



cages
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT
2019-20



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Front cover image courtesy of Karrkad Kanjdji Trust



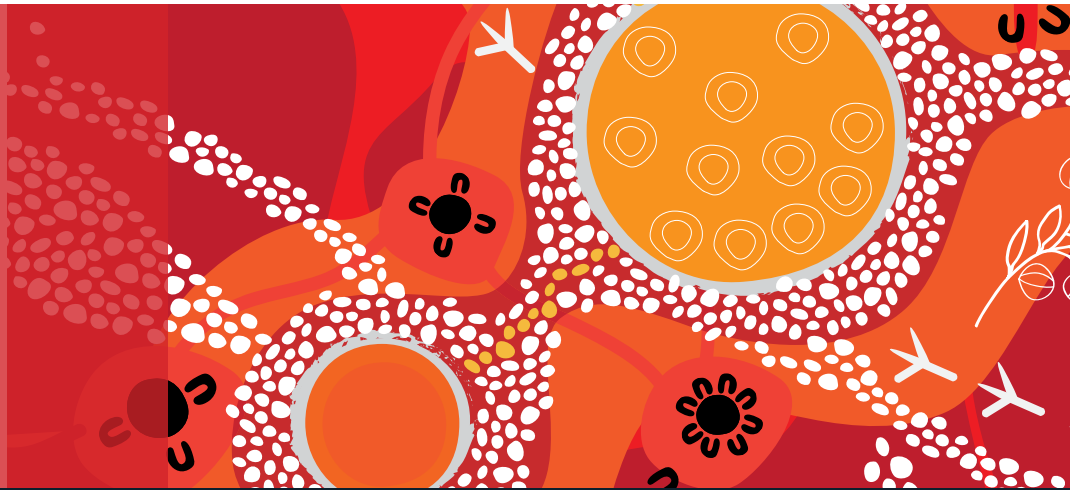


Image courtesy of Royal Far West

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.

We acknowledge that our offices are on the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation and that we fund organisations working in many First Nations across this country.

We are deeply grateful to all First Nations Peoples for their wisdom and generosity in sharing their knowledge.

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 endeavour to LISTEN and LEARN from the communities we fund to gain understanding and knowledge about issues and solutions.



HONESTY

We believe that open and HONEST two-way communication is integral to building successful and trusting partnerships.



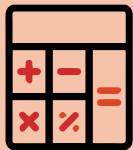
COLLABORATION

We value working COLLABORATIVELY with stakeholders in community and other funders to enhance learning and impact.



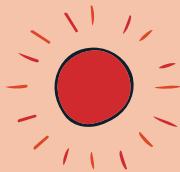
TRANSPARENCY

We aim to be TRANSPARENT and share our learnings and activities with community to promote knowledge transfer.



ACCOUNTABILITY

We will be ACCOUNTABLE to the communities we fund in and are committed to good governance in the administration and management of our foundation as well as in our funding decisions and advocacy.



HUMILITY

We demonstrate HUMILITY as we recognise the virtues and talents of others and honour their inherent value.





We are often asked about the origins of CAGES Foundation's name. When we founded our foundation one of the first tasks was to decide what to call it. In a nod to inter-generational philanthropy we created an acronym made up of our children's names: **C**arla, **A**nthony and **G**emma, and our family name **S**alteri. Sandra and I are very proud of the work of the Foundation and our children's ongoing commitment to it.

Wow, what a year! As we near the end of 2020 there is much to reflect on but what resonates with me most is how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities organised quickly and effectively to protect themselves from coronavirus and how local, Aboriginal controlled organisations were best able to serve and protect their communities.

At CAGES Foundation, we partner with many wonderful organisations and we see our job as supporting those organisations as effectively as we can. This year, I am proud of how we were able to respond quickly and support our partners as they responded to community need.

As we came to terms with the impact of lockdowns and a constantly changing landscape, we ensured that we were supporting our partners as best we could. We made all existing funding flexible, launched a rapid COVID response grant round to support new needs as they arose and convened with other funders to form a First Nations Funders Working group to ensure communities were being supported appropriately. We also quickly committed to honouring all existing forward commitments and to increase our annual giving above our requirements.

In 2020 we distributed over \$2,100,000 to community led initiatives being driven by and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to build on the creativity, intelligence, resilience and connectivity of First Nations people, with a focus on the early years.

