



cages
FOUNDATION

**ANNUAL REVIEW
2020-21**



Image courtesy of SNAICC and Wayne Quilliam

CAGES Foundation acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we work and pay our respect to the elders past, present and future for they hold the stories, the knowledge, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal Australia.

This Annual Review may contain images of people who have passed away. We are grateful to our partners for providing the beautiful images in this Annual Review.



When we have power over our destiny, our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds, and their culture will be a gift to their Country. Uluru statement, 2017



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MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR



Founders, Paul and Sandra Salteri

It recognises that magic can happen when you fund Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations. It recognises that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the knowledge, skills, and ways of working to respond to their communities' needs. It recognises that Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations succeed when they have the flexibility and autonomy to implement tailored, holistic, and creative solutions that increase community participation.

2021 has been an important year for CAGES Foundation. We have taken the first steps of our next journey by engaging Cox Inall and Ridgeway to evaluate how we work. The final report is on its way, but the initial feedback is that funding community-led initiatives with flexible funding improves outcomes and is more effective. We want to thank our partners for giving their time and contributing so generously to the process.

As I sit down to write this, CAGES Foundation, alongside Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation, has just been awarded Philanthropy Australia's Indigenous Philanthropy Award for 2021. We were surprised to learn that we had been nominated for this award but thrilled to know that Maari Ma nominated our partnership. This award is important.

We look forward to sharing the final report soon and implementing recommendations to be more effective funders.

It has been a challenging year. Despite the challenges, our partners in the Early Years funding streams continue to create environments where young children and their families walk strong and proud. Our partners in our Economic Inclusion funding stream are breaking down structural barriers for First Nation businesses so they can thrive. I thank our partners for the work they continue to do and teaching us all along the way.

After two years with CAGES Foundation team, Monique McEwan accepted a role as the Aboriginal Women's Health Coordinator within the Diversity team at South Eastern Sydney Local Health District with NSW Health which she began in August. Monique was a critical member of the CAGES Foundation, and we thank her for her valuable contribution to our work.

I want to thank the rest of the CAGES Foundation team and board for their dedication to our work and our collaborators with whom we are privileged to partner. We continue to learn from groups like the First Nations Funders Working Group and the International Funders of Indigenous Peoples.

I wish you all a safe and happy festive season and look forward to continuing our work in the New Year.

Paul Salteri AO
Chair

Well done Paul!

Our Chair, Paul Salteri, was made an Officer of the Order of Australia AO this year for distinguished service to the community through philanthropic support for a range of organisations and business.



... to imagine and
create futures where
they are strong in
culture and identity.

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 our partners, understand their objectives, and are guided by what they need to bring about long-term positive change.



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.



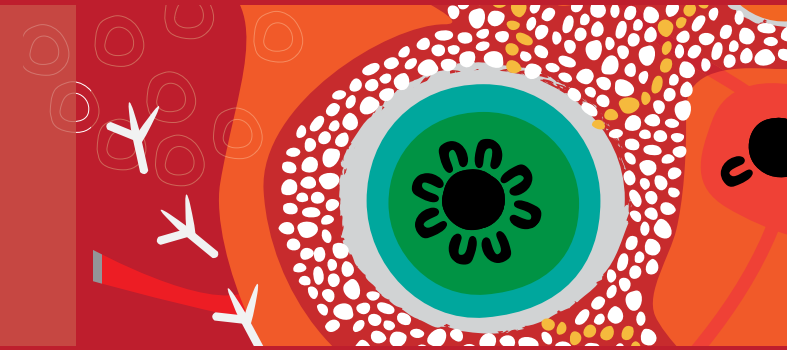
TRANSPARENCY

We are transparent and share our learnings, our failures, and our successes with the community to promote knowledge transfer.



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.



Despite the challenging year, our partners in the Early Years funding streams continue to create environments where young children and their families walk strong and proud.

As a values-driven organisation, CAGES Foundation has always believed that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the knowledge, skills, and ways of working that best respond to their community's needs and create lasting change.

