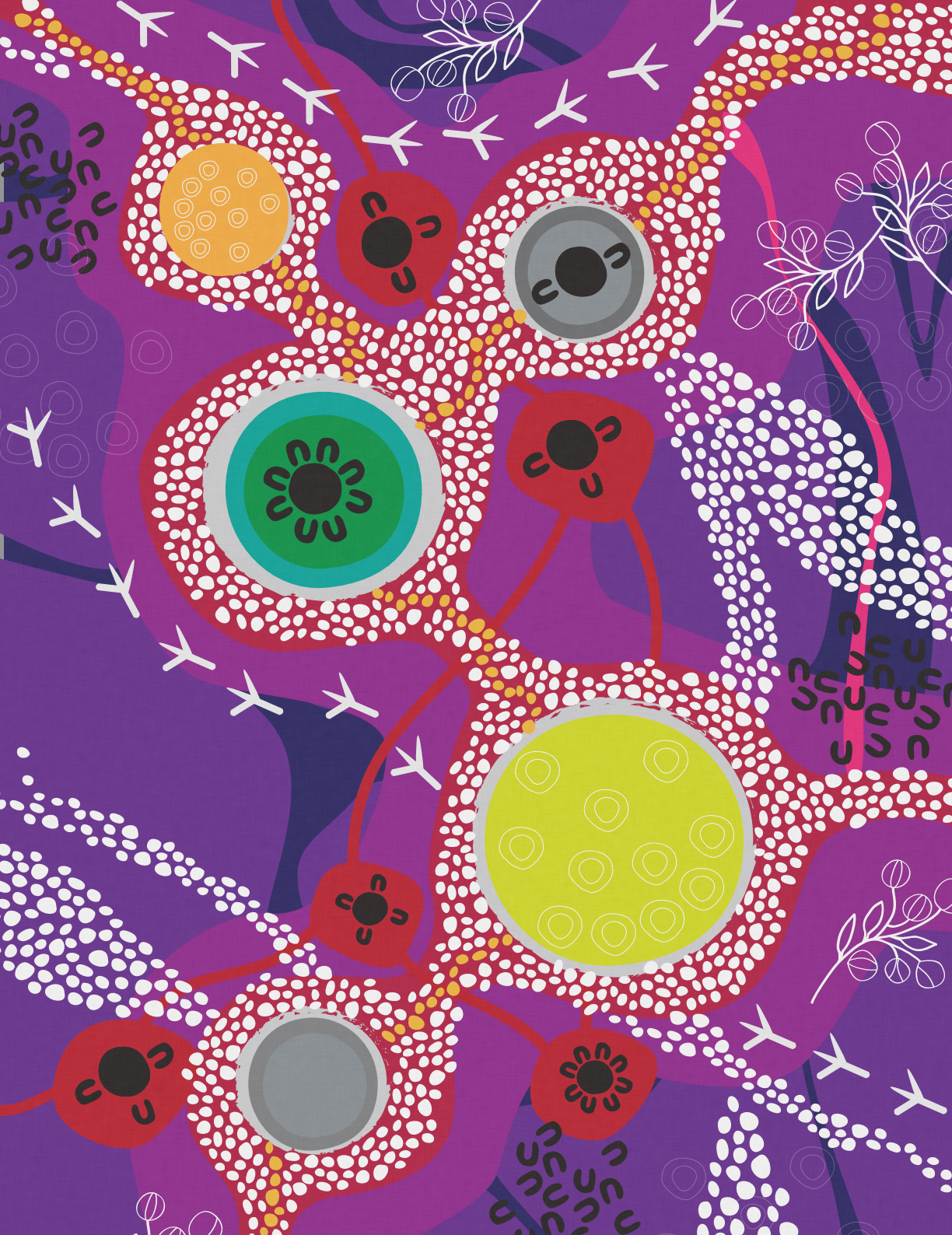




ANNUAL REPORT
2017-18

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

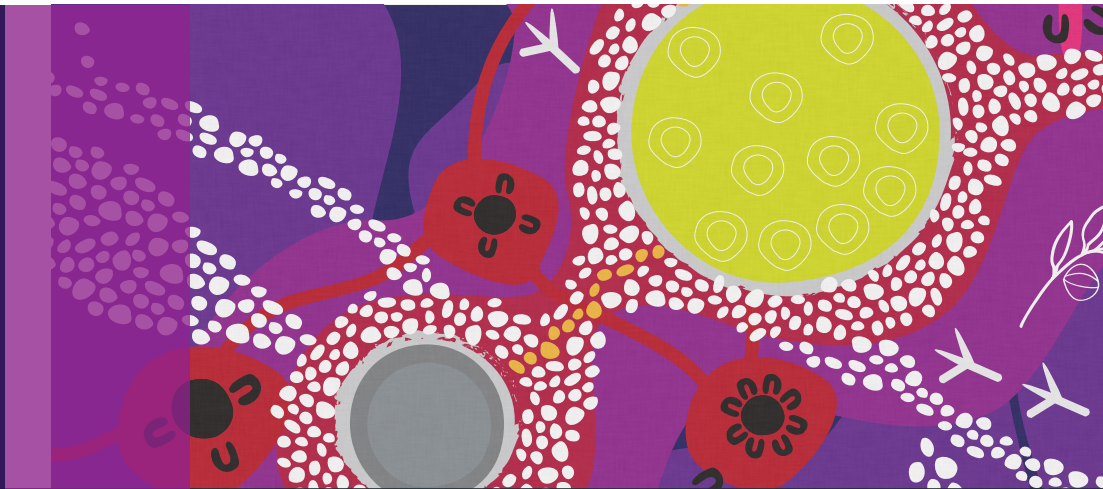


Image courtesy of Wayne Quilliam photography

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.

T: (02) 9051 2411 | E: info@cagesfoundation.org | www.cagesfoundation.org

OUR PURPOSE

To contribute to an Australia where and 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.

OUR VALUES



LISTEN AND LEARN

We endeavour to LISTEN and LEARN from the communities we fund to gain an understanding and appreciation of issues faced and potential solutions.



HONESTY

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



COLLABORATION

We value partnership and COLLABORATION with community stakeholders and other funders to find new ways to make positive impacts.



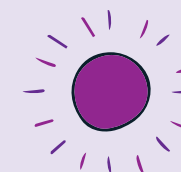
TRANSPARENCY

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



ACCOUNTABILITY

We are committed to strong governance and ACCOUNTABILITY in the administration, management, decision making, policies and advocacy of our foundation.



HUMILITY

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

LETTER FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

One of the pleasures of writing the Chairman's report for our Annual Review is that it provides an opportunity to reflect on the great work that we are undertaking at CAGES Foundation.



Sandra Salteri
Co-Founder

Paul Salteri AM
Co-Founder and Chair

This year, we have continued to fund exceptional organisations that are working towards a more just society by providing access to opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the early years. We completed a strategic review which focused on determining how we could be confident that we are being responsible and responsive funders and that we have the correct processes in place to ensure we are listening and responding to community needs.

