



cages
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REVIEW 2022

Image courtesy of Karrkad Kanjdji Trust

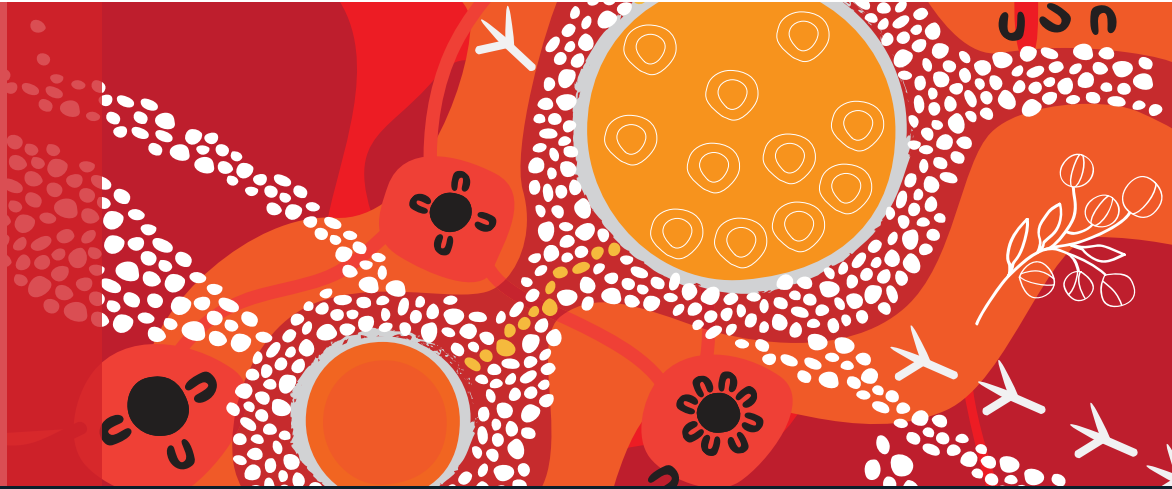


Image courtesy of
Maari Ma Aboriginal Corporation

CAGES Foundation acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and respects Elder's past, present, and future. They hold the stories, the knowledge, the traditions, the culture, and the hopes of Aboriginal Australia.

This Annual Review may contain images of people who have passed away.



First Nations' people are the experts. They show us the best way to invest, collaborate and advocate to help achieve their goals.





Image courtesy of Royal Far West

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MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR



This year has been a year of reflection for the CAGES Foundation. We continue to be inspired by the work the organisations we fund are doing, highlighted in this report. We are thankful to the organisations we work with that provided Cox Inall Ridgeway feedback on what it is like to work with us.

Founders, Paul and Sandra Salteri

This year Cox Inall Ridgeway completed a report for CAGES Foundation containing rich data which we will use to inform how we can best support First Nations communities and embed the practices which we heard were working well.

In CAGES Foundations' first year of giving, we did not fund any Aboriginal-controlled organisations. In 2022 the Foundation directed 75% of its donations to Aboriginal-controlled, led, and inspired organisations. This shift is representative of our learning journey. We have had to learn what now seems obvious. Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and community-led initiatives have the skills, knowledge, and experience to best respond to the communities they serve. To do this work, they need flexible funding and the autonomy to determine the best use of funds. To achieve this, we are continuously examining how we can improve our way

of working, so we are not asking these organisations to tick our boxes but how we can eliminate barriers that get in the way of this critical work.

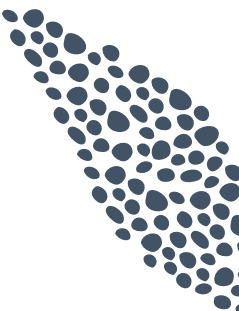
In 2022 CAGES Foundation distributed just over \$2.5 million across 56 grants ranging from \$3,000 to \$170,000. Our two focus areas remain the Early Years and Economic Inclusion. Our Early Years stream supports organisations that create safe and nurturing spaces for children to thrive. For over 250 years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been prevented from participating in the mainstream economy. Our Economic Inclusion stream supports organisations that are removing structural barriers that prevent wealth creation for First Nations people and businesses and creating a more inclusive economy.