As we look forward to 2021, I would like to thank my fellow Board members, CAGES Foundation Advisors and the CAGES Foundation team for all their efforts this year

Paul Salteri AM
Chairman



OUR GRANTING PRINCIPLES

CAGES Foundation is dedicated to funding long-term, community-led, solutions to the challenges young Aboriginal children face resulting from 250 years of colonisation.

We recognise that self-determination must be at the centre of how we work and thank our First Nation friends and partners for sharing their knowledge with us.

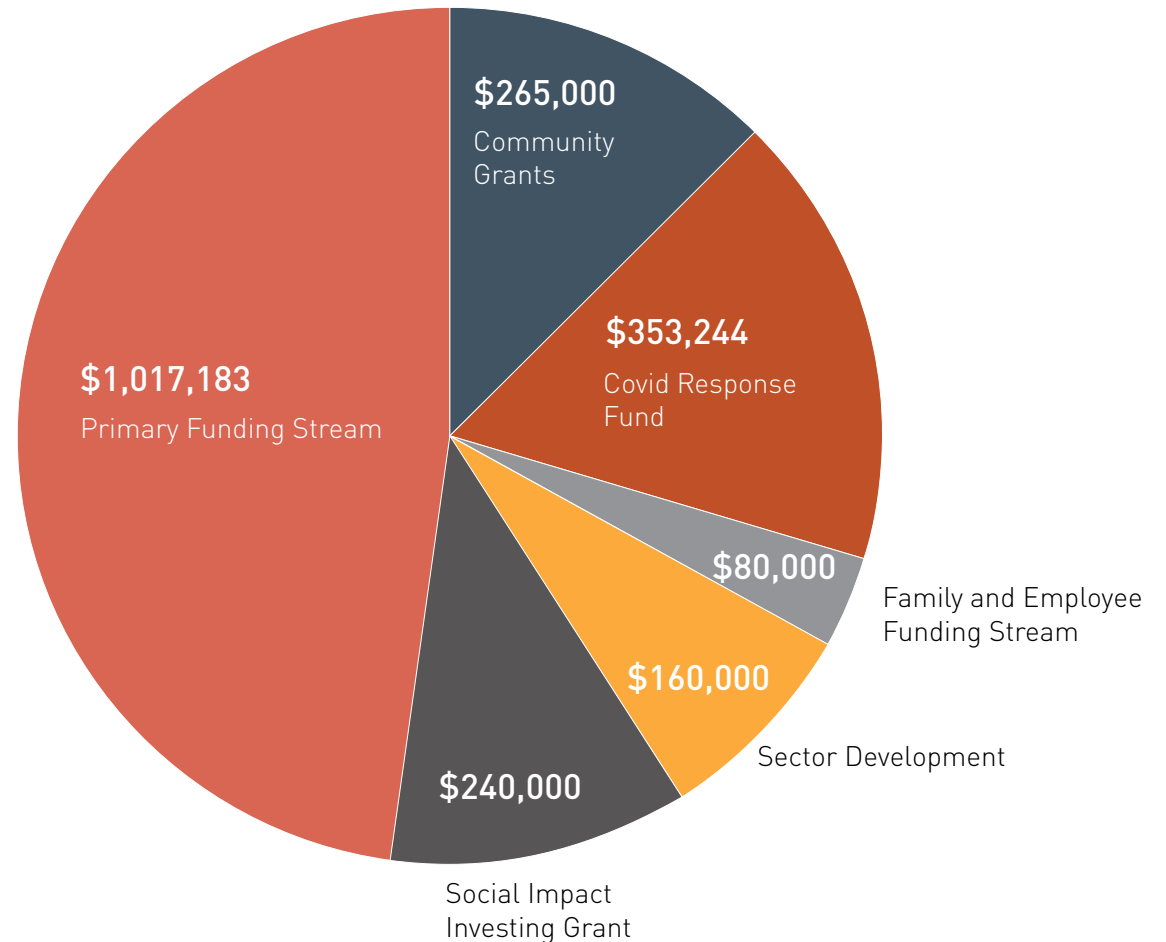
Across all our five focused funding streams we apply the principle of community-led solutions with a preference for funding Aboriginal controlled organisations. In 2020, 56% of the organisations we funded are Aboriginal controlled organisations.

