
Kelly Lee Hickey  
Kerstin Wahlqvist  
Kestianna Djandjomerr  
Kimberly Namarnyilk  
L Turner  
Lawrence McLaughlan  
Lawrence Williams  
Leah Heritage  
Lee Causer  
Lee Nabarlambarl  
Leonie Sheedy

Lillian Alexander  
Lindsay Whitehurst  
Lisa da Costa-Alves  
Lisa Dunn  
Lisa Grieve  
Lisa Scully  
Lorrelle Shadforth  
Louise Robertson  
Louise Webb  
Lucas King  
Lucy Elliot  
Lucy Volard  
Luke Roberts  
Dr M.K. Turner OAM  
Madeline Hayman-Reber  
Madeline Thiel  
Manjusha Sathiananthan  
Maree Oliver  
Maria Lippo  
Maria Ross  
Marie Ellis  
Marie Ross  
Marita McMillan  
Mark Djandjomerr  
Marlene Rubuntja  
May Nango  
Megan Battaglia  
Megan Mundy  
Melissa Kean  
Melissa Ross  
Michael Gorey  
Michaeline Hayes  
Milyika Scales  
Mitchell Doolan  
Monique Barlow  
Myles Turner  
Nakita Ferber  
Nanette Sharpe  
Natassia Gorey-Furber  
Nerida O'Loughlin  
Neville Namarnyilk  
Olivia Frahn  
Pauline Grant  
Peppi Drover  
Perpethua Ali  
Philip Parsonson

Priscilla Williams  
 Rachael McDonald  
 Rastace Rangarira  
 Raymond Guymala  
 Raymond Reiff  
 Rebecca Stillwell  
 Rebecca van Essen  
 Renita Webb  
 Rhonda Inkamala  
 Richie Nabarlambarl  
 Rosario Young  
 Rosina Dixon  
 Roslyn Forrester  
 Rosslyn Campbell  
 Roxanne Naborlhborlh  
 Roxanne Sharpe  
 Samuel Campbell  
 Savannah Kelly  
 Sayuri Fonseca  
 Shae Johnson  
 Shane Hayes  
 Shanice Frankish  
 Shaqualla Alum  
 Sharna Dakgalawuy  
 Shirley Djandjomerr  
 Shirley Turner  
 Simone Ahmat  
 Sonya Nango  
 Sophie Aylward  
 Stacey Campton  
 Stella McMillan  
 Stephanie Armstrong  
 Stephanie Van Son  
 Susan Chalmers  
 Mrs T Ryder  
 Talia Murphy  
 Talitha Goodman  
 Tamara Norris-Addo  
 Tamika Lawford  
 Tania Phillips  
 Tenika Greig  
 Terracia Namarnyilk  
 Tessa Staley  
 Theresa Alice  
 Thomasina Woody  
 Tiffany Beggs

Timothy Thomaidis  
 Timothy-George Thomaidis  
 Tony Schaber  
 Tuaran Rosas  
 Tyrone Wallace  
 Veronica Dobson  
 Veronica Doolan  
 Veronica Turner  
 Victoria May  
 Victoria Van Der Beek  
 Vito Lucarelli  
 William Lowah  
 William Pheasant  
 William Tilmouth  
 Yuk-King Ida Lau  
 Zephaniah Neil-Kunoth  
 Zoe Richardson

### Volunteers

Amanda Sutherland  
 Andrea Martin  
 Andres Rodriguez  
 Bec Orpin  
 Emily Kloss  
 Felipe Huerta  
 Gail Webster  
 Geoff Brooks  
 Hayley Dally  
 Jermaine Davey  
 Katherine Wilson  
 Kim Leaman  
 Kristianne Neal  
 Liz Reece  
 Lorena Miguezuez  
 Louise Dorrat  
 Lucia Zimbardi  
 Lucy Markoff  
 Mohammad Owais  
 Susan Lowes  
 Tara-Rose Kirkpatrick  
 Tenika Greig



# Supporters and partners

Thank you to our fantastic supporters and partners who continue to make it possible for us to deliver the Children's Ground Approach.