In this report, you can read a snapshot of these organisations' vital work.

I am very proud of the CAGES Foundation team, and the way they work with the Board and advisors. While guided by our values, they have adapted and shaped how they work in response to what they have learned from the communities we fund. I want to thank them for their ongoing commitment to how they work in delivering our vision.

I am also pleased to welcome Julie Adams to the CAGES Foundation team. Julie has joined us as our Operations Manager and is a welcomed addition to the team.

Paul Salteri AO
Chair



Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and community-led initiatives have the skills, knowledge, and experience to best respond to the communities they serve.



MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



IFIP conference in Santa Fe was in 2018. Gemma and Rachel from CAGES Foundation in attendance

The challenges of the past few years, including COVID, and natural disasters, have shown how mainstream systems and service providers continue to fail First Nations communities.

Simultaneously we have witnessed community-led organisations respond to community needs immediately and effectively with limited funds. At CAGES Foundation, we are committed to supporting community-led and controlled organisations that are working tirelessly for their communities. We are constantly inspired by the organisations we fund and are proud to share their work with you in this annual review.

In 2018 CAGES Foundation became a member of the International Funders of Indigenous Peoples (IFIP) and Rachel Kerry and I attended their conference in Santa Fe. We have learned a lot from being part of the IFIP community and were thrilled to participate in a regional gathering of IFIP on Awabakal Country to listen and learn. We recognise the urgency in responding to what we learn in these circles and have begun to work more deeply with Skye Trudgett and Kowa Consulting to understand our role in shifting systems and responding to community needs. We have also started working more deeply with Kerry Klimm and FlashBlak to ensure we accurately communicate how we operate.

The CAGES Foundation Board and advisors continue to provide invaluable support and guidance as we continue this journey. The CAGES Foundation team has also spent another year supporting the organisations we fund, and I would like to thank them for their continued dedication.

I hope you enjoy reading about the incredible work that CAGES Foundation is privileged to be able to support.

Gemma Salteri
Executive Director

OUR PURPOSE

Contributing to an Australia where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

CAGES Foundation is committed to funding long-term, community-led solutions that build on the assets of culture, country and kin and are rooted in self determination.

OUR VALUES

CAGES Foundation is a values driven organisation and our values underpin how we work.



LISTEN AND LEARN

We take time to get to know the communities we fund in, to understand their objectives, and are guided by what they need.



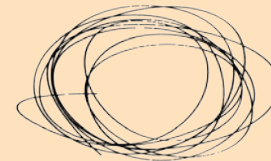
HUMILITY

We recognise that we do not have the answers or hold the knowledge. We will be guided by First Nations people.



HONESTY

We strive to be open and honest in our two-way communication to build trusting, respectful and successful relationships. We will acknowledge our limitations.



TRANSPARENCY

We are transparent and share our learnings, our failures, and our successes.



ACCOUNTABILITY

We are accountable and committed to good governance in the administration and management of our foundation and our funding decisions and advocacy. We are accountable to the communities we fund.

OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

CAGES Foundation has learnt that the most effective investment is one into the assets of culture, leadership and connection through Aboriginal controlled organisations and community-led initiatives.

Through this investment First Nations people's expertise will ensure communities flourish and thrive.

We provide flexible funding to community-led solutions through our strategic partnerships and community grants in two focus areas; economic inclusion and the early years.

In 2022, we distributed \$2,642,387 across our different funding focus areas.

Our primary funding area remains the early years, where we support working with children and families in the first five years of life.

We gifted \$1,974,887 in the Early Years streams, with \$1,530,887 of funding being granted directly to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and the remaining funding supporting community-led partnerships.