Where we fund non-Aboriginal controlled organisations, we fund organisations that demonstrate meaningful partnerships with community and at the request of community.

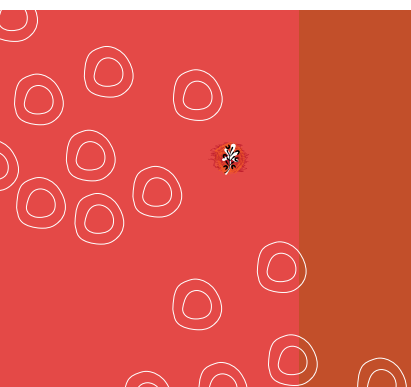
Image courtesy of SevGen



FY20 GRANTING SUMMARY



In 2020 we distributed over \$2,100,000 to organisations working towards improving the opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children



COVID RESPONSE FUND

In March 2020 CAGES Foundation launched a COVID Response Fund that was open to Aboriginal Controlled Organisations who needed funding to respond to the impacts of COVID-19.

The application process was deliberately brief and focused on three main criteria (1) are the applicants financially viable, (2) are the applicants able to effectively respond to community need, and (3) are funds being directed towards Aboriginal led organisations which deliver services to children and families in the early years.

We received 6 direct applications for funding and were also thrilled to partner with AbSec to support their COVID response grants round.

ABSEC

\$100,000

Provided funds for AbSec to distribute to Aboriginal controlled organisations during COVID-19.

BAABAYN ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

\$20,000

Provided educational activity packs to support mothers of young children.

CULLUNGHUTTI ABORIGINAL CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRE

\$21,000

Funded the provision of educational resource packs, hygiene safety packs, laptops and support packs to young families.

JARJUM CENTRE

\$17,244

Funded the delivery of activity packs to families.

KULIA PRESCHOOL

\$10,000

Funded the acquisition of IT equipment.

MUDGIN-GAL WOMEN'S CENTRE

\$25,000

Supported a drop off service for families.

NACCHO

\$25,000

Helped fund the Aboriginal led COVID taskforce

COMMUNITY GRANTS ROUND

CAGES launched a community grants round in 2018 with the explicit purpose of funding discreet needs of Aboriginal controlled organisations operating in the early childhood sector.

Since it was launched, \$532,436 have been dispersed to 13 community organisations, and we continue to be impressed with the calibre of organisations applying to our community grants round.

In 2020, CAGES Foundation gifted \$245,000 in its community grant round to six fantastic Aboriginal controlled organisations working with their communities' young people.

DALAIGUR PRESCHOOL

\$25,000

Funding towards a supported playgroup for Aboriginal families.

DEADLY CONNECTIONS

\$50,000

Funding for the Deadly Families Project, a culturally responsive early intervention program for Aboriginal Mum's and Dad's.

KARRKAD KANJDI TRUST

\$50,000

Funding for the Nawarddeken Early Learning Program support, including the development of early learning bilingual and bicultural teaching resources.

BENDIGO AND DISTRICT ABORIGINAL CO-OP

\$50,000

Support to develop a cultural curriculum and resources for the new kindergarten program.

MERANA ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

\$50,000

Support to develop a First nations parenting Program Co-design model.

WAMINDA

\$40,000

Support to strengthen evaluation processes and workforce capacity.



PRIMARY FUNDING STREAM

Our Primary Funding Stream is dedicated to supporting community led initiatives that support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children in the early years.

Our partners continue to deliver amazing services supporting young children, here is a snapshot of some the great organisations and projects that CAGES Foundation supported this year.

ABSEC

FY20 funding \$120,000;

Total funding \$309,927 over 4 years

AbSec is the NSW peak organisation for Aboriginal children and families. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are 10 times more likely to be removed from their families in NSW than non-Aboriginal children. Their vision is to create a world where all Aboriginal children and young people are looked after in safe, thriving Aboriginal families and communities and are raised strong in spirit and identity with every opportunity for lifelong wellbeing and connection to culture, surrounded by holistic supports.

CAGES Foundation supports AbSec's communications capacity to amplify voice and enhance engagement with government, supporters and membership on key issues facing NSW Aboriginal children and families.