Investing in community-led initiatives, preferably driven by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, delivers more effective outcomes for children and communities.

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

In 2021, we distributed \$2,697,326 across our different funding focus areas. Our primary funding area remains the early years, supporting organisations working with children and families in the first five years of life. We gifted \$1,932,326 in the Early Years streams, with \$1,099,744 of funding being granted directly to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and the remaining funding supporting community-led partnerships.

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.

\$2,697,326
gifted

\$1,779,744
gifted to Aboriginal
Community Controlled
Organisations

66%
Funding to Aboriginal
Community Controlled
Organisations

Investing in community-led initiatives delivers more effective outcomes for children and communities.



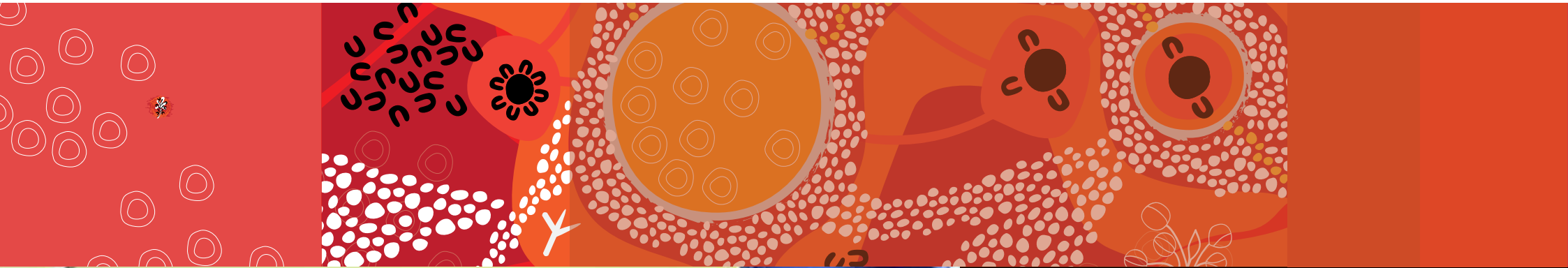


Image courtesy of Mudyala Aboriginal Corporation



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 streams focus on supporting organisations creating culturally safe environments where First Nation children thrive.

THE EARLY YEARS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS



Our **STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FUNDING STREAM** providing long-term funding to organisations working on community-driven early childhood initiatives.

ABSEC

FY21 \$66,000

Total Funding: \$475,927 over 5 years

AbSec is the peak organisation for Aboriginal children and families in NSW. It works to empower Aboriginal children, young people, families, and communities impacted by the child protection system and supports a quality Aboriginal community-controlled child and family sector. CAGES Foundation has supported AbSec for the past 5 years. In 2021, we provided core operation funding for essential policy campaigns, including the “Family Matters” and “Raise the Age” campaigns.

AUSTRALIAN LITERACY AND NUMERACY FOUNDATION (ALNF)

FY21 \$100,000

Total funding: \$2,082,775 over 11 years

ALNF works to promote the vital language, literacy, and communication skills of young people. CAGES Foundation has funded their work in Dunghutti country at the request of Daligur preschool. This year’s funding supported the development of a digital version of the Early Language and Literacy Development Index (ELLDI) to support early intervention in a child’s language and literacy development journey.

CONTACT INC

FY21 \$75,000

Total funding: \$375,275 over 5 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.