## Philanthropic and corporate partners

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Magellan Logistics  
Mamoma Foundation  
Maria Vasas Foundation  
Maureen Gearon Fund  
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Modara Pines Charitable Foundation  
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Ryan Cooper Family Foundation  
Sage Foundation  
Social Research Centre, Life in Australia™  
Status Anxiety  
Stewart Foundation  
Telstra Foundation  
Thankyou  
The Anderson Family  
The Antipodean Family Foundation  
The Bloch Friis-O'Toole Family  
The Bowden Marstan Foundation  
The Chiodo Family  
The Cotton Family  
The Donaldson Family  
The Duggan Foundation  
The English Family Foundation  
The Gama Pinto Foundation  
The Grace and Emilio Foundation  
The Hoffman Foundation  
The Ian Potter Foundation  
The Kloss family  
The Lionel and Yvonne Spencer Trust  
The Orloff Family Charitable Trust  
The Resilience Project  
The Reynolds Family  
The Tony Foundation  
Tim Fairfax Family Foundation

Tingari-Silverton Foundation  
Tom Gleisner and Mary Muirhead  
Tony and Janine Burgess  
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Wolf Foundation  
Women of the University Fund  
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Merry People  
Peterson Haines  
Point of Rental  
Share the Dignity  
SOURCE  
Spotlight Foundation  
Triptic  
University of Melbourne  
White & Case  
Who Gives a Crap  
Wild Earth  
Yogi's Way



## NT organisational partners

### *Supporting delivery in community*

Akeyulerre Aboriginal Corporation  
Alice Springs Desert Park  
Alice Springs Desert Festival  
Alice Springs Language Centre  
Alice Springs Telegraph Station  
Alice Springs Town Council  
Anglicare NT  
Arrernte Language Centre  
Batchelor Institute of Indigenous  
Tertiary Education  
Blue Earth  
Bonya school  
Central Australian Aboriginal Congress  
Central Land Council  
Charles Darwin University  
Connected Beginnings  
Danila Dilba Health Service  
Darwin High School  
Deckchair Cinema  
Desert Knowledge Australia  
Food Bank  
GIVEIT  
HK Training and Consultancy  
Howard Springs School  
Indigenous Community TV  
Ingkerreke Services  
Ironbark Aboriginal Corporation  
King's Narrative  
Larapinta Child and Family Centre  
Larrakia sourceNation  
Legal Aid NT  
Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation  
Lutheran Community Care  
Mental Health Association of Central  
Australia  
Ninti One  
Northern Land Council  
Northern Territory Community Health  
Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara  
Yankunytjatjara Women's Council  
NT Writer's Centre  
Olive Pink Botanical Gardens  
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College  
Purple House  
Right Tracks Program  
Services Australia  
St. Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre  
Tangentyere Council  
The Salvation Army  
Top End Women's Legal Service  
Waltja Tjutanku Palyapayi Aboriginal  
Corporation  
Watch This Space  
Wide Open Space Festival  
Yarrenty Arltere Artists  
Yipirinya School  
YMCA Palmerston  
YouthWorx NT

## Government organisations and national partners

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  
Australian Government,  
Department of Social Services,  
Communities for Children  
Australian Institute of  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander Studies (AIATSIS)  
Research  
First Languages Australia  
Medical Research Futures  
Fund  
National Disability Insurance  
Scheme  
National Indigenous Australians Agency  
(NIAA)  
Northern Territory Government,  
Department of Chief Minister  
Northern Territory Government,  
Department of Territory Families,  
Housing and Communities  
The Remedy Project



# Financials

## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

The Directors present their report on Children's Ground Limited for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

#### (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	Non-Executive Director
Clive William Ringler	Non-Executive Director
Josie Rizza	Non-Executive Director
Amy Poynton	Non-Executive Director
Amunda Gorey	Non-Executive Director
Jordan Cory	Non-Executive Director
John Lochowiak	Non-Executive Director
Margaret K Turner	Non-Executive Director
Annalee Stearne	Non-Executive Director
Joanne Willmott	Non-Executive Director
Jane Shanthini Vadiveloo	Chief Executive Officer

Passed away July 2023

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 2023

### Meetings of directors

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

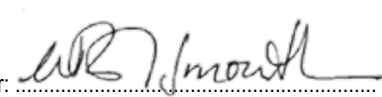
	Directors' Meetings	
	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
William Roy Tilmouth	7	7
Kon Karapanagiotidis	7	4
Clive William Ringler	7	7
Margaret K Turner	3	1
Josie Rizza	7	5
Jordan Cory	7	5
John Lochowiak	7	2
Jane Shanthini Vadiveloo	7	7
Amy Poynton	7	6
Amunda Gorey	7	6
Annalee Stearne	7	6
Joanne Willmott	7	5

### Auditor's independence declaration

The auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 31 December 2023 has been received and can be found on page 7 of the financial report.

