



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

NAIDOC Week 2025: The Next Generation

Children's Ground marks the 50 year anniversary of NAIDOC Week by recognising the leadership of Elders, the strength of families, and the vision of our children and young people.

This year's theme, *The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy*, is lived every day through the Children's Ground Approach. Our 25-year strategy was created by Elders to centre the next generation. It is led by community and designed to ensure children grow up safe, proud, healthy and strong in culture.

"They're the ones we need to look after because they're the opportunities we have for our future," said Veronica Turner, community leader and Co-Director of Children's Ground Central Australia.

At Children's Ground, learning begins in first language, led by cultural educators, and grows with children over time. Families lead decision-making. Young people are supported to stand strong in culture and shape their futures with same opportunities afforded to all Australian's.

Every day we see young people learning, teaching, speaking up, supporting each other and taking their place in community with strength and pride.

The next generation carries the strength of those before them and holds the key to what comes next.

"Our children are our next generation. That's why we centre them. We are part of the legacy of the people that came before us, and we pass that legacy onto to the next generation so they can carry it and continue it on. We always encourage and support the next generation," said Veronica Doolan, Arrernte Researcher at Children's Ground.

Children's Ground support young people to stand strong in culture and grow with the same rights, dignity and opportunity that should be afforded to all. We walk beside them as they find their voice, build knowledge and create new futures.

This NAIDOC Week, we call for action that supports the strength of our children and creates the conditions for them to thrive. The next generation are leading with confidence, pride and purpose. It is time for all of us to listen deeply, to honour the knowledge that lives in our communities and to act in ways that uphold the rights, dignity and futures of our young people.

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