CULLUNGHUTTI ABORIGINAL CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICE

FY21 \$125,000

Total funding: \$146,000 over 2 years

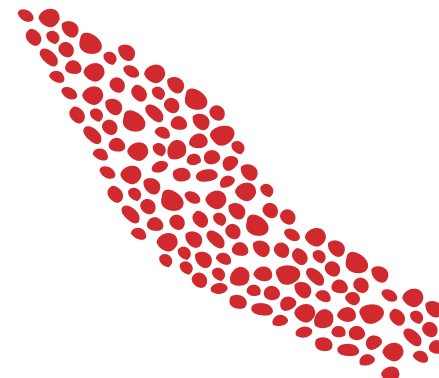
Cullunghutti Aboriginal Child and Family Centre is a place of belonging for all children, their families, and the Shoalhaven community. It is a special place for families to connect, grow and learn strong in Aboriginal identity. CAGES Foundation has provided funding to carry out essential building works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

DALAIGUR PRESCHOOL

FY21 \$80,000

Total funding: \$349,075 over 11 years

Dalaigur Pre-School & Children’s Services is a 3-unit Independent Indigenous-owned community preschool that serves the community of Kempsey. CAGES Foundation funds the playgroup run at the preschool and this year also supported the preschool’s transport service for families.





Our early years' funding streams focus on supporting organisations creating culturally safe environments where First Nation children thrive.

DEADLY CONNECTIONS

FY21 \$150,000

Total funding: \$200,000 over 2 years

Deadly Connections works to address the over-representation of Aboriginal people in the child protection and justice systems. It positively disrupts intergenerational disadvantage, grief, loss, and trauma by providing holistic, culturally responsive interventions and services to First Nations people. CAGES Foundation funding is being used to roll out its Deadly Families Project, an early intervention program targeting risk factors associated with child protection notifications.

ETERNITY AID

FY21 \$45,000

Total funding: \$135,000 over 3 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.

MAARI MA ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICE

FY21 \$110,000

Total funding: \$1,043,875 over 10 years

CAGES Foundation has been fortunate to learn from its 10-year partnership with Maari Ma Aboriginal Health Service. Maari Ma has played a vital role in advocating for better services for its community during the COVID-19 outbreak, and CAGES Foundation endorses its call for better protections for remote communities.

Funding from CAGES has been used for a range of outstanding work over the past 10 years. 2021 funding will continue to support Wilcannia and Broken Hill's home visiting program, which focuses on school readiness.

MUDGIN-GAL

FY21 \$50,000

Total funding: \$75,000 over 2 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

FY21 \$120,000

Total funding: \$345,000 over 3 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 provides funding for Outback Division to employ a local Aboriginal allied health assistant to support community engagement.

ROYAL FAR WEST

FY21 \$134,400

Total funding: \$654,400 over 5 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.

SNAICC

FY21 \$120,000

Total funding: \$770,000 over 8 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 8 years and continues to help fund its leadership roles.

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG, EARLY START

FY21 \$172,182

Total funding: \$460,679 over 3 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.

Our **COMMUNITY GRANTS STREAM** provides one-off grants to Aboriginal Community Controlled organisations providing early years services to children and their families.

The community grants stream, launched in 2019, has proven to be a valuable source of funding for Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to address an immediate need or opportunity.

The community grant recipients exemplify dedicated, inspiring, innovative organisations that demonstrate they have the knowledge and expertise to create nurturing environments for children. Given autonomy and suitable investment, they have shown their innate ability to respond to local needs swiftly and successfully.

AWABAKAL LTD, WICKHAM NSW
\$50,000

Funding to support for the growth of the Awabakal Supported Playgroup

BAWINANGA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION, MANINGGRIDA NT
\$25,000

Funding for educational videos aiding Rheumatic Heart Disease prevention for young children

DANILA DILBA BILURU BUTJI BINNILUTLUM HEALTH SERVICE, DARWIN NT
\$50,000

Funding to research outcomes of the organization's early childhood development services

GALAMBILA ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICE, COFFS HARBOUR NSW
\$22,600

Funding for a cultural attachment program

GUNAWIRRA, ROZELLE NSW
\$49,859

Funding to support occupational therapy in Lismore

GUREHLGAM CORPORATION LIMITED, GRAFTON NSW
\$49,810

Funding for development of Aboriginal cultural program for preschools

KURBINGUI YOUTH AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT LTD, ZILLMERE QLD
\$42,500

Funding to develop and community-led and sourced research program

MIWATJ HEALTH ABORIGINAL CORPORATION, NHULUNBUY NT
\$50,000

Funding to support the development of a framework capturing early childhood health indicators

