

CHILDREN'S GROUND'S IMPACT

CULTURAL WELLBEING



The Children's Ground Approach provides the space for First Nations people to design and lead cultural systems of knowledge and practice that ensures **children are growing up as First Nations children - learning their first language, cultural identity, country and kinship from birth.**

Privileging First Nations governance, language and culture aligns with international human rights¹, leading evidence and practice² and key government recommendations in First Nations policy and practice³.

Children's Ground's longitudinal evaluation is evidencing that the culturally-centred design of the CG Approach is a **key driver for access, engagement and outcomes in learning, health and employment.**

¹ United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Article 14. 2007

² International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / The World Bank 2021 LOUD AND CLEAR: Effective Language of Instruction Policies For Learning; A World Bank Policy Approach Paper

³ Productivity Commission 2024, Review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, Study report, Volume 1, Canberra

EVIDENCE OF EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT

Children growing up with their first language and culture.

A new cohort of First Nations children are growing up with the right to learn through their first culture, in their first language and on their country.

This is leading to: Children building a strong sense of identity and belonging; positive cultural/social/emotional wellbeing from birth; active and positive engagement in learning and health; family engagement.

When engaging with Children's Ground:

100% of children engaged in cultural learning and development alongside their family.

2,229 people have engaged with cultural practices in learning, health, wellbeing, governance and employment at Children's Ground since 2017.

Children's Ground is preserving, protecting and strengthening first languages.

84% of staff/families reported children's first language and cultural learning had improved since Children's Ground started (Central Australia, Evaluation 2020-2022)

Learning language and culture in school has life-long benefits:

- Evidence shows that children taught in their first language are more likely to thrive and excel in school⁴.
- The stronger children are in their cultural learning, the stronger they are in their Western learning⁵.
- Learning culture and language in school impacts wellbeing later in life in Aboriginal and English literacy, numeracy, empowerment, life skills and satisfaction⁶.

⁴ Multilingual Education: A Key to Quality and Inclusive Learning, 2024, UN Chronicle, www.un.org.

⁵ Children's Ground Child Learning & Wellbeing tool developed by First Nations leaders and validated by Sally Brinkman.

⁶ Interplay. 2023. Evaluating Impact Holistically with Interplay Mapping, Children's Ground Baseline Data Report. Unpublished.

RESPONSE TO CLOSING THE GAP OUTCOMES

Children's Ground's approach to cultural wellbeing is actively contributing to Closing the Gap outcomes in the Northern Territory.



Target 3
Early childhood education



Target 4
Children thriving



Target 14
Social and emotional wellbeing



Target 16
Culture and languages