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

Director: 

Director: 

Dated this 11th day of April 2024

# Financials



## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 31 December 2023, 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: 12 April 2024

# Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

## Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

		2023	2022
	Note	\$	\$
Revenue	2	11,945,988	9,697,800
Employee benefits expense		(9,055,129)	(7,625,797)
Client Support Consumables		(593,065)	(247,612)
Travel and accommodation		(395,485)	(248,682)
Motor Vehicle Expenses		(392,323)	(260,228)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(360,516)	(216,464)
Professional fees		(184,478)	(118,128)
Utilities and cleaning		(141,834)	(130,206)
Advertising and Promotion		(136,347)	(67,282)
Client Service Support		(134,305)	(94,731)
Computer expenses		(131,868)	(83,383)
Asset Purchases < \$1,000		(80,257)	(82,473)
Repairs and maintenance		(69,532)	(78,354)
Rent	3	(69,144)	(98,506)
Insurance		(54,070)	(49,258)
Printing and stationery		(49,735)	(67,962)
Training and development		(43,813)	(27,986)
Telephone and fax		(35,035)	(24,517)
Interest expense on lease liability		(20,015)	(5,471)
Balabbalas expenses		-	(172,566)
Other Expenses		(317,307)	(171,321)
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>		<b>(318,270)</b>	<b>(173,127)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year</b>		<b>(318,270)</b>	<b>(173,127)</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 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	4,278,098	4,541,148
Trade and other receivables	6	134,330	243,546
Inventories		36,381	26,552
Contract assets	7	-	756,565
Other assets	8	116,839	109,121
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		4,565,648	5,676,932
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Right of use asset	9	258,364	312,756
Property, plant and equipment	10	1,852,490	1,805,303
Intangible assets	11	32,444	40,773
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		2,143,298	2,158,832
TOTAL ASSETS		6,708,946	7,835,764
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Lease liability	9	48,131	44,984
Trade and other payables	12	519,639	680,928
Other liabilities	13	1,239,210	1,818,997
Employee benefits	14	566,629	593,105
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		2,373,609	3,138,014
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Lease liability	9	222,459	270,591
Employee benefits	14	116,902	112,913
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		339,361	383,504
TOTAL LIABILITIES		2,712,970	3,521,518
NET ASSETS		3,995,976	4,314,246
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained surplus		3,995,976	4,314,246
TOTAL EQUITY		3,995,976	4,314,246

# Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

## Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

### 2023

	Retained Earnings	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 January 2023	4,314,246	4,314,246
Deficit for the year	(318,270)	(318,270)
Balance at 31 December 2023	3,995,976	3,995,976

### 2022

	Retained Earnings	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

# Financials

## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
Note	\$	\$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Donations, grants and other income received	11,876,625	9,147,323
Interest received	108,998	37,270
Interest paid	(20,015)	-
Payments to suppliers and employees	(11,803,151)	(9,704,320)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	17 162,457	(519,727)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Payment for intangible asset	(12,342)	(27,841)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(368,180)	(412,231)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	(380,522)	(440,072)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Payment of lease liabilities	(44,985)	(10,779)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	(44,985)	(10,779)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	(263,050)	(970,578)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	4,541,148	5,511,726
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	5 4,278,098	4,541,148

# Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

### 1 Summary of Material Accounting Policies

#### (a) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements cover Children's Ground Limited (Children's Ground) as an individual Company, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Children's Ground is a company limited by guarantee.

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations of the Australian Accounting Standards Board. The Company is a not-for-profit Company for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

#### (b) Comparative figures

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

#### (c) Revenue and other income

##### Donations and bequests

Donations collected are recognised as revenue when the company gains control of the asset, as there is no enforceable contract.

Bequest donations are recognised when the funds are received as there is no enforceable contract.

##### Sale of goods

Revenue from sale of goods is recognised on transfer of goods to the customer as this is deemed to be the point in time when control of the performance obligations are transferred.

##### Grants

Where grant income arises from an agreement which is enforceable and contains sufficiently specific performance obligations then the revenue is recognised when control of each performance obligation is satisfied.

The performance obligations vary based on the agreement.

Each performance obligation is considered to ensure that the revenue recognition reflects the transfer of control and within grant agreements there may be some performance obligations where control transfers at a point in time and others which have a continuous transfer of control over the life of the contract.

Where control is transferred over time, generally the input method being either costs or time incurred are deemed to be the most appropriate methods to reflect the transfer of benefit.

# Financials

## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

#### 1 Summary of Material Accounting Policies

##### (c) Revenue and other income

###### **Grants where contracts are either not enforceable or do not have sufficiently specific performance obligations (AASB 1058)**

Amounts arising from grants in the scope of AASB 1058 are recognised at the assets fair value when the asset is received. The company considers whether there are any related liability or equity items associated with the asset which are recognised for any remaining asset value at the time that the asset is received.