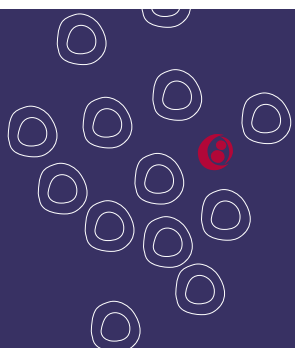
We launched our inaugural Community Grants round this year, where Aboriginal-controlled organisations were asked to apply for one-off funding for grants up to \$50,000. We received great feedback for this grant round and distributed \$200,000 to 8 great community-based organisations. You can read about the impact that this funding initiative had on 2 of our partners Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association and The Aboriginal Child, Family and Community Care State Secretariat (ABSEC) further in this report. We were impressed with all the applications we received and will continue to provide access to more flexible funding for Aboriginal controlled organisations. We will also be refining the application process, so funds are accessible year-round and not restricted to our June funding distributions.

In our Primary Funding Stream, we made 11 grants totalling almost \$1.2M dollars, of which 6 were honouring forward commitments to existing partners, 2 were new grants to our existing partners and 3 were grants to new partners. Later in this report, you can hear more from our great partner SNAICC - National Voice of our Children whom we have supported for the last 3 years and from a new partnership between the Aboriginal Workers Group and MacKillop Family Services which CAGES Foundation is supporting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our hard-working team and my fellow board members for their diligence over the past 12 months. I would also like to extend my thanks to our partners for the excellent work they continue to do in providing opportunities for children in their communities.