AUSTRALIAN LITERACY & NUMERACY FOUNDATION (ALNF)

FY20 funding \$200,000;

Total funding \$1,982,775 over 10 years

CAGES Foundation supports the work that ALNF does across the Mid-North Coast of NSW supporting the continued expansion and growth of the innovative Early Language & Literacy (EL&L) Program across the region.

The EL&L program builds the capacity of adults in the community to mediate challenges resulting from entrenched disadvantage and improve children's educational outcomes, with a particular focus on pre-literacy skills. With a strong whole-of-community approach, local educators, parents and carers are empowered with effective techniques and resources to teach children the foundational language and literacy skills required for success in school and later life. The Project has produced exceptional results and is strongly supported and driven by the community.

CONTACT INC

FY20 funding \$75,000;

Total funding \$300,275 over 4 years

Contact Inc works within northwest NSW, utilising community development approaches to define child and family gaps and support local service gaps whilst complementing and supporting existing child and family services to achieve self-defined goals and outcomes for children and families.

In 2020 CAGES Foundation funded a new approach to this work, focusing on contracting Regional Consultants who have local knowledge and are connected their local Aboriginal community. Contact has formed a partnerships such as the one with Gainmara-Birrilee Preschool in Brewarrina called Murri in Murri (Hand in Hand) and is providing one-on-one consultations with Gainmara-Birrilee families to develop individualised plans that responds to their children's needs. While in Coonamble, Contact has been able to contract a local Co-ordinator and four Coonamble Aboriginal Community Engagement Project Officers to engage with Coonamble Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families with young children to define needs and service gaps and work on solutions that best meet family's needs.

EARLY START – UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

FY20 funding \$116,315;

Total funding \$288,497 over 2 years

CAGES Foundation supports the Early Start initiative, a collaborative project that aims to support the workforce goals of early childhood education (ECE) settings within regional and remote areas. Strengthened workforce capacity leads to high quality early childhood education and therefore improved life outcomes for children.

Through this project the Early Start team has developed an increased knowledge of the ECE workforce of regional and remote settings and Aboriginal communities. This knowledge is informing how the University of Wollongong supports educators to gain ECE qualifications, assists community members to enter the ECE workforce, and engages educators in professional learning on quality practice and inclusion.

ETERNITY AID

FY20 funding \$45,000;

Total funding \$90,000 over 2 years

Eternity Aid's vision is to create significant sustained change by empowering people and communities through compassion and acceptance through meaningful relationships. CAGES Foundation provides funding for Eternity Aid to provide early intervention programs in Bourke through an interdisciplinary Paediatric Allied Health Team who conduct screening, assessments and group work for young children identified at risk of developmental delay with simple interventions or referrals to specialist services in the area.

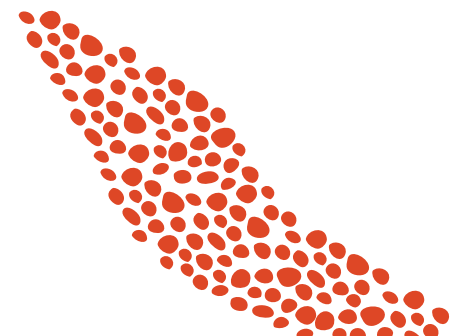
MAARI MA HEALTH ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

FY20 funding \$110,000;

Total funding \$933,875 over 9 years

Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation understands the model of care that suits the needs of Aboriginal children and their families in far west NSW. They know that Aboriginal staff are the key to engaging with community, providing services mob needs in ways they are comfortable accessing these services. When they employed a speech therapist and an occupational therapist, they knew they would get much better traction in the implementation of these therapies with Aboriginal staff participating in the process and supporting families between therapy sessions.

CAGES Foundation funding was used by Maari Ma to employ two local Aboriginal women to support the allied health team and the families they were seeing while studying their Cert IV in Allied Health Assistance.



NSW OUTBACK DIVISION

FY20 funding \$110,000

Total funding \$225,000 over 2 years

CAGES Foundation has provided funding for The Outback Division of General Practice to recruit and retain an Aboriginal Allied Health Assistant (AAHA) located in Bourke to advocate for Aboriginal people as well as provide a clinical support function within a multidisciplinary team. This position assists in the provision of culturally safe and responsive services to children, families and community and provides a vital link between community and clinicians while also informing Outback Division's organisational Reconciliation Action Plan.