###### **Other revenue**

Other revenue is recognised on a basis that reflects the transfer of promised goods or services to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration the company expects to receive in exchange for those goods or services.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

###### **Statement of financial position balances relating to revenue recognition**

###### **Contract assets and liabilities**

When a performance obligation is satisfied by transferring a promised good or service to the customer before the customer pays consideration or the before payment is due, the Company presents the contract as a contract asset, unless the Company's rights to that amount of consideration are unconditional, in which case the Company recognises a receivable.

When an amount of consideration is received from a customer prior to the entity transferring a good or service to the customer, the Company presents the contract as a contract liability.

##### (d) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

##### (e) Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from customers for goods sold in the ordinary course of business. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting year are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

##### (f) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

###### **Land and buildings**

Land and buildings are measured using the cost model.

# Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

### 1 Summary of Material Accounting Policies

#### (f) Property, plant and equipment

##### Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis and are therefore carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. In the event the carrying amount of plant and equipment is greater than the estimated recoverable amount, the carrying amount is written down immediately to the estimated recoverable amount and impairment losses are recognised either in profit or loss or as a revaluation decrease if the impairment losses relate to a revalued asset. A formal assessment of the recoverable amount is made when impairment indicators are present.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Company and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are recognised as expenses in profit or loss in the financial period in which they are incurred.

##### Depreciation/Amortisation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, including buildings but excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life to the Company commencing from the time the asset is available for use.

The estimated useful lives used for each class of depreciable asset are shown below:

Fixed/intangible asset class	Useful life (years)
Buildings	20
Plant and Equipment	3 - 5
Motor Vehicles	5 - 6
Website	3

At the end of each annual reporting period, the depreciation/amortisation method, useful life and residual value of each asset is reviewed. Any revisions are accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss in the period in which they arise. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation surplus relating to that asset are transferred to retained surplus.

#### (g) Accounts Payable and Other Payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the company during the reporting period which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

# Financials

## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

#### 1 Summary of Material Accounting Policies

##### (h) Impairment of assets

At the end of each reporting period, the Company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised in profit or loss.

Where the future economic benefits of the asset are not primarily dependent upon the asset's ability to generate net cash inflows and when the Company would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits, value in use is determined as the depreciated replacement cost of an asset.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an asset's class, the Company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the class of assets belong.

Where an impairment loss on a revalued asset is identified, this is recognised against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that class of asset.

##### (i) Financial instruments

###### Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Company becomes a party to the contractual provisions to the instrument. For financial assets, this is the date that the Company commits itself to either the purchase or sale of the asset (ie trade date accounting is adopted).

Financial instruments (except for trade receivables) are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs, except where the instrument is classified "at fair value through profit or loss", in which case transaction costs are expensed to profit or loss immediately. Where available, quoted prices in an active market are used to determine fair value. In other circumstances, valuation techniques are adopted.

Trade receivables are initially measured at the transaction price if the trade receivables do not contain significant financing component or if the practical expedient was applied as specified in AASB 15.63.

###### Impairment of Financial Assets

At the end of the reporting period the Company assesses whether there is any objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired.

##### (j) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of GST. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables in the Statement of Financial Position.

# Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

### 1 Summary of Material Accounting Policies

#### (j) Goods and services tax (GST)

Cash flows in the Statement of Cash Flows are included on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

#### (k) Inventories

The Company measures inventories held for distribution at cost, adjusted when applicable for any loss of service potential.

Inventories acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration are measured at the current replacement cost as at the date of acquisition.

#### (l) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Company has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions recognised represent the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

#### (m) Income Tax

The Company is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

Children's Ground is registered as a Public Benevolent Institution with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient.

#### (n) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Company's obligation for short-term employee benefits. Short-term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages, salaries and sick leave. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled.

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than twelve months after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements.

Employee benefits are presented as current liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position if the Company does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting date regardless of the classification of the liability for measurement purposes under AASB 119.

# Financials

## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

#### 1 Summary of Material Accounting Policies

##### (o) Leases

###### The Entity as lessee

At inception of a contract, the Company assesses if the contract contains or is a lease. If there is a lease present, a right-of-use asset and a corresponding lease liability is recognised by the Company where the Company is a lessee. However, all contracts that are classified as short-term leases (ie a lease with a remaining lease term of 12 months or less) and leases of low-value assets are recognised as an operating expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Initially, the lease liability is measured at the present value of the lease payments still to be paid at commencement date. The lease payments are discounted at the interest rate implicit in the lease. If this rate cannot be readily determined, the Company uses the incremental borrowing rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability are as follows:

- fixed lease payments less any lease incentives;
- variable lease payments that depend on an index or rate, initially measured using the index or rate at the commencement date;
- the amount expected to be payable by the lessee under residual value guarantees;
- the exercise price of purchase options, if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options;
- lease payments under extension options, if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options; and
- payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the exercise of an option to terminate the lease

The right-of-use assets comprise the initial measurement of the corresponding lease liability as mentioned above, any lease payments made at or before the commencement date, as well as any initial direct costs. The subsequent measurement of the right-of-use assets is at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Right-of-use assets are depreciated over the lease term or useful life of the underlying asset, whichever is the shortest. Where a lease transfers ownership of the underlying asset or the cost of the right-of-use asset reflects that the Company anticipates to exercise a purchase option, the specific asset is depreciated over the useful life of the underlying asset.