Paul Salteri AM
Chairman

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I have recently returned from the International Funders of Indigenous Peoples conference in Santa Fe, where CAGES Foundation was privileged to be invited to present by two of our partners, the Koondee Woonga-gat Toor-rong Foundation and the Woor-Dungin.

Gemma Salteri
Executive Director



Gemma Salteri, Simone Spencer, Rachel Kerry, Sherree Chaudhry and Peter Aldenhoven attending the International Funders of Indigenous Peoples conference in Santa Fe.

Rachel Kerry and I attended the conference with Peter Aldenhoven (from the Koondee Woonga-gat Toor-rong Foundation) and Sherree Chaudhry and Simone Spencer (from Woor-Dungin). The conference was focused on how to place the principle of self-determination at the centre of decision making when funding First Nations peoples. As we reflect on the learnings of the conference we recognise a need to ensure we have appropriate engagement with our partners, and that we can demonstrate how we put self-determination at the heart of our funding decisions. This will be an exciting journey and we are looking forward to hearing from our partners about how we can more effectively support the communities that we fund.

I was also honoured to be a guest of National Congress at the NAIDOC ball this year and witness Jackie Huggins AM present June Oscar AO with the NAIDOC Person of the Year award. It was a great celebration of so many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander changemakers who have a clear vision for their communities, and as philanthropists, it is our responsibility and privilege to support their visions.

In preparing this annual report, it is gratifying to see that CAGES Foundation has made important headway in some key areas. Of note, I am proud to report that 49.74% of grants made in our Primary Funding Stream, Community Grant Stream and Social Impact Investment grant schemes were made to Aboriginal-controlled organisations, with the remaining 50.25% of grants made to organisations that have demonstrated a close partnership with communities and that work towards community defined outcomes. The launch of our Community Grant Stream this year was another important step in increasing access to philanthropic funding for Aboriginal-controlled organisations.

As CAGES Foundation enters its 10th year of operation, we continue to be inspired by the work of our partners and are excited to share some of their stories in this report.

Gemma Salteri
Executive Director



Image courtesy of Wilurru Warrain Aboriginal Association

STRIVING TO BE EFFECTIVE PHILANTHROPISTS WHO LISTEN, LEARN, EVALUATE AND DEVELOP

\$1.6M GRANTS AWARDED

49.7% OF FUNDING FROM OUR PRIMARY, COMMUNITY AND IMPACT INVESTMENT GRANT STREAMS WAS DIRECTED TO ABORIGINAL-LED ORGANISATIONS

CAGES Foundation intentionally seeks to fund organisations with high levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation, influence, identity and leadership. The foundation's principle of self-determination is best enacted through supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led organisations. We recognise the value of respectful partnerships with organisations that demonstrate genuine and intentional two-way learning practices, that build on the assets in a community and assist in driving a community-led strategy. Despite these organisations operating in many diverse communities with unique assets and challenges, they all have a proven track record in being responsive to community feedback and building genuine relationships with the communities they support.

In 2018 we distributed \$1.2M through our primary funding stream to 11 organisations working with children in the early years. Eight grants were made to existing partners and we were excited to make 2 grants to new partners. Here is a snapshot of what our Primary Funding Grant partners are doing with support from CAGES Foundation.

THE ABORIGINAL FAMILY WORKERS SUPPORT GROUP – A NEW INITIATIVE IN WESTERN SYDNEY

The Aboriginal Family Workers Support Group is a group of Aboriginal workers from non-profit and government agencies who work together to identify and address gaps in services to Aboriginal families in the Blacktown and Penrith Local Government Areas. This group developed the Aboriginal Family Planning Circle, which builds and enhances safety and strengths within Aboriginal families through support and referral. Together with Mackillop Family Services and The Australian Centre for Social Innovation, this group is planning to augment this service into a fully-fledged and evaluated family preservation model that supports Aboriginal parents who are at risk of involvement with the child protection system.

This model will be completely self-determined, as it will be designed by Aboriginal families, workers and communities. It will build on the current Aboriginal Family Planning Circle which already successfully supports families across the region. The focus of this model will be to keep strong family connections to culture and community, build parenting skills in a culturally appropriate way and, most importantly, prevent children from entering out-of-home care.