ROYAL FAR WEST

FY20 funding \$130,000;

Total funding \$520,000 over 4 years

With funding from CAGES Foundation, Royal Far West has been working in partnership with the Bourke community and the Maranguka project to improve developmental outcomes for the children of Bourke since 2017. The Royal Far West Healthy Kids Bus Stop regularly visits Bourke for comprehensive screenings of preschool children by a specialist paediatric therapist to identify potential barriers to a child's development. Pathways to care are developed for children who would benefit from extra support and early intervention, so they are ready to learn when they start school. Training for teachers and preschool teachers has been an important component of our activities in Bourke, assisting teachers to quickly identify and support developmental health challenges in children. By ensuring vulnerable children are identified, children are given the best possible chance of overcoming early obstacles to learning and optimise their chance of positive educational and life outcomes.

SNAICC

FY20 funding \$160,000;

Total funding \$650,000 over 7 years

Major policy currents that could profoundly affect the future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families are converging as we turn the corner into 2021.

With operational support from CAGES Foundation, SNAICC is playing a critical role in ensuring the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families are heard and community led organisations are given the opportunity and capacity to lead policies and programs that will enable children to thrive within family, community and culture.

As a member of the Joint Council for Closing the Gap, SNAICC helped negotiate the fundamental shift in the way governments work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and establish new targets on early years education and child protection through the new Closing the Gap agreement. SNAICC are bringing the voices of communities into the highest levels of discussion of a National Voice to Parliament and co-designing key national strategies with government on child protection and the early years respectively



SOCIAL IMPACT INVESTING GRANTS

Social impact investing grants fund the exploration and development of sustainable economic solutions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and support the expansion of the Indigenous business network. These grants can have a broad application, from developing internal investment products within Aboriginal controlled non-government organisations or assisting in the development and structuring of profitable enterprises for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses.

FIRST AUSTRALIANS CAPITAL

FY20 funding \$100,000;
Total funding \$505,000 over 5 years

First Australians Capital provides a range of resources to Indigenous businesses, including professional business support and services, networking, and access to financial capital. CAGES Foundation provides operational funding to support the work that First Australians Capital are doing in building a vibrant First Nation's economy so that First Australians can create and drive their own economic prosperity.

ORIGINAL POWER

FY20 funding \$60,000;
Total funding \$120,000 over 2 years

CAGES Foundation has supported Original Power's work with the Clean Energy project and the work they are doing with the community of Borroloola in the Northern Territory to scope options for small scale solar to address energy insecurity, as well as avenues for a feasibility study for renewables for the town. This includes building capacity, supporting community engagement and brokering partnerships.

FIRST HAND SOLUTIONS

FY20 funding \$50,000;
Total funding \$70,000 over 2 years

First Hand Solutions Aboriginal Corporation specialises in finding hands on solutions to issues faced by Aboriginal people, families and communities and particularly young Aboriginal people and utilises a social enterprise model to fund its activities. CAGES Foundation is supporting First Hand Solutions Aboriginal Corporation by providing funding for an operations manager over a three year period. This crucial support has resourced First Hands and assisted in its growth from a small charity with two part-time workers running community programs to one that will soon be employing 14 people and also runs two social enterprises -the Blak Markets/National Indigenous Art Fair and IndigiGrow.

SEVGEN

FY20 funding \$20,000;
Total funding \$72,500 over 5 years

SevGen is an Indigenous led, demand driven organisation that provides a range of services which have been developed in response to the needs and aspirations of community. CAGES Foundation provide operational support that this year was focused on SevGen's COVID recovery project, Makers Market, Makers Market.



Image courtesy of First Hand Solutions

SECTOR DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

At times, there are important initiatives supported by CAGES Foundation that are driving systemic change for First Nations people outside of the early years. Our Sector development grants are focused on supporting systemic change within philanthropy and the wider Australian community to positively impact First Nations people.

INDIGENOUS LAW CENTRE (UNSW) - ULURU DIALOGUE

FY20 funding \$50,000;
Total funding \$100,000 over 2 years

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is an invitation from First Nations to “walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.” It was issued in May 2017 after several years of consultation with First Nation communities and calls for structural reform that involves the constitutional enshrinement of a First Nations Voice to Parliament and sequenced next, the establishment of a Makaratta Commission to supervise treaty-making and truth-telling processes between First Nations and the Australian government at all levels of governance.