MUDYALA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION, TOWNSEND NSW
\$37,605

Funding for new equipment for the Play N Yarn Family Support service activities

SYDNEY REGIONAL ABORIGINAL CORPORATION, PENRITH NSW
\$50,000

Funding for a Supported Playgroup with outreach to children with a disability

WALTJA TJUTANGKU PALYPAYI ABORIGINAL CORPORATION, ALICE SPRINGS NT
\$42,000

Funding for Kurrunga Milmilpa: Keeping Spirit Strong through baby smoking ceremony

WILLUM WARRAIN ABORIGINAL ASSOCIATION, HASTINGS VIC
\$25,000

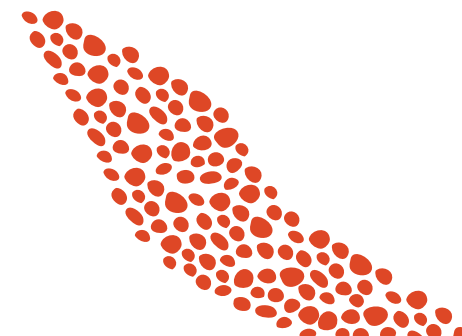
Funding to incorporate family support within the Bush Play Group

WINANGA-LI ABORIGINAL CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRE, GUNNEDAH NSW
\$40,370

Funding for an IT upgrade in early childhood education

WUNANBIRI PRESCHOOL (AUSPICE TRIBAL WARRIOR), REDFERN NSW
\$50,000

Funding to purchase equipment for new preschool premises



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

Our economic inclusion grants are designed to help build sustainable economic solutions created by First Nations people.

We provide grant funding to Aboriginal Controlled Community Organisations working to break down structural barriers that exclude Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from participating in and benefiting from mainstream economic activity.

In 2021, we distributed \$475,000 in our Economic Inclusion grants scheme. All funding was distributed to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN'S CAPITAL

FY21 \$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 has provided flexible operational funding for the past 6 years, and has invested \$500,000 in First Australian's Capitals' pilot impact investment fund.

FIRST HAND SOLUTIONS

FY21 \$50,000

Total funding: \$120,000 over 3 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.

ORIGINAL POWER

FY21 \$75,000

Total funding: \$195,000 over 3 years

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

SEVGEN INDIGENOUS CORPORATION

FY21 \$250,000

Total funding: \$322,500 over 6 years

CAGES Foundation has been providing untied funding to SevGen for the past 6 years. This year, an extraordinary grant was gifted to unlock financing for SevGen to purchase a bush foods business, inclusive of a producing property on Kabi Kabi country. The purchase of this property will enable SevGen to create sustainable income streams and provide youth with a culturally rich learning environment.



Kane Wright and Josh Brown from Deadly Ed, image courtesy of First Australians Capital

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 further the principle of self-determination.



FIRST NATIONS MESSAGING PROJECT

FY21 \$50,000

Total funding \$100,000 over 2 years

The First Nations Messaging Project was Led by Original Power, Getup, Dr. Jackie Huggins AM and facilitated by Australian Progress. It was a two-year research project to develop messages that effectively build public support for First Nations self-determination and justice.

ULURU DIALOGUES

FY21 \$50,000

Total funding \$150,000 over 3 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.

MANIFERRA

FY21 \$80,000

Total funding \$140,000 over 2 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.

JUMBUNNA INSTITUTE

FY21 \$5,000

Funding to support Jumbunna Institute to update and deliver the “Journey to Give Stand and Respect” report on ways to work respectfully with First Nations communities.

BLAK LOUNGEROOM

FY21 \$10,000

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

WOOR DUNGIN

FY 21 \$20,000

CAGES Foundation provided funding to support the development of a Cultural Audit Toolkit. Philanthropic organisations will be able to use the Toolkit to improve their philanthropic practice.



CAGES Foundation also distributed \$80,000 across 9 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