Image courtesy of Ballarat and District Aboriginal Cooperative

Community-led

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the knowledge, skills, and ways to best respond to their community's needs and create lasting change.

Flexible

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations succeed when they have the flexibility and autonomy to implement tailored, holistic, and creative solutions that increase community involvement.

\$2,642,387
gifted in 2022

\$1,974,887
gifted to Aboriginal
Community Controlled
Organisations

75%
Funding to Aboriginal
Community Controlled
Organisations



A demonstration of CAGES Foundation listening, learning, evolving and embracing community expertise:

In the financial year ending 30 June 2022, 75% of all funding from CAGES Foundation went to Aboriginal controlled organisations.

This is up from approximately 66% the previous year and a stark difference to the 21% of funding to ACCOs ten years earlier in 2012.

75%

of all funding from CAGES Foundation went to Aboriginal controlled organisations in

2022

This is up from approximately

66%

in 2021

2012

12%



We provide flexible funding to community-led solutions through our strategic partnerships and community grants

RIGHTS OF FIRST NATIONS' CHILDREN

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have the right to grow up healthy, happy, and safe. To imagine and create futures where they are strong in culture and identity.

Our Early Years' funding focuses on supporting organisations creating environments for First Nations children to thrive in culture, health, learning and well-being.



THE EARLY YEARS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS



OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS provide long-term funding to organisations working on community-driven early childhood initiatives.

AWABAKAL PRESCHOOL

Awakabal country

FY22 \$100,000

First year funding

Awabakal Preschool has been grounded in Awabakal LTD for 35 years and is dedicated to advancing the well being of the community. Awabakal Preschool will be continuing this vision and objective through providing a culturally appropriate and supportive learning environment where every child has the opportunity to explore and experience new things. With this new partnership CAGES Foundation has provided funding for Awabakal Preschool to explore the next steps of strategy, governance, structure for a new independent entity.

CONTACT INC

Organisation is on Wangal and Wiradjuri country with the activities funded across Ngemba lands and Wailwan lands

FY22 \$75,000

Total Funding: \$450,275 over 6 years

Contact helps address the impacts of isolation for children, families, and communities. It responds to local needs and works across all child, family, and children's sectors. The work with Gainmara Birrilee Aboriginal Preschool in Brewarrina and four Aboriginal Community Engagement Officers in Coonamble was funded by CAGES Foundation. Contact will continue to build sustainable pathways to support Brewarrina children to reach their full potential through the Murra in Murra (Hand in Hand) partnership with the Preschool with their latest funding from CAGES Foundation.

CULLUNGHUTTI ABORIGINAL CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICE

Wadi Wadi Wandandian country

FY22 \$150,000

Total funding: \$296,000 over 3 years

Cullunghutti Aboriginal Child and Family Centre is a place of belonging for all children, their families, and the Shoalhaven community. It is a special place for families to connect, grow and learn strong in Aboriginal identity. CAGES Foundation has provided funding to carry out essential building works and develop a five-year strategic plan. Funding has been to employ additional staff ensuring continuity of care for their children in the education setting.

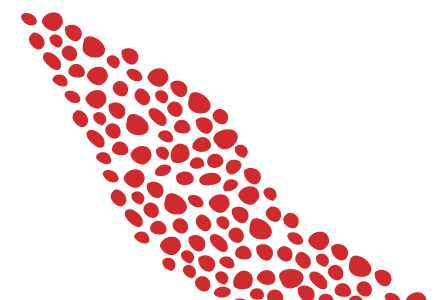
DALAIGUR PRESCHOOL

Dunghutti country

FY22 \$20,000

Total funding: \$419,075 over 12 years

Dalaigur Pre-School and Children's Services is a 3-unit Independent Indigenous-owned community preschool that serves the community of Kempsey. Funds were provided for the supported playgroup run at the preschool.