This collaboration will ensure a sustainable model that will continue to support the families of the Blacktown and Penrith regions into the future, whilst providing an excellent example to other community and government of the potential of self-determined community-led solutions.

OUR GRANT PARTNERS

Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation (ALNF)

Total Funding \$1,542,775
2018 Grant \$220,000
Multi Year Funding: 7 years

CAGES Foundation funding continues to support the continuation and evaluation of “Early Language and Literacy” capacity building for educators, parents and carers teaching vulnerable children in the Macleay Valley region.

Contact Inc.

2018 Grant \$100,00
New Grant Partner

Contact Inc. works to address the impacts of isolation on children, families and communities. CAGES Foundations funding is directed towards a dedicated fieldwork position to work in Bourke and surrounding isolated communities.

Dalaigur Playgroup

Total Funding \$157,075
2018 Grant \$15,000
Multi Year Funding: 7 years

Dalaigur Playgroup serves the community of Kempsey and outlying areas of Kempsey Shire. CAGES Foundation funding is used for training and facilitation of Aboriginal Workers playgroups.

Documentary Australia Foundation

Total Funding \$50,000
2018 Grant \$40,000
Multi Year Funding: 2 years

CAGES Foundation Funding is directed towards the development of the “KIDS” film project which will be used to finish production of the film and create a tool for social change to shift ingrained negative assumptions about indigenous families in Australia.

Jarjum Preschool

2018 Grant \$150,000
New Grant Partner

Jarjum Preschool is an Aboriginal organisation that delivers an accessible and culturally appropriate preschool program for children aged 2-5 years. CAGES Foundation funding is being directed towards the development of a bespoke facility. This grant has enabled the Jarjum Preschool to attract additional government support and will unlock a low interest loan facility from SEFA.

Maari Ma Aboriginal Health

Total Funding \$729,875
2018 Grant \$95,000
Multi Year Funding: 7 years

Maari Ma Health is an Aboriginal corporation that serves Aboriginal families and communities in achieving good health, wellbeing and self-determination. CAGES Foundation funding is directed towards creating a sustainable Maari Ma Paediatric strategy.

Image courtesy of Sarah Francis, SNAICO

*Mackillop Family Services
in Partnership with The
Aboriginal Working Group
and The Australian Centre for
Social Innovation*

2018 Grant \$110,000
New Grant Partner

CAGES Foundation has provided critical seed funding for a new initiative in the Blacktown and Penrith Local Government areas to develop a self-determined family preservation model that is led by Aboriginal workers, families and communities to build on the strengths of families and prevent children from entering the out-of-home care system.

*Maranguka Justice
Reinvestment Project*

Total Funding \$328,550
2018 Grant \$103,500
Multi Year Funding: 3 years

The Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project in Bourke is a community led strategy addressing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people in the criminal justice system. CAGES Foundation funding is directed towards the early childhood component of this strategy.

Royal Far West

Total Funding \$255,000
2018 Grant \$175,000
Multi Year Funding: 2 years

Royal Far West works to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people who live in rural and remote communities. CAGES Foundation funding supports the delivery of community requested 3 and 4-year-old health check services in Bourke.

SNAICC

Total Funding \$330,000
2018 Grant \$75,000
Multi Year Funding: 5 years

SNAICC is a National Aboriginal Organisation that provides a strong voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families. CAGES Foundation funding is used towards staff development and advocacy work.

Telethon Institute

Total Funding \$775,000
2018 Grant \$100,000
Multi Year Funding: 6 years

CAGES Funding is directed towards improving the health and wellbeing of children through excellence in research and the expansion of the Maralu Clinic in partnership with PACTHES Paediatrics.





Image courtesy of Sarah Francis, SNAICC

A MESSAGE FROM **SNAICC**

HIGHLIGHTING THE NATIONAL VOICE FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN

SNAICC is the national voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. We believe that all children deserve to thrive and fulfil their potential. We exist to ensure that all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children grow up healthy, happy and safe.

SNAICC is an Indigenous-led initiative that has been established by and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. For almost 40 years, SNAICC has been the national peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, working with communities to advance their children's rights.

Over the last five years we have built a strong and important partnership with the CAGES Foundation. Being able to work towards shared organisational goals, hand in hand, is an invaluable aspect of a respectful, long-term relationship. Together we are stronger – we are able to face our challenges, find innovative ways to overcome them, and build on our successes to strengthen the whole of our sector.

The support the CAGES Foundation provides us – in increasing the capacity of our communications as a driver of advocacy – ensures the voices of our leaders, communities and children are heard.

Sharron Williams

Chair

SNAICC – National Voice for our Children



Image courtesy of Sarah Francis, SNAICC

CAGES FOUNDATION LAUNCHES A COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME

In March we launched our new Community Grants Stream which provides small grants up to \$50,000 exclusively to Aboriginal-controlled organisations working with children in the early years.

These grants are designed to be one-off grants to support operational needs, including professional development, evaluation work, strategic development initiatives and equipment and resources.

We received 11 applications and awarded 8 grants ranging from \$3,000 to \$50,000. The diversity and quality of applications was impressive and highlighted a need for further philanthropic funding of this nature.

We are excited to make our Community Grants Stream a permanent fluid funding stream with no application deadlines or grant timeline in 2019 to enable us to be more responsive to community needs.

A MESSAGE FROM ABSEC, THE ABORIGINAL CHILD, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY CARE STATE SECRETARIAT (NSW)

AbSec is the peak organisation for Aboriginal child protection and family support agencies across NSW. At a time when the state is removing Aboriginal children from their families at ten times the rate of non-Indigenous kids – and the number of children removed has doubled since the 2008 Apology to Stolen Generations – our work in advocating for Aboriginal families and promoting positive policies is more important than ever.

Unfortunately, accessing philanthropic funding for this kind of work can be challenging. Our projects unfold over the long term, and success comes incrementally, where many philanthropic funders prefer to see short-term and quantifiable gains. Working to change complex and deep-seated policies and attitudes is slow and involves the kind of behind-the-scenes work that doesn't translate easily into glossy CSR brochures.

We are grateful to CAGES Foundation for having the insight and commitment to invest in our important work. Together, we are building a future where Aboriginal children will have every opportunity to grow up safe and supported within their family, culture and community.

With the support of the CAGES Foundation community grant, we were able to facilitate an innovative expressive therapeutic program for Aboriginal children to support their engagement and learning in a preschool setting. This included engagement with an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation to shape program delivery, ensuring that local Aboriginal communities lead programs for Aboriginal children and young people. Overall, the pilot was well received by the Aboriginal communities and generated significant interest for its continued development and expansion.

Tim Ireland
Chief Executive Officer
AbSec



OUR COMMUNITY GRANT PARTNERS

AbSec \$40,000

AbSec works for all Aboriginal children to be in a safe, thriving family.

Community grant for Strategic planning and organisational capacity building to increase impact.

Bushmob Aboriginal Corp \$25,000

Bushmob supports high-risk young people aged 12 – 25 years.

Community grant awarded to build capacity for safe and effective parenting for young people.

Dalaigur Preschool \$22,000 and \$15,000

Daligur Preschool works to raise healthy and culturally strong children.

Community grant awarded to update the Preschool indoor and outdoor environment and kitchen appliances.

Community grant awarded to Scribbly Gum for security fencing, renovations and air conditioning.

First Peoples Disability Network \$25,000

First Peoples Disability Network works to empower First Peoples with disability.

Community grant awarded to develop resources and build capacity with Aboriginal children with disability.

Ngroo Education Inc \$50,000

Ngroo Education supports Aboriginal children to achieve their potential by increasing participation in mainstream early childhood education.

Community grant awarded for staffing, resources and program supervision.

Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association \$20,000

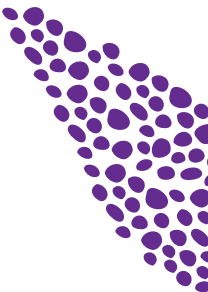
Willum Warrain is a gathering place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Community grant awarded for Aboriginal female staff and resources to run programs targeting children.

Woor Dungin \$3,000

Woor Dungin builds effective partnerships between ATSI organisations and philanthropy.

Community grant awarded to build respectful relationships from an Aboriginal perspective.





A MESSAGE FROM WILLUM WARRAIN ABORIGINAL ASSOCIATION

A MESSAGE FROM PETER ALDENHOVEN, PRESIDENT OF WILLUM WARRAIN ABORIGINAL ASSOCIATION AND RECIPIENT OF AN INAUGURAL CAGES FOUNDATION COMMUNITY GRANT

Over the last two years, I have been able to ask honestly for funding that targets the cultural strengthening needs for women and children in our community from CAGES Foundation. My ongoing relationship with Rachel Kerry is built on trust which means I can talk about what is needed and what is important to our community and not put in an ambit claim to optimise support.

In 2018, Willum Warrain applied for critical wages funding for our Bush Play group Coordinator and Aboriginal Women's Cultural Program Officer which were gratefully received. Both programs have now grown as a consequence and are better run, more engaging and attract more women and their families.

Willum Warrain had not spent all of the previous funding from CAGES in 2017 which was for a Welcome Baby to Country program as the program was not able to be delivered in the original proposed time frame.

CAGES Foundation believed that we would deliver this program when able and left the funding in place. This flexibility allowed thirteen babies and their families to participate in this special event at our Gathering Place on September 8th, 2018. Each baby and child were named for country by a Bunurong Elder, received possum skin bracelets, Palawa shell necklaces, inscribed boomerangs according to gender and a set of images from a professional photographer.

It was a beautiful occasion and arguably the most important cultural ceremony we have conducted at Willum Warrain so far in our nearly five years of operations.

Peter Aldenhoven

President

Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association

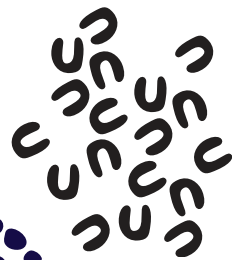


Image courtesy of Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association



Image courtesy of Wayne Quilliam photography

CONTINUING TO INVEST IN INDIGENOUS BUSINESS

In 2018 CAGES Foundation piloted an Impact Investment Grant Stream directed towards building the organisational capacity of Indigenous businesses and enterprises.

We ran a closed application round and awarded a \$100,000 grant to First Australians Capital which was directed towards consolidating internal systems and capabilities to ensure their sustainability.

OUR INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO ALLOCATION

The percentage of our investment portfolio allocated towards impact investments increased from 28% in 2017 to 32% in 2018. We were able to realise several investments and made some exciting new impact investments. This is great news for the sector as it demonstrates an increase in liquidity and nature of investments. The investment committee remains focused on finding investments that are able to deliver a market return alongside a social or environmental return. A couple of our more exciting and innovative impact investments include equity investments in Goterra, a waste management company based in Canberra and Sustenir, an environmentally efficient hydroponics agriculture producer based in Singapore!



Goterra

The Goterra vision is simple – to provide a sustainable solution for food waste management and an alternative livestock feed compound for Primary Producers, and to redefine the culture of food waste by decentralising waste management and managing food and effluent waste onsite.

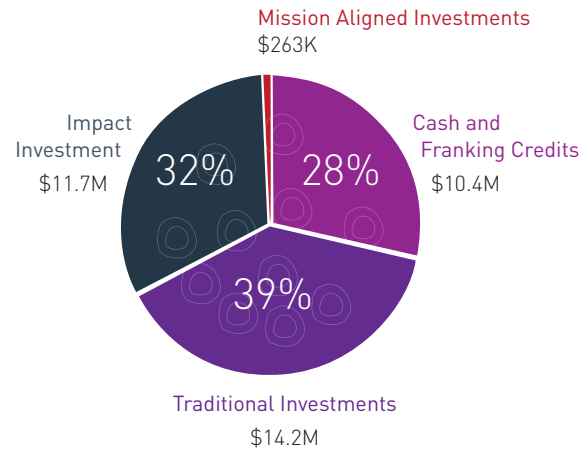


Sustenir

A passion for nutrition and the environment runs through the Sustenir team. Every single member brings something to the table to ensure only the freshest greens of superior quality and taste make it to yours.

2017-18 FINANCE REPORT

Investment Portfolio Allocation 2018



	2018	2017
Portfolio Market Value	36.85M	30.87M
Investment Gain/(Loss)	2.7M*	1.1M
Contributed Capital	5.1M	4.50M
Distributions	1.6M	1.4M
Cumulative Distributions	9.9M	8.3M
Operating Expenses as a % of Net Assets**	0.48%	0.80%

* Before expenses

** Excludes in kind services and expenses such as rent and some people costs

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.

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



Image courtesy of Wayne Quilliam photography



www.cagesfoundation.org