###### Concessionary leases

For leases that have significantly below-market terms and conditions principally to enable the Company to further its objectives (commonly known as peppercorn/concessionary leases), the Company has adopted the relief under AASB 16 and measures the right-of-use assets at cost on initial recognition.

# Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

### 1 Summary of Material Accounting Policies

#### (p) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

##### **Key estimates - Short-term employee benefits**

For the purpose of measurement, short-term employee benefits are classified as obligations expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the reporting period in which the employees render the related services.

##### **Key estimates - Long-term employee benefits**

Provision for long service leave is calculated based on expected future payments incorporating anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee departures, and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on bonds that have maturity dates that approximate the terms of the obligations.

##### **Key judgements - Useful lives of depreciable assets**

Management reviews its estimate of the useful life of depreciable assets at each reporting date, based on the expected utility of the asset.

##### **Key judgements - Revenue recognition**

The core principle of AASB 15 is that revenue is recognised on a basis that reflects the transfer of promised goods or services to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration the Company expects to receive in exchange for those goods or services. The Company uses judgements in identifying the most appropriate input or output method for determining satisfaction of performance obligations over time and the time of revenue recognition for grant income on each grant agreement and information available.

# Financials

## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

#### 2 Revenue and Other Income

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>Revenue From Grants:</b>		
- Commonwealth Government Grants - Recurrent	2,695,743	3,618,107
- Commonwealth Government Grants - Non-recurrent	900,948	510,415
- State Government Grants - Recurrent	403,757	145,770
- Other Grants	147,929	200,476
<b>Total Grants Revenue</b>	<b>4,148,377</b>	<b>4,474,768</b>
<b>Income From Donations:</b>		
- Philanthropic Donations Received	5,027,251	3,337,033
- General Donations Received	1,407,731	1,170,013
- Corporate Donations Received	897,517	452,954
<b>Total Donations Income</b>	<b>7,332,499</b>	<b>4,960,000</b>
<b>Other Income</b>		
- Sales and Other Income	211,098	131,151
- NDIS Income	145,016	94,611
- Interest Income	108,998	37,270
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>465,112</b>	<b>263,032</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>11,945,988</b>	<b>9,697,800</b>

#### 3 Result for the Year

The result for the year includes the following specific expenses:

##### Rental expense:

- short-term lease expense	58,052	78,450
- low-value lease asset expense	7,269	14,959
- rent	3,823	5,097
	<b>69,144</b>	<b>98,506</b>

Costs of goods sold	<b>66,922</b>	<b>24,436</b>
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#### 4 Auditors' Remuneration

Remuneration of the auditor, for:

- Audit of the financial statements	18,350	14,650
- other services	20,862	12,740
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,212</b>	<b>27,390</b>

# Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

### 5 Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Cash at bank	1,016,273	1,350,571
Short-term deposits	3,206,260	3,104,821
Other cash and cash equivalents	55,565	85,756
	<u>4,278,098</u>	<u>4,541,148</u>

Short-term deposits in the current year includes term deposits held for a period of three months.

### 6 Trade and Other Receivables

#### CURRENT

Trade receivables	100,835	176,814
GST receivable	12,680	47,899
Accrued Income	20,815	18,833
	<u>134,330</u>	<u>243,546</u>

All amounts are short-term and the net carrying value of trade receivables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value. All of the Company's trade and other receivables have been reviewed for indicators of impairment. No impairment indicators were noted as at 31 December 2023.

#### (a) Provision for Doubtful Debts

No provision for doubtful debts were raised as at 31 December 2023.

#### (b) Credit Risk - Trade Receivables and Other Debtors

The Company has no significant concentration of credit risk with respect to any single counterparty or group of counterparties other than those receivables specifically provided for and mentioned within Note 6.

### 7 Contract Balances

#### CURRENT

Contract assets	-	756,565
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There were no contract assets as at 31 December 2023.

# Financials

## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

#### 8 Other Assets

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Prepayments	104,337	96,619
Other assets	12,502	12,502
	<u>116,839</u>	<u>109,121</u>

#### 9 Leases

##### Company as a lessee

The Company had leases over a range of assets including property and photocopiers.