THE EARLY YEARS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

DEADLY CONNECTIONS

Gadigal country

FY22 \$171,000

Total funding: \$371,000 over 3 years

Deadly Connections works to address the over-representation of Aboriginal people in the child protection and justice systems. It positively disrupts systemic racism, intergenerational disadvantage, grief, loss, and trauma by providing holistic, culturally responsive interventions and services.

CAGES Foundation funding is being used to roll out the Deadly Pathways Project, an outreach and place-based program to support clients to improve social and emotional wellbeing and break cycles of violence, homelessness, trauma, justice and child protection involvement. Facilitators will work alongside mob to provide intensive, culturally safe and responsive holistic support.

ETERNITY AID

Organisation is on Tharawal country with the activities funded across Ngemba lands

FY22 \$45,000

Total funding: \$180,000 over 4 years

At the request of the Bourke Community, CAGES Foundation

funds Eternity Aid to visit Bourke with its interdisciplinary Allied Health Team and conduct early screening assessments for pre-schoolers to identify children at risk of developmental delay.

With the continuation of Covid, Eternity Aid continued to practice flexibility in complying with social isolation and travel restrictions while delivering support and training to the staff and assessment and treatment of the children of the Bourke community.

JARJUM CENTRE

Widjabul country

FY22 \$90,685

First year funding

Located in Goonellabah NSW, Jarjum Centre is a special place of importance and belonging for all the Aboriginal children, their families and the local Aboriginal Community. It supports Community to raise healthy, educated and culturally strong children. CAGES Foundation, in this new partnership with Jarjum, is providing funding to implement a supported play group including a people mover and resources once a week during the school term at the Aboriginal Community of Box Ridge for children 0-5 years of age.

MAARI MA HEALTH ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Wilyakali and Barkindji country

FY22 \$110,000

Total funding: \$1,163,875 over 11 years

Maari Ma has played a vital role in advocating for better services for its community, particularly during the COVID-19 outbreak, and CAGES Foundation endorses its call for better protections for remote communities.

CAGES Foundation has been fortunate to learn from its 11-year partnership with Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation. Over this period the funding from CAGES has been used for a range of outstanding work. CAGES has funded the expansion of a peer-to-peer home visiting program for Aboriginal families in Wilcannia to build school-readiness and developmental skills for children in remote communities.

MUDGIN-GAL

Gadigal country

FY22 \$50,000

Total funding: \$125,000 over 3 years

Operating on Gadigal country, Mudgin-Gal, meaning "Women's Place," is an Aboriginal-controlled community organisation providing

care and support to Aboriginal women and families through the delivery of skills-based programs and a place for connection. CAGES Foundation provides funding for Mudgin-gal to build its strategy to link its activities to the first 1,000 days program and reduce the risk of child protection interventions.

OUTBACK DIVISION

Funding across the lands of the Ngemba people

FY22 \$120,000

Total funding: \$465,000 over 4 years

Outback Division of General Practice supports regional areas to deliver a sustainable, accessible, and well-connected primary health care system. At the request of the Bourke community, CAGES Foundation provided funding for Outback Division to employ a local Aboriginal Early Intervention Support Worker to support community engagement.

THE EARLY YEARS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

ROYAL FAR WEST

Organisation is located on Guringai country with activities funded across Ngemba country

FY22 \$130,00

Total funding: \$784,400 over 6 years

CAGES Foundation supports Royal Far West to work in partnership with Connected Beginnings, Bourke District Children Services, Maranguka, Eternity Aid and other community stakeholders in Bourke. Royal Far West works to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people in remote communities. They deliver a screening and assessment program coupled with follow on virtual delivery of allied health services.

CAGES funding has supported the Royal Far West Healthy Kids Bus Stop which regularly visits Bourke for comprehensive developmental screenings of preschool children by paediatric therapists together with pathways to care that are developed for children who would benefit from extra support.

