

CHILDREN'S GROUND'S IMPACT



EMPLOYMENT

Children's Ground works with communities where the majority of First Nations people are living below the poverty line and generational unemployment is common.

Children's Ground's flexible and responsive employment model has changed the status quo and the ways in which First Nations people can engage in employment, leading to extensive First Nations employment in the 8 communities working with Children's Ground.

Our evaluations are evidencing that **the Children's Ground Approach is successful in reducing barriers to employment for those experiencing chronic unemployment**, and that First Nations employment is both a driver and outcome of empowered design and delivery.

Family and community empowerment, and culturally-based roles and delivery have been evidenced as significant drivers of engagement in employment, leading to progress in key Closing the Gap targets and contributing to a local First Nations workforce.

EVIDENCE OF EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT

People who had never worked and were long-term unemployed - are now working.

209 First Nations people have been employed with Children's Ground, including 102 young people (16-30 years) since 2017.

112 First Nations people were employed with Children's Ground in 2023.

In Central Australia (2017-2022):

31% of community-based staff had never worked before in paid employment.

71% were not employed when they started working with Children's Ground.

Impacting employment has led to:

Increased confidence and work skills; Increased First Nations leadership; Increased financial literacy; Increased engagement in health services; Children seeing the family work as their new normal; Increased economic security, building toward economic independence.

Creating change where change has seemed impossible.

Children's Ground's progress with increasing First Nations employment are in contrast to downward trends at a Northern Territory level.

Employment contributes to health, learning and wellbeing.

Employment has been a soft entry point for whole family engagement in learning, health and community governance and decision-making - and vice-versa.

This is leading to: Improved learning and health engagement and outcomes; Increased cultural wellbeing and; Increased empowerment and community leadership.

"I've been in organisations where I've left because I didn't feel like they understood [our life circumstances]. Children's Ground knows the issues we deal with on a daily basis. They understand. You don't see that anywhere."

First Nations staff/family member

Central Australia Evaluation Report 2020-2022

RESPONSE TO CLOSING THE GAP OUTCOMES

Children's Ground's approach to employment and workforce development is actively contributing to Closing the Gap outcomes in the Northern Territory.

Target 6
Further education pathways

Target 7
Youth engagement

Target 8
Economic participation

Target 14
Social and emotional wellbeing