##### Concessionary Lease

During the current year, the Company entered into the following short term leases for its offices across different locations:

- Hoddle Street office - This lease ended during the year.
- Alice Springs office - ongoing monthly lease renewal arrangement for the CEO's office, hence, qualified as short-term lease.
- Pavonia Place - ongoing six-monthly lease renewal arrangement, hence, short-term lease.
- Prahran Office - started a one year lease during the year, hence, short-term lease.

Photocopier leases are considered low value.

##### Right-of-use assets

Building	326,354	326,354
Accumulated depreciation	(67,990)	(13,598)
<b>Total</b>	<b>258,364</b>	<b>312,756</b>

##### Year ended 31 December 2023

Balance at beginning of year	312,756	312,756
Depreciation charge	(54,392)	(54,392)
<b>Balance at end of year</b>	<b>258,364</b>	<b>258,364</b>

# Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

### 9 Leases

#### Lease liabilities

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Current Lease liabilities	48,131	44,984
Non-Current Lease liabilities	222,459	270,591
<b>Total</b>	<b>270,590</b>	<b>315,575</b>

The maturity analysis of lease liabilities based on contractual undiscounted cash flows is shown in the table below:

	< 1 year	1 - 5 years	> 5 years	Total undiscounted lease liabilities	Lease liabilities included in this Statement Of Financial Position
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>2023</b>					
Lease liabilities	65,000	253,750	-	318,750	270,590
<b>2022</b>					
Lease liabilities	65,000	260,000	58,750	383,750	315,575

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

The amounts recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income relating to leases where the Company is a lessee are shown below:

Interest expense on lease liabilities	20,015	5,471
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	54,392	13,598
	<b>74,407</b>	<b>19,069</b>

# Financials

## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

#### 10 Property, plant and equipment

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>LAND AND BUILDINGS</b>		
Freehold land		
At cost	830,000	830,000
Total Land	830,000	830,000
Buildings		
At cost	539,433	531,033
Accumulated depreciation	(94,006)	(67,259)
Total buildings	445,427	463,774
Total land and buildings	1,275,427	1,293,774
<b>PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
<b>Motor vehicles</b>		
At cost	1,209,135	1,018,712
Accumulated depreciation	(768,135)	(718,695)
Total motor vehicles	441,000	300,017
<b>Office Equipment</b>		
At cost	525,152	521,197
Accumulated depreciation	(389,089)	(309,685)
Total office equipment	136,063	211,512
<b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>1,852,490</b>	<b>1,805,303</b>

# Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

### 10 Property, plant and equipment Movements in Carrying Amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	Land	Buildings	Motor Vehicles	Office Equipment	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Year ended 31 December 2023</b>					
Balance at the beginning of year	830,000	463,774	300,017	211,512	1,805,303
Additions at cost	-	8,400	331,217	28,563	368,180
Disposal	-	-	(10,932)	(24,608)	(35,540)
Depreciation expense	-	(26,747)	(179,302)	(79,404)	(285,453)
<b>Carrying amount at the end of the year</b>	<b>830,000</b>	<b>445,427</b>	<b>441,000</b>	<b>136,063</b>	<b>1,852,490</b>
	Land	Buildings	Motor Vehicles	Office Equipment	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Year ended 31 December 2022</b>					
Balance at the beginning of year	830,000	490,098	178,605	78,919	1,577,622
Additions at cost	-	-	224,552	187,679	412,231
Depreciation expense	-	(26,324)	(103,140)	(55,086)	(184,550)
<b>Carrying amount at the end of the year</b>	<b>830,000</b>	<b>463,774</b>	<b>300,017</b>	<b>211,512</b>	<b>1,805,303</b>

All depreciation (and reversals, if any) are included within 'depreciation expense'.

There were no contractual commitments entered into at period end.

# Financials

## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

#### 11 Intangible Assets

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>Database Development</b>		
Cost	56,038	43,696
Accumulated amortisation	(41,023)	(29,631)
	<u>15,015</u>	<u>14,065</u>
<b>Website Development</b>		
Cost	123,441	123,441
Accumulated amortisation	(106,012)	(96,733)
	<u>17,429</u>	<u>26,708</u>
<b>Total Intangibles</b>	<u><u>32,444</u></u>	<u><u>40,773</u></u>

All amortisation expenses for the period are included within accumulated amortisation.

#### 12 Trade and Other Payables

##### CURRENT

Trade payables	114,357	191,920
Accrued expenses	125,722	116,788
Other payables	279,560	372,220
	<u>519,639</u>	<u>680,928</u>

All amounts are short term and the carrying values are considered to be a reasonable approximation of fair value.

