



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

2024 Annual Report: What systems change looks like when communities lead

Children's Ground's 2024 Annual Report draws together a year of growth, leadership and intergenerational impact. It provides a detailed insight into what happens when First Nations communities are resourced to lead long-term, community-driven change across learning, health, employment, culture and community life.

The 2024 report affirms that Children's Ground is a transformational, community-led system for change, designed by First Nations people, grounded in culture, and impacting every aspect of community life.

Across our communities, children are growing into young adults. Young adults are stepping into leadership. Families are creating futures grounded in identity, culture and justice.

In 2024, communities across Central Australia, Darwin and West Arnhem led significant progress in learning, health, employment and cultural life:

- 1,360 community members across generations were engaged with Children's Ground
- 279 children (0–8 years) engaged in early learning in their First Language and culture as well as in English
- 1,173 children and their family members participated in health promotion and support
- 169 First Nations adults were employed

The report highlights a powerful generational shift in cultural authority is taking place, as senior staff in Central Australia step into the role of Elders. This transition is shaping governance, learning environments and public leadership, reflecting the strength and continuity of cultural authority that underpins Children's Ground.

Culture, creativity and community voice are guiding every part of the Children's Ground Approach. Language revitalisation, kinship-based employment, traditional healing practices and on-Country learning are embedded throughout, shaping how work is led, delivered and sustained.

This report is a record of what is possible when First Nations people lead.

Children's Ground Chair William Tilmouth said "In 2024 our children, families and communities stepped forward with strength. People are engaging with Children's Ground and people are taking ownership. This is the growth we've been working toward for years. It doesn't happen overnight and it's not easy, but it is happening because people are empowered, and leadership is coming from community."

"This report is a statement to government. Our communities are engaged, taking ownership, and leading the way. The participation of community guarantees success. Communities have never had opportunities like this before. This is not rhetoric, this is action. Things are happening on the ground because community knows what is best for community. We are growing, and we are moving from strength to strength. What you see here is what people want, not what others think they need. This is the kind of approach that government needs to support," said Mr Tilmouth.

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Read Children's Ground's 2024 Annual Report [here](#).