SNAICC

Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung country

FY22 \$170,000

Total funding: \$940,000 over 9 years

SNAICC is the national voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. They exist to see all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children grow up healthy, safe, and strong in culture. CAGES Foundation has proudly supported the work of SNAICC for the past 9 years and continues to contribute to its leadership roles and ensure the organisation has the leadership and communications capacity needed to fulfil their mission.

SNAICC has continued to lift their profile to the wider public, their members and strengthen their relationships with key stakeholders at federal, state and community level.

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG, EARLY START

Dharawal country

FY22 \$50,000

Total funding: \$510,679 over 4 years

Early Start is where research, education, and community come together for children, especially in regional and remote Australia. CAGES Foundation has supported Early Start to work with 9 Aboriginal-led early years services across NSW creating a community of practice and providing workforce development opportunities.

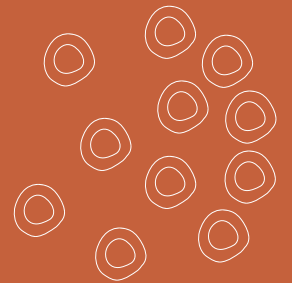
Early Start's Workforce Development Project funded by CAGES continues to have an impact on the early childhood education communities they are engaging with.





"The funding from CAGES Foundation has allowed our Educators at our Early Years Centre, Perridak Burron, to collaboratively design an outdoor learning space for children to feel Culturally safe while Educators and Teachers engage our children in a holistic approach to learning, being and belonging while being connected to the natural environment."

Casey Brown, Learning & Development Manager, Ballarat and District Aboriginal Cooperative Early Childhood.



THE EARLY YEARS COMMUNITY GRANTS



OUR COMMUNITY GRANTS provides one-off grants to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations providing early years services to children and their families.

The community grants, provide funding for Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to address an immediate need or opportunity. The community grant recipients continue to demonstrate that with autonomous investment, locally led services are best placed to respond to their communities swiftly, appropriately and successfully.

BALLARAT AND DISTRICT ABORIGINAL COOPERATIVE, BALLARAT, VIC

Wadawurrung country

\$50,000

Funding provided for outdoor learning spaces.

BOURKE WELCOME BABY TO COUNTRY

Ngemba country

\$3,000

At the request of Bourke Welcome Baby to Country Working Group, funding was provided for resources from Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation to be provided for welcome packs.

DALAIGUR PRESCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES, WEST KEMPSEY, NSW

Dunghutti country

\$50,000

Funding provided for Dalaigur/ Durri Aboriginal Medical Service partnership for early intervention.

INDIGENOUS FUTURES FOUNDATION LTD, TWEED HEADS SOUTH, NSW

Bundjalung country

\$50,000

Funding provided for Cooking classes and nutrition.

KARRKAD KANJDJI TRUST, WEST AND CENTRAL ARNHAM LAND, NT

Warddeken country

\$30,000

Funding provided for infrastructure to strengthen the Nawarddeken Early Learning Program for children and parents across Warddeken.

MERRIMANS LOCAL ABORIGINAL LANDS COUNCIL (LITTLE YUIN), WALLAGA LAKE, NSW

Yuin country

\$50,000

Funding provided for Refurbishing multi-purpose room Little Yuin Preschool.



THE EARLY YEARS COMMUNITY GRANTS

MOORDITJ KOORT, MEDINA, WA

Nyoongar country

\$50,000

Funding provided for supporting the implementation of a multi-disciplinary ear-health program for Aboriginal children.

MUDYALA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION, GRAFTON, NSW

Bundjalung country

\$38,500

Funding provided for Play and Yarn Preschool Bus.

MUDYALA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION, GRAFTON, NSW

Bundjalung country

\$50,000

Funding provided for professional development and capacity building for personnel.

NGROO EDUCATION PUUYA FOUNDATION, TREGAR, NSW

Darug country

\$45,000

Funding provided for Allied Health Support.

PUUYA FOUNDATION, LOCKHART RIVER, QLD

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Land

\$50,000

Funding provided for Breakfast program and cooking class.