#### 13 Other Liabilities

##### CURRENT

Income in Advance	1,239,210	1,818,997
	<u>1,239,210</u>	<u>1,818,997</u>

# Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

### 14 Employee Benefits

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Annual leave	341,384	383,295
Long service leave	225,245	209,810
<b>Total current employee benefits</b>	<b>566,629</b>	<b>593,105</b>
NON-CURRENT		
Long service leave	116,902	112,913
<b>Total employee benefits</b>	<b>683,531</b>	<b>706,018</b>

Employee provisions represent amounts accrued for annual leave and long service leave for the period.

The current portion for this provision includes the total amount accrued for annual leave entitlements and the amounts accrued for long service leave entitlements that have vested due to employees having completed the required period of service. Based on past experience, the company does not expect the full amount of annual leave or long service leave balances classified as current liabilities to be settled within the next 12 months. However, these amounts must be classified as current liabilities since the company does not have an unconditional right to defer the settlement of these amounts in the event employees wish to use their leave entitlement.

The non-current portion for this provision includes amounts accrued for long service leave entitlements that have not yet vested in relation to those employees who have not yet completed the required period of service.

### 15 Capital Commitments

In the opinion of the Directors, the Company did not have any capital commitment at 31 December 2023.

### 16 Contingent liabilities

The Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited holds one guarantee for the company. The guarantee is for a rental bond with Tamalko Pty Ltd for the Hoddle Street office. The guarantee is secured through a term deposit to the value of \$10,093.

# Financials

## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

#### 17 Cash Flow Information

Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities:

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Surplus/(deficit) for the period/year	(318,270)	(173,127)
Non-cash flows in profit:		
- depreciation and amortisation expense	360,516	216,464
- Loss on disposal on non-current assets	35,540	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	109,216	(979,447)
- (increase)/decrease in prepayments	748,847	(10,197)
- (increase)/decrease in inventories	(9,829)	(4,911)
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(161,289)	222,015
- increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	(22,487)	77,407
- increase/(decrease) in other liabilities	(579,787)	132,069
<b>Cashflows from operations</b>	<b>162,457</b>	<b>(519,727)</b>

#### 18 Related Parties

##### Transactions with related parties

The Company's related parties include key management personnel and related entities as described below. Unless otherwise stated, none of the transactions incorporate special terms and conditions and no guarantees were given or received. Outstanding balances are usually settled in cash.

As a longer term strategy, the Company appoints current and next generation First Nations leaders to the Company's Board. During the year, this included leaders from the communities within which the Company operated, who were also employees of the Company receiving short-term employee benefits as outlined below.

Short term employee benefits are paid to key management personnel (KMP) as salaries. Jane Vadeloo (CEO and Board Member), MK Turner OAM (Cultural Advisor), William Tilmouth (Senior Cultural and Leadership Mentor) and Amunda Gorey (Research and Evaluation Co-ordinator) are employees of the Company and included in short-term employee benefits. No other Directors were remunerated during the year, and no Directors were remunerated for their services as Non-Executive Directors.

##### Transactions with key management personnel

Short-term employee benefits	360,676	430,068
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# Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

### 19 Financial Risk Management

The Company is exposed to a variety of financial risks through its use of financial instruments. The Company's overall risk management plan seeks to minimise potential adverse effects due to the unpredictability of financial markets. The Company does not speculate in financial assets.

The main risks the Company is exposed to through its financial instruments are credit risk and liquidity risk. The Company's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks, short-term investments and accounts receivable and payables. The most significant risks are related to bank and term deposit balances, all of which are all held with major financial institutions.

The totals for each category of financial instruments, measured in accordance with AASB 139 as detailed in the accounting policies to these financial statements, are as follows:

		2023	2022
		\$	\$
<b>Financial assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	4,278,098	4,541,148
Trade and other receivables	6	134,330	243,546
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>4,412,428</b>	<b>4,784,694</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	12	519,639	680,928
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>519,639</b>	<b>680,928</b>

#### Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a counterparty fails to discharge an obligation to the Company. The Company is exposed to this risk for various financial instruments, such as granting receivables to customer and investments in deposits. The Company's maximum exposure to credit risk is limited to the carrying amount of financial assets recognised at the reporting date, such as those detailed in the table above.

Term deposits are held with Australian banks.

# Financials

## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

#### 19 Financial Risk Management

##### Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises from the possibility that the Company might encounter difficulty in settling its debts or otherwise meeting its obligations related to financial liabilities. The Company manages this risk through the following mechanisms:

- preparing forward-looking cash flow analysis in relation to its operational, investing and financial activities which are monitored on a monthly basis;
- obtaining funding from a variety of sources;
- maintaining a reputable credit profile;
- managing credit risk related to financial assets;
- only investing surplus cash with major financial institutions; and
- comparing the maturity profile of financial liabilities with the realisation profile of financial assets.