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, and are committed to maintaining and growing mob consensus through ongoing national and regional dialogues. The UNSW Indigenous Law Centre provides infrastructure and administrative support to the Uluru Dialogue and undertakes the public legal education and academic work that must underpin law reform and the Voice to Parliament.

MANNIFERA

FY20 funding \$60,000

Mannifera is a collective of Australian funders that supports partners in civil society working to build public trust, transparency and fairness in democracy, and create a more inclusive economy. CAGES Foundation participates in this collective to learn and listen from other funders and to contribute to the discussion on how to respectively fund in the First Nations space.

ORIGINAL POWER AND AUSTRALIAN PROGRESS - THE FIRST NATIONS MESSAGE RESEARCH AND NARRATIVE SHIFTING PROJECT

FY20 funding \$50,000

The First Nations Message Research and Narrative Shifting project aims to identify effective messages to build public support for First Nations self-determination and justice. Led by Original Power, Getup, Dr Jackie Huggins AM and Australian Progress, a five-month Messaging Fellowship for 19 leading communicators, and analysed thousands of messages has been held.

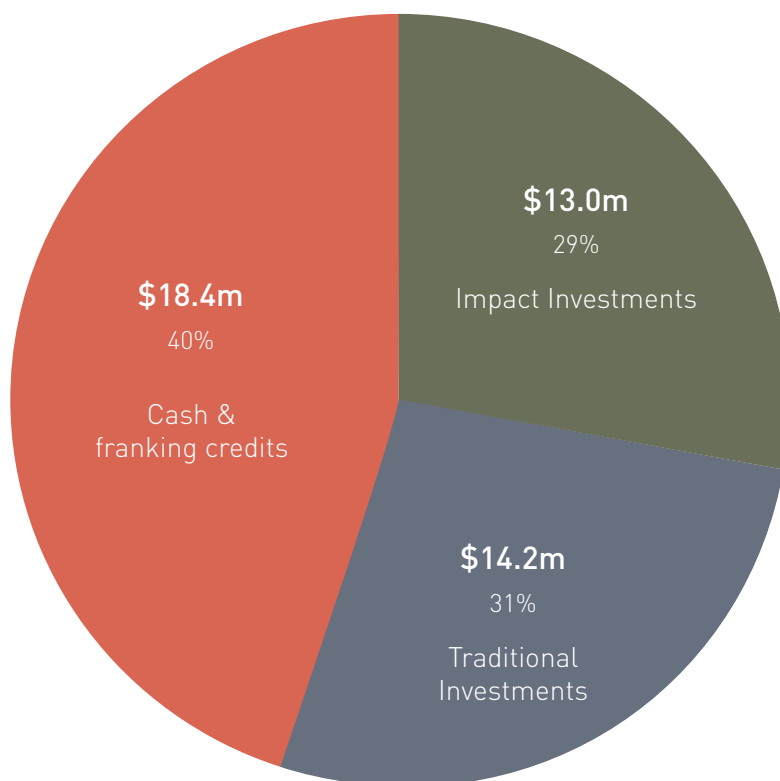


Auntie Pat Anderson and Megan Davis

Image courtesy of University of NSW

The corpus of CAGES Foundation is invested in a diverse portfolio and is managed carefully to minimize risk whilst maximising returns. During the financial year our investment committee met 10 times to review investments and performance. In kind investment advice is provided by Soletto Pty Ltd, a Salteri Family company.

INVESTMENT ALLOCATION AS AT 30 JUNE 2020



Summary	\$
Portfolio Market Value	45.6m
Investment Gain/(Loss)	2.1m
Contributed Capital in FY20	5.0m
Distributions	2.1m
Cumulative Distributions	14.0m
Operating Expenses as a % of Net Assets*	0.6% excluding legal fees
Operating Expenses as a % of Net Assets*	0.9% including legal fees

* Operating expenses exclude in kind administrative and operational support provided by Soletto Pty Ltd, a Salteri family company.

The accounts for CAGES Foundation are audited by Frank Clune and Sons.





www.cagesfoundation.org



Artwork and design by Mazart Communications