THARAWAL ABORIGINAL CORP(OORUNGA WANDARRAH), AIRDS NSW

Dharawal country

\$28,702

Funding provided for IT and furniture resources.

THRYV NSW (SNAICC)

Dharawal country

\$47,000

Funding provided for Mentoring, training and professional development, knowledge sharing and cultural capacity building.

WINANGA-LI, GUNNEDAH, NSW

Gamilaraay country

\$50,000

Funding provided for Staff Training and Development, mentoring and consultancy.

WINANGA-LI, GUNNEDAH, NSW

Kamilaroi country

\$50,000

Funding provided for Staff Training and Development, mentoring and consultancy.

YENU ALLOWAH ABORIGINAL CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRE, MOUNT DRUITT, NSW

Darug country

\$50,000

Funding provided for Allied Health Support.

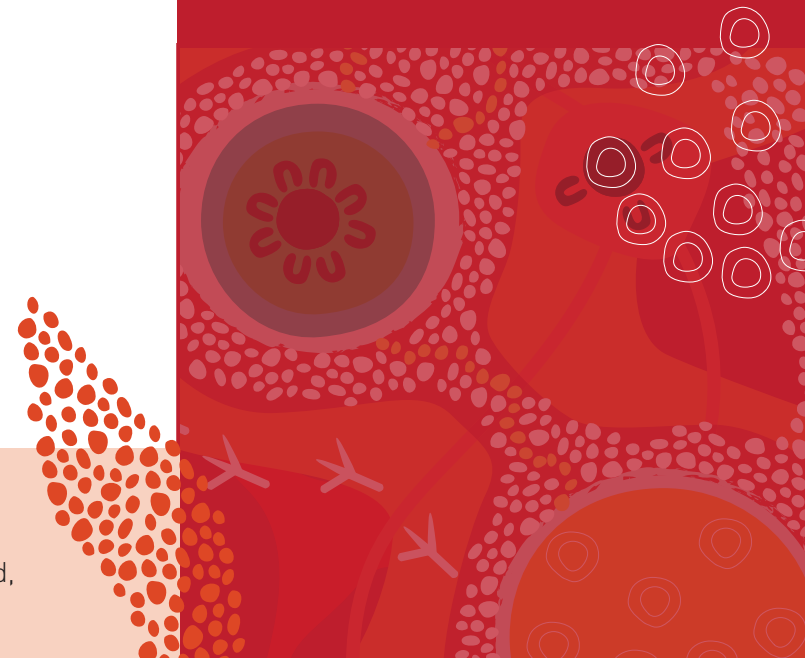
"We provide food relief for First Nation people experiencing food insecurity, which addresses an immediate need but has failed to build the capacity of our people."

The CAGES Foundation grant, has enable us move beyond traditional charity and deliver capacity building and culturally engaging cooking classes with a focus on nutrition, connection and career pathways."

Levi-Joel, Indigenous Futures Foundation. Kuku Yalanji Nation.

In response to requests from community-led organisations to assist during the Covid pandemic and the Lismore Floods. **FY22 total \$53,000.**

Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation, Uniting Dubbo, Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation Ltd, Winanga-Li Aboriginal Child and Family Centre and Jarjum Centre.



ECONOMIC INCLUSION

First Nation people are the first entrepreneurs and business people in Australia. Colonisation created structures that continue to prevent and exclude Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from wealth creation.

Our economic inclusion grants are designed to support the development of Indigenous-led solutions that encourage First Nations wealth creation.

The organisations we fund are working on a range of innovative economic solutions that celebrate First Nation thinking.

In FY22, we distributed \$355,000 in our Economic Inclusion grants scheme. Just over 95% of funds were distributed to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.



ECONOMIC INCLUSION



FIRST AUSTRALIAN'S CAPITAL

Organisation is located on Awabakal and Worimi lands

FY22 \$100,000

Total funding: \$605,000 over 6 years

First Australians Capital helps Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander entrepreneurs to start and grow businesses by providing financing solutions combined with wrap-around services and support. CAGES Foundation provides flexible operational funding.