Typically, the Company ensures that it has sufficient cash on demand to meet expected operational expenses for a period of 60 days. The available funds to the Company are discussed in Note 17. All trade and other payables are contractually due and expected to be settled within 60 days of year end.

# Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

### 19 Financial Risk Management

#### Liquidity risk

The table below reflects the undiscounted contractual maturity analysis for financial liabilities (excluding lease liabilities for the current year - refer to note 9).

	Within 1 Year		1 to 5 Years		Over 5 Years		Total	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Financial liabilities due for payment</b>								
Accounts payable and other payables (excluding estimated annual leave and deferred income)	519,639	680,928	-	-	-	-	519,639	680,928
<b>Total expected outflows</b>	<b>519,639</b>	<b>680,928</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>519,639</b>	<b>680,928</b>
<b>Financial assets - cash flows realisable</b>								
Cash and cash equivalents	4,278,098	4,541,148	-	-	-	-	4,278,098	4,541,148
Accounts receivable and other debtors	134,330	243,546	-	-	-	-	134,330	243,546
<b>Total anticipated inflows</b>	<b>4,412,428</b>	<b>4,784,694</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,412,428</b>	<b>4,784,694</b>
<b>Total expected outflows</b>	<b>4,932,067</b>	<b>5,465,622</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,932,067</b>	<b>5,465,622</b>

The timing of expected outflows is not expected to be materially different from contracted cashflows.

# Financials

## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

#### 19 Financial Risk Management

##### Interest rate sensitivity analysis

The following table illustrates the sensitivity of profit and equity to a reasonably possible change in interest rates of +2.5% and -2.5% (31 December 2022: +2.5% and -2.5%). These changes are considered to be reasonably possible based on observation of current market conditions. The calculations are based on a change in the average market interest rate for each period, and the financial instruments held at each reporting date that are sensitive to changes in interest rates. All other variables are held constant.

	Profit		Equity	
	+2.50%	-2.50%	+2.50%	-2.50%
	\$	\$	\$	\$
31 December 2023	78,889	(78,889)	78,889	(78,889)
31 December 2022	88,567	(88,567)	88,567	(88,567)

#### 20 Fair Value Measurement

The Company did not measure its freehold land and buildings at fair value on a recurring basis after initial recognition as they have elected to carry the property using the cost model. The Company had no other financial assets and liabilities that were measured and recognised at fair value on a recurring basis after initial recognition.

#### 21 Events Occurring After the Reporting Date

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or could significantly affect the operations of the Company, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Company in future financial years.

#### 22 Members' Guarantee

The Company is incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* and is a Company limited by guarantee. If the Company is wound up, the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$ 50 each towards meeting any outstandings and obligations of the Company. At 31 December 2023 the number of members was 13 (2022: 15).

#### 23 Company Details

The registered office and principal place of business of the Company is:

2 South Terrace  
The Gap  
Northern Territory 0870

# Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

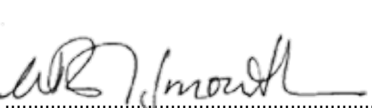
## Directors' Declaration

In accordance with a resolution of the Directors of Children's Ground Limited, the directors declare that, in the directors' opinion:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 8 - 31, satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and:
  - a. comply with Australian Accounting Standards applicable to the entity; and
  - b. give a true and fair view of the financial position of the registered entity as at 31 December 2023 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. 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 2022*.

Director 

Director 

Dated 11 April 2024

# Financials



## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Independent Audit Report to the Members of Children's Ground Limited

#### Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

##### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Children's Ground Limited (the Company), which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2023, the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Changes in Equity and the Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, and notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of material Accounting Policies, and the Directors' Declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Company has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 December 2023 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022*.

##### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those Standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Independent Audit Report to the Members of Children's Ground Limited

#### Responsibilities of Directors for the Financial Report

The Directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the ACNC Act and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Directors.

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# Financials



## Children's Ground Limited

ABN 74 154 403 086

### Independent Audit Report to the Members of Children's Ground Limited

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditor's Report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Saward Dawson'.

Saward Dawson

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read 'M Crouch'.

Matthew Crouch  
Partner

Blackburn  
Dated: 12 April 2024

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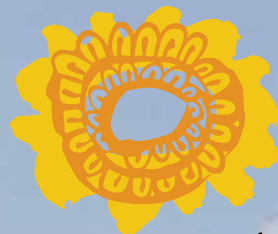
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children's  
ground

