



ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19



Celebrating
YEARS
since our first grant





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Front cover image courtesy of Wayne Quilliam Photography



YEARS OF

giving



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.

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

To contribute 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.

OUR VALUES



LISTEN AND LEARN

We endeavour to LISTEN and LEARN from the communities we fund to gain an understanding and appreciation of the opportunities in community.



HONESTY

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



COLLABORATION

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



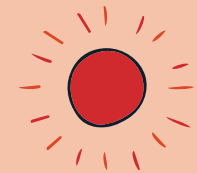
TRANSPARENCY

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.





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 Salteri. We're very proud of the work of the Foundation and our children's ongoing commitment to it.

The mutual gift that is philanthropy

Giving back to the country which afforded two migrant kids the opportunity to get a good education, work hard in business, raise a family and enjoy a privileged life. It was also an opportunity to offer our children, Gemma, Anthony and Carla, a rare experience – the chance to become involved in our vision of improving health and educational outcomes for our adopted country's Aboriginal peoples.

Our family's decision to fund in the First Nations sector has been an immensely rewarding one. We are extremely proud of our three children for immersing themselves in the work of the Foundation, which has established a reputation as a respectful funder through partnerships with numerous Aboriginal-led organisations. Over the decade, CAGES Foundation has donated more than \$12 million to enhance early childhood literacy and numeracy and supporting better health delivery in First Nations communities.

We will continue to listen and learn

While we've achieved a lot, we've learned a lot, both from our project partners and our stakeholders. We've learned that it requires long-term funding to solve systemic issues that have been ingrained over generations, and that to create real change we must fund community-led visions. Most importantly, we've learned that if we are to continue to learn we must continue to listen.

The Foundation now has four funding streams. Our Primary Funding stream remains committed to funding in the early years of a child's life; The Community Grants stream is open only to Aboriginal-controlled organisations; Our Social Impact Investing Grants encourage First Nations-led economic sustainability; while Family and Employee Funding enables our family members and staff to engage with the Foundation to nurture projects close to their heart.

The answers lie in self-determination

The First Nations communities we support are resilient: they have the answers to the challenges they face. The Foundation's role is to foster self-determination by ensuring that we have flexible processes in place that allow them to fund their vision for creating stronger communities.

Thank you to Gemma, Anthony and Carla, to our hard-working team, and to our Board for their dedication and commitment to CAGES Foundation.

Finally, we wish to thank our partners for their tireless work and for the generosity of spirit they demonstrate every day on the journey we share with them into the next decade.

Sandra and Paul Salteri AM
Co-Founders





CAGES Foundation is a values-based organisation. Honesty, humility, accountability, and respectful listening are central to how we operate. And, over time, we've come to understand that basing our funding on self-determination was the key to effectively and respectfully supporting the work of our Aboriginal partner organisations.

A journey of discovery – and self-discovery

When my Mum and Dad established CAGES Foundation 10 years ago, my family began an extraordinary journey of discovery. In that time we've learned much about our country and its people – and ourselves.

We are a privileged family. Through their own hard work, our parents Paul and Sandra Salteri – themselves migrant kids – were able to give Anthony, Carla and I many opportunities in life. Not least was a wonderful education.

While we felt lucky to be Australians, we didn't truly understand what that meant, so little did we know of our country's unvarnished colonial history. What was clear to us was that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples were being unfairly treated by the very systems that we ourselves had benefited from.

Redressing imbalance through self-determination

On that day in 2009, as my family sat around the family dining table, we asked ourselves many questions. What are our family's values? How can we embed them in our philanthropy? Could we help to redress the imbalance for Aboriginal Australians by investing in areas

such as child literacy and numeracy, which we felt was fundamental in closing the gap?

We knew we had much to learn about funding in the First Nations sector, but as we embarked on our journey we were determined to listen. A decade on, we are still listening – and learning.

CAGES Foundation is a values-based organisation. Honesty, humility, accountability, and respectful listening are central to how we operate. And, over time, we've come to understand that basing our funding on self-determination was the key to effectively and respectfully supporting the work of our Indigenous partner organisations.

We look primarily to fund community-led visions, projects that build on the assets and strengths of First Nations communities. We endeavour to be responsive, reflective and accountable in how we work and, as we grow, we're always eager to learn.

To our people and partners, my thanks

My family is deeply grateful to our partners for their tireless work, for sharing their hard-won knowledge and experience, and for placing their trust in us.

I would like to thank my parents and siblings for being fundamental in CAGES's work.

Thanks too to our team, led by Rachel Kerry who has been with us almost from the start and has been such a vital part of our journey.

Thanks also to Dan Joffe for his prudent counsel on the investment team, to our newest employee Monique McEwan, who has already brought so much knowledge to our team, and to our board's independent trustee, Paul Biancardi for his wise counsel and constant support.

To our past, current and future partners, thank you for inviting us to be a part of your journey, and for providing your honest feedback.

This annual report will share some of our partner's stories. While it can't tell them all, please know that every partnership has shaped CAGES Foundation.

Not just in where we've been – but also as we embark on the decade ahead.

Gemma Salteri | Executive Director

Photo: Rachel Kerry, Professor Tom Calma AO and Gemma Salteri attending The Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation's 20 year birthday celebration. Image courtesy of The ALNF.



10 YEARS OF giving

This year CAGES Foundation celebrates 10 years of giving. We have learned a lot along the way, here is a snapshot of our journey so far.

2009

- CAGES Foundation established and decides to focus its giving in the Indigenous early childhood sector

2010

- Rachel Kerry joins team as Executive Officer
- Website launched

2011

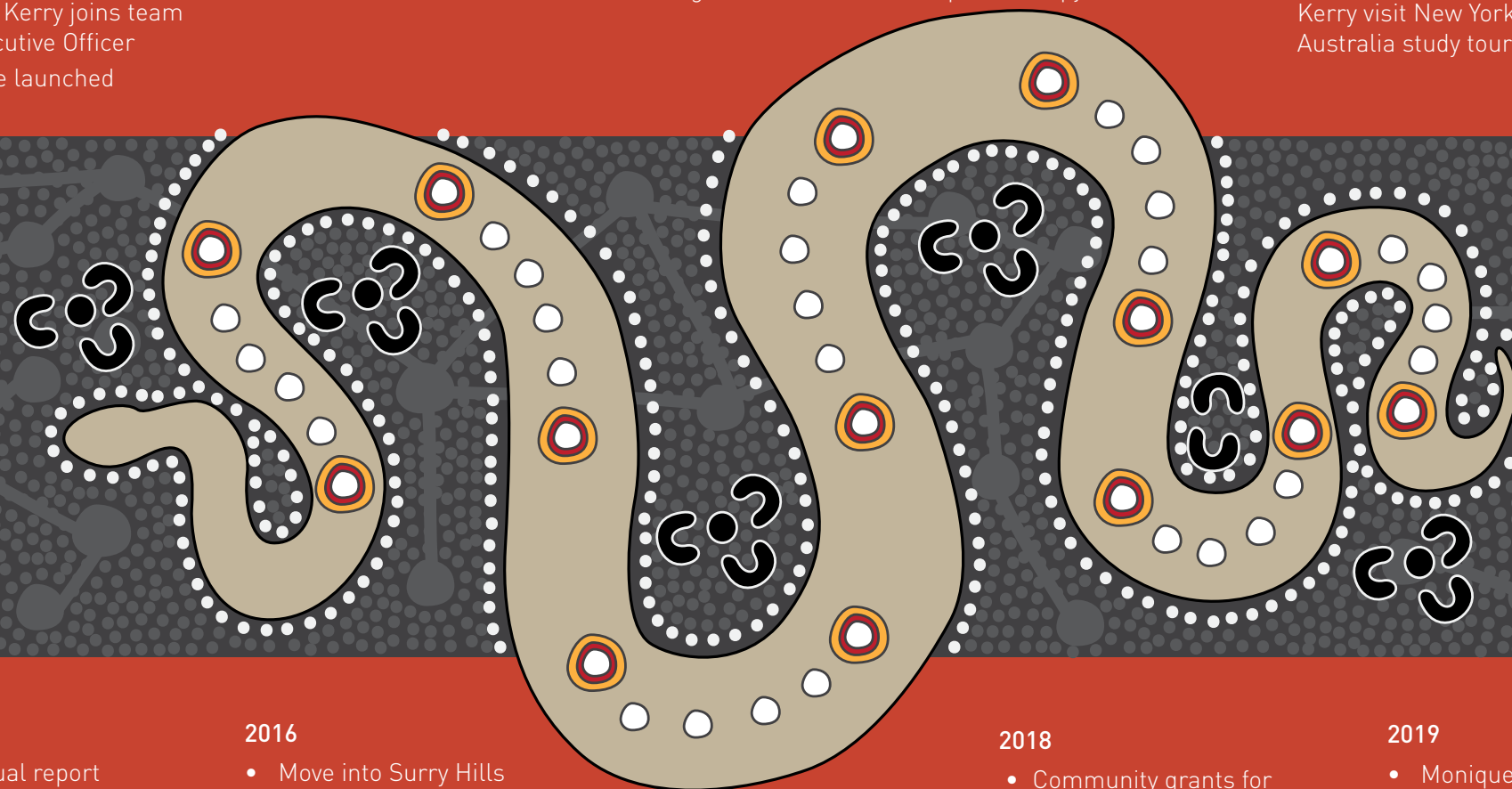
- Initial funding to The Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation early childhood literacy and numeracy program in Kempsey

2013

- Australian Philanthropic Benchmark Initiative founded with Dusseldorp Forum and Origin Foundation
- Gemma Salteri joins the CAGES Foundation team
- Gemma and Anthony Salteri join the Philanthropy Australia Study tour to San Francisco
- Paul Salteri made a Member of the Order of Australia in recognition of his service in philanthropy

2014

- New strategic plan developed, including Family Funding stream and Social Impact Investing commitment
- CAGES Foundation outlines funding principles for organisational capacity-building and Aboriginal-led initiatives
- Paul and Sandra Salteri, with Rachel Kerry visit New York for Philanthropy Australia study tour

**2015**

- First annual report published, highlighting Board's commitment to transparency
- The CAGES Foundation's team and Board members undertake cultural training

2016

- Move into Surry Hills offices
- Gemma Salteri awarded Young Philanthropist of the Year by Philanthropy Australia and joins the CAGES Foundation board

2017

- Social Impact Investing grants stream introduced
- Anthony Salteri and Dan Joffe join our team
- Employee Funding stream launched

2018

- Community grants for Aboriginal-controlled organisations grants scheme launched
- Gemma Salteri and Rachel Kerry attend the International Funders for Indigenous Peoples conference in Santa Fe

2019

- Monique McEwan joins the Foundation team
- \$2 million in funding grants distributed
- Foundation becomes signatory to Philanthropy Australia's 'Uluru Statement from the Heart' response



“That’s when CAGES reached out to us ...
and said, fantastic we’ll fund that”

From little things big things grow: It's been a familiar theme in our partnerships with community-led Aboriginal organisations.

CAGES Foundation believes that long-term funding optimises outcomes. And, while we may shift our financial support as new needs arise, our investment in developing our partners' most valuable assets – its people – remains constant.

And, so it's been with Maari Ma. The Aboriginal-controlled organisation provides primary health care services to Aboriginal communities in Far Western NSW. Aboriginal people are employed in two thirds of Maari Ma's 120 medical, allied health and support positions, supporting the Aboriginal communities of Broken Hill, Wilcannia, Menindee, Ivanhoe and surrounding areas.

Since 2012, CAGES Foundation has provided almost \$600,000 in funding to Maari Ma. Initially we supported an early childhood literacy and learning program for its playgroup, then a broader early childhood strategy. More recently, we've funded two Aboriginal Allied Health Assistant positions.

Literacy program fills a learning gap

"The timing of our relationship with CAGES was perfect," said Cathy Dyer, Maari Ma's Executive Manager of Corporate Services.

"Part of our chronic diseases strategy was a Healthy Start program for mums and bubs. However, we could see that when our Aboriginal kids started school they were lagging behind the non-Indigenous kids. From a clinical perspective, we knew they were fully immunised and had hit

their growth and development marks, but the learning gap just kept getting wider with each year of school."

A review by retired paediatrician Dr Garth Alperstein recommended an early childhood program focused on developing literacy and learning through play. Under his guidance, Maari Ma launched the program using its own limited resources.

"That's when CAGES reached out to us," Cathy recalled. "We had developed a strategic framework for Aboriginal child development and wellbeing in the far west, starting with a playgroup program. CAGES said 'fantastic – we'll fund that'."

Creating a welcoming space to foster learning

The playgroup's early childhood literacy and learning program is solidly grounded in evidence-based best practice. It supports parents in their role as their child's 'first teachers' and includes intensive supported playgroup learning and reading activities, and provides books through an early childhood literacy program, Little Kids and Books.

Tailored for local communities, the playgroups are welcoming spaces filled with Aboriginal culture, where families feel comfortable and safe. Learn-through-play activities are just as likely to take place on a veranda or in a shady spot outside.

"It just evolved that way," Cathy said.

"The community tells us what keeps parents and kids engaged and feeling safe. That's why it works."

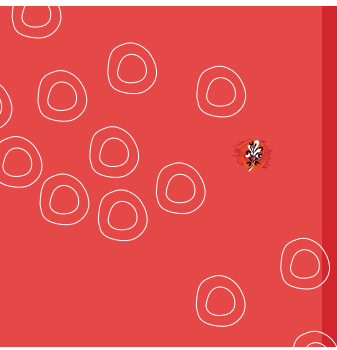
Shifting our focus to supporting community health

When the Commonwealth government's Indigenous Advancement Strategy took over the playgroup funding in 2015, CAGES Foundation began supporting Maari Ma's other Early Childhood strategies. More recently we've funded two Allied Health Assistant positions, two young local Indigenous women who liaise with Indigenous families and encourage them to use Maari Ma's various allied health services.

"We had been struggling to get families to bring their kids to speech and occupational therapy clinic appointments," Cathy explained. "Families needed to understand why the therapies were important, as well as helping to implement the interventions outlined by the therapists."

The relationship between the Foundation and Maari Ma is solidly grounded in mutual respect and trust. Flexibility has been the key, according to our Executive Officer Rachel Kerry.

"We don't dictate how every dollar is to be spent. As long as our support is ultimately achieving the outcomes be both hope for we trust Marri Ma to put the money to best use."



The main focus of CAGES Foundation's philanthropy over the past 10 years has been support literacy and numeracy programs, which give Aboriginal children the best possible start to their education. But, what of their future employment opportunities?

Could the foundation also help to create jobs that generate income for Aboriginal families and communities? Could we nurture the entrepreneurial spirit of Aboriginal men and women, by helping them break through the barriers that might otherwise stop them from entering the business world?

For almost two decades, fostering that spirit has been a passion for two Indigenous women, Leah Armstrong and Jocelyn King.

Four years ago they established First Australians Capital (FAC), and CAGES Foundation has supported the not-for-profit organisation almost since its inception, donating more than \$400,000 for core operating expenses, including salaries, communications and business development costs.

Getting the FACs on business

"There is still a real reluctance to support Aboriginal businesses because of the misconception that are somehow more likely to fail," said Jocelyn King.

"And, Aboriginal people and community organisations don't have easy access to capital. Assets are often community owned and it's very difficult to get a business loan without substantial personal assets behind you.

"Indigenous families also lack the intergenerational business knowledge and acumen white people can tap into. So just being able to talk people through how to set up and run their business properly, how to access capital, how to avoid problems are among the many things we share with would-be Indigenous business owners."

FAC was the product of two earlier pilot programs – one in the Hunter Valley, the other a national initiative. Both proved conclusively that given access to seed capital and professional guidance, Aboriginal enterprises could thrive and win major contracts and awards.

Recently, FAC completed a two-year Commonwealth contract to provide business advisory services to Aboriginal businesses, securing more than \$4 million in capital for 190 fledgling enterprises – a remarkable result for a NFP with a staff of just three.

A new way of lending to start ups

FAC has ambitious plans for supporting Indigenous businesses, including an innovative Indigenous business loan program under development with Westpac. The bank has earmarked \$30 million Aboriginal-controlled business ventures.

"Most lenders want to see two years' of financial records, but when you're starting out that's not possible," Ms King said.

"Instead we will work with Indigenous entrepreneurs to produce two years of very robust forward financial forecasts. We will also guarantee their loan 50/50 with Westpac, utilising funds backed by philanthropic organisations."



First Australians Capital's mission is to alleviate the poverty and disadvantage many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities face.

FAC also hopes to get similar support for its initiatives from Australia's superannuation funds, which have around \$3 trillion in funds under management. A lack of investment opportunities here has meant those super funds often invest offshore.

First Australians Capital's mission is to alleviate the poverty and disadvantage many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities face.

"We believe in that vision," CAGES Foundation Executive Director, Gemma Salteri said.

"Indigenous businesses can contribute enormously to a stronger economy that benefits all Australians. They just need the business community to show faith in them and get the professional advice and guidance every business needs."



First Australians Capital CEO Jocelyn King, Board Member Jane Pound, Adrian Appo OAM and Leah Armstrong



ENSURING INDIGENOUS PEAKS' VIEWS ARE HEARD IN HIGH PLACES

Support from CAGES is helping us build up our own evidence base and to demonstrate the value of Aboriginal-led evidence in shaping policy.

An Indigenous advocacy group can play a powerful role in influencing government policies. But, to be effective, its voice must be heard clearly and consistently.

In recent years, CAGES Foundation has donated almost \$700,000 to support the work of the national and NSW state peak bodies for Aboriginal children and families – the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) and the NSW Child, Family and Community Peak Aboriginal Corporation (AbSec).

“We recognise the importance of supporting capability building in peak bodies like SNAICC and AbSec,” CAGES Foundation’s Executive Officer, Rachel Kerry explained.

“Through listening and having honest dialogue we’ve been able to identify with them what they needed to achieve real impact. SNAICC and AbSec bring so much rigour and intelligence to both policy and practice in critical areas, such as early childhood development and out-of-home care.

“And like us, they have a strong focus on self-determination.”

Helping reshape government agenda

CAGES Foundation has donated \$70,000 to AbSec over the past three years to fund strategy development and its Out Of Home Care campaign. Last year we donated \$120,000 to employ a Communications and Campaign Manager.

Along with growing capability, we've supported the development of strategies, and fostered AbSec's broader engagement with the philanthropic sector.

"The advice and support CAGES Foundation has given us on campaigning and influencing policy and agendas has been incredibly valuable," AbSec CEO, Tim Ireland said.

"As an advocacy organisation, it's critical that we're able to influence government policy agendas – particularly when governments may be reluctant to invest in alternate positions. "In our current campaign, The Best Care for Kids is Community, we're stressing that the adoption of kids from the child protection system is not appropriate for Aboriginal children in out-of-home care, and that community-led solutions are the best option for Aboriginal kids and families in need."

"Support from CAGES is helping us build up our own evidence base and to demonstrate the value of Aboriginal-led evidence in shaping policy."

Ensuring policy and programs are 'in sync'

SNAICC is the national voice representing the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families throughout Australia.

Since 2013, CAGES has donated \$490,000, with \$160,000 provisionally committed for the 2020-21 financial year. Previously we've strengthened SNAICC's capacity in communications by partially funding the salaries of a Media and Communications Coordinator and a Communications Officer.

More recently we've contributed to the CEO's salary and continued to support the important communications roles. We also plan to augment the salaries of identified Policy and Sector Development positions.

CAGES' support added capability at a critical time, according to SNAICC Chair Adjunct Professor Aunty Muriel Bamblett AO.

"We are facing many challenges to ensure our children's rights are protected and that they have the opportunity to grow up strong in their culture and thrive," she said.

CAGES funding has strengthened leadership

"Tragically, we see the number of our kids who have been removed from their parents increasing every year. SNAICC needs a highly skilled and experienced staff team to influence policy change and maintain the focus on the need for early intervention and timely support for families.

"It's very difficult for not-for-profits to attract strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander candidates into senior leadership roles because we're competing with government and private sector budgets.

"CAGES support has enabled us to attract high-caliber applicants with the experience and leadership skills to ensure we're heard across the sector, which gives us greater authority and credibility – both with government and the broader community."



It's the norm now, but a decade ago the idea that it was possible to develop the pre-literacy skills of young children – their oral language comprehension, early word and sentence construction, and storytelling abilities – was a radical concept.

Accelerated learning programs were only for affluent parents looking to stimulate a 'clever child', and certainly not for Aboriginal kids from disadvantaged regional communities. Often, Aboriginal children were predisposed to learning challenges that, for many, would limit their long-term educational and employment opportunities.

However, a year-long, government-funded trial of the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation's Early Language and Literacy Program at the Aboriginal-run Dalaigur Pre-school at Green Hills, near Kempsey in 2008 helped to turn that thinking on its head. With the ALNF's guidance, the community-led program significantly improved the children's literacy levels, giving them the grounding they needed to thrive the following year in kindergarten.

But, when a change of government saw State funding dry up, the pre-school urged ALNF co-Founder, Mary-Ruth Mendel, to look for alternative funds to build on the trial's resounding success.

That's when CAGES Foundation stepped in.

Community-led model resonated with parents

"What CAGES did was believe in the people of Kempsey," Mary-Ruth said.

"At the time, the model was for service providers to come in with their own people to run their program.

"ALNF was saying 'no, the community can run it themselves'. Parents and early years educators can be their child's first teacher – we just need to put the strategies and resources in place and give the parents and community members the skills to carry them forward."

She remembers the first day of training vividly.

"There were 40 people packed into a room eager to get started. They worked like blazes... really soaked it up.

The ALNF program is really practical, so they were able to walk out the door that afternoon and begin working with their children."

Long-term commitment yields stunning results

CAGES Foundation's Executive Officer, Rachel Kerry immediately saw the opportunity to make a unique and lasting contribution to the Dungutti Nation's Aboriginal communities.

"The community didn't need any more buildings or physical assets," Rachel said. "The people, the love, the commitment – they were already there. The community just need the tools to work with."

Since 2011, CAGES Foundation has donated more than \$1.76 million in Primary Funding Stream grants to support ANLF's program at Dalaigur and its playgroup, as well as other local sites, and a similar program at nearby Nambucca Heads.

More than 50 adults and 1000 children benefit each year. Last year, 92% of the children improved their phonemic awareness, the strongest determinant of future reading success and an essential precursor to strong literacy at school.



Career pathways open up as literacy 'ripple' spreads

Adults who complete the ALNF program gain a Certificate IV, creating pathways to employment as teacher's aides at local schools, allowing them to continue to support the Dungutti youngsters. An ALNF certificate-level course is also available at the local Macleay Community College.

The benefits for the local community have been 'amazing', said Ms Mendel.

"Like a ripple in a pond, it's gone beyond the local pre-schools and into the adult community. There have been some really lovely stories of young people and adults saying 'I want to become a school assistant', 'I want to be a teacher', because they felt empowered by having improved their own literacy and learning skills."

CAGES Foundation is also supporting ALNF in discussions with government and other philanthropic organisations to secure more funding to extend its program across Australia. We are also funding an external evaluation, with the aim of having the program recognised as the national 'gold standard'.

A photograph of a smiling woman with brown hair, wearing a blue and white patterned top, sitting outdoors. Behind her are two children, a girl and a boy, both wearing red polo shirts and dark pants, also smiling. They are sitting on a wooden bench or table in a park-like setting with green trees in the background. The image is partially covered by a red graphic element in the bottom right corner.

"What CAGES did was believe in the people of Kempsey"

In 2019, CAGES Foundation granted under four streams, our Primary Funding Stream which remains focused on supporting systemic change in the early years, the Community Grants Stream which provides strategic grants to Aboriginal Led Organisations working in the early years, our Social Impact Investing Grant Stream working to support sustainable communities and our Family and Employee Funding Stream which enables family members and staff to recommend eligible organisations for support.

PRIMARY FUNDING GRANTS

The Primary Funding Stream is the main driver of our vision for ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children reach their full potential. This stream support more substantial, long-term funding which has the potential for genuine, community-led systemic reform. In the 2019 financial year (FY19) the Foundation distributed \$1,215,315 from its Primary Funding Stream, representing approximately 61% of all distributions for FY19.

ABSEC

FY19 funding - \$120,000

Total funding over 3 years - \$189,927

Objective: To ensure all Aboriginal children and young people are cared for in safe, thriving Aboriginal families and communities, and are being raised strong in spirit and identity, with every opportunity for life-long wellbeing, connection to culture and holistic support.

Activity: Funding an identified position to manage Communications and Campaigns.

AUSTRALIAN LITERACY AND NUMERACY FOUNDATION

FY19 funding - \$220,000

Total funding over 8 years - \$1,762,775

Objective: To raise language, literacy and numeracy standards of Indigenous children in Australia.

Activity: Continuation and evaluation of the Early Language & Literacy North Coast project.

BOURKE INITIATIVE

CAGES Foundation began funding in Bourke through the community-led Maranguka project in 2004. In addition to continuing to support the Maranguka project CAGES Foundation has provided funding to additional initiatives identified within the Maranguka strategy for Bourke.

ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICE (MARANGUKA)

FY19 funding - \$25,000

Total funding over 5 years - \$348,550

Objective: To address the over-representation of Aboriginal children in the criminal justice system and create alternative pathways for young people.

Activity: Support to fund operational expenses.

ETERNITY AID

FY19 funding - \$45,000

First year of 3-year funding commitment

Objective: To bring about significant, positive and sustained change for young people and their families – especially marginalised young people at risk.

Activity: Support for the Transition-to-School Program, including Paediatric Allied Health and capacity-building activities.

NSW OUTBACK DIVISION

FY19 funding - \$110,000

First year of 3-year funding commitment

Objective: To develop and deliver effective primary health care services to isolated and disadvantaged Indigenous communities.

Activity: Recruitment and retention of an Aboriginal Allied Health Assistant.

ROYAL FAR WEST

FY19 funding - \$130,000

Total funding over 3 years - \$385,000

Objective: To improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people who live in rural and remote communities.

Activity: Supporting the community of Bourke (NSW) and the Maranguka project to reduce developmental vulnerability in children.

CONTACT INC

FY19 funding \$100,000

Total funding over 3 years - \$225,275

Objective: To ensure isolated children and families have access to the relevant supports, information and services that best meet their needs.

Activity: Supporting the employment of a support worker undertaking capacity-building initiatives in remote regions of northwest NSW.

DALAIGUR PLAYGROUP

FY19 funding \$20,000

Total funding over 8 years - \$214,075

Objective: To serve the community of Kempsey (NSW) and outlying areas of the Macleay Valley.

Activity: Continuation of funding for training and engagement of Aboriginal personnel at the Dalaigur playgroup.

FIRST PEOPLES DISABILITY NETWORK

FY19 grant - \$50,000

Objective: To empower and support Aboriginal people with a disability, and their communities, to understand a system not designed to support Aboriginal cultural learning.

Activity: Funding for advocacy around NDIS and First Nations communities.

MAARI MA ABORIGINAL HEALTH

FY19 funding - \$94,000

Total funding over 8 years - \$823,875

Objective: To support the delivery of allied health services that promote good health, wellbeing and self-determination by Aboriginal families and communities of Far West NSW.

Activity: Funding to support the training and employment of two Aboriginal Allied Health Assistants.

SNAICC

FY19 funding - \$160,000

Total funding over 6 years - \$490,000

Objective: To promote a society in which the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families are protected, communities are empowered to determine their own futures, and cultural identity is valued.

Activity: Ongoing support to build the organisational leadership and communications capacity needed to fulfil SNAICC's Objective.

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

FY19 funding - \$116,315 initial grant with 3-year funding commitment

Objective: To engage with families and communities to strengthen and support the ways