FIRST HAND SOLUTIONS

Organisation is located on Gadigal Country

FY22 \$50,000

Total funding: \$170,000 over 4 years

First Hand Solutions builds empowered, resilient Indigenous communities through cultural reconnection, education, employment, and enterprise.

CAGES Foundation provides flexible operational support to assist in developing organisational sustainability.

FIRST NATIONS FUTURES FUND

Organisation is located on Wurundjeri Country

FY22 \$50,000

First Nations Futures is an Indigenous-led philanthropic entity that will create pathways and opportunities for funders and the broader Australian public to invest in First Nations organisations and initiatives. CAGES Foundation has provided untied operational support.

ORIGINAL POWER

Yanyuwa country

FY22 \$75,000

Total funding: \$270,000 over 4 years

Original Power is building the Power of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to protect Country. CAGES Foundation, over the last 4 years, has supported the work of Original Power on Yanyuwa Country in building a community-owned solar solution to energy insecurity.

SEVGEN INDIGENOUS CORPORATION

Kabi Kabi country

FY22 \$60,000

Total funding: \$382,500 over 7 years

SevGen, an Indigenous-led social enterprise creates wellness through connections and relationships. CAGES Foundation has provided core operational funding to SevGen for the past 7 years.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE WORLD FORUM – WHITE BOX ENTERPRISES

Organisation is located on Turrbal country

FY22 \$20,000

CAGES Foundation has provided funding to contribute to bursaries for travel expenses ensuring First Nations entrepreneurs have the ability to attend.

SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Sector development grants respond to important initiatives driving systemic change for First Nations people outside of the early years. These grants focus on supporting systemic change within philanthropy and the broader Australian community to impact First Nations people and further the principle of self-determination.

Image courtesy of Eternity Aid



AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (ARACY)

Ngunnawal country

FY22 \$2,500

CAGES Foundation is part of a collaboration of funders who support ARACY and the Early Childhood Impact Alliance to develop better understanding around best practice in the early years.

BLAK LOUNGEROOM

FY22 \$10,000

Total funding \$20,000 over 2 years

Funding for a network of First Nations people working across the nation in philanthropy to discuss and drive First Nations-led philanthropy agenda.

INTERNATIONAL FUNDERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Representing Indigenous People globally

FY22 \$20,000

CAGES Foundation supported IFIP to host a Pacific Dialogue on Awabakal country. Funders gathered to share and learn how to partner respectfully with First Nations community controlled organisations and grow Indigenous led philanthropy.

MANIFERRA

FY22 \$80,000

Total funding \$220,000 over 3 years

CAGES Foundation participates in this collective of Australian funders supporting civil society partners working to build public trust, transparency, and fairness in democracy and create a more inclusive economy. The collective is committed to respectfully funding in the First Nations space.

QUEENSLAND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILD PROTECTION PEAK

Turrbal country

FY22 \$75,000

CAGES Foundation is providing funding for Identifying and developing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child and Family Support Evidence Base.

QATSICPP is the peak body representing, advocating and supporting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child protection and family support sector in Queensland.

ULURU DIALOGUES

NSW Indigenous Law Centre is located on Bedegal country

FY22 \$50,000

Total funding \$200,000 over 4 years

With infrastructure from UNSW Indigenous Law Centre, The Uluru Dialogue has the mandate from elders, traditional owners, and First Nation community representatives who participated in the regional dialogues to undertake the work to progress the Uluru Statement from the Heart through ongoing national and regional dialogues.



CAGES Foundation also distributed \$75,000 across 8 organisations nominated by family members and employees as part of its program to encourage inter-generational philanthropy and employee engagement.

Our audited financial statements will be made available on our website.





www.cagesfoundation.org



Artwork and design by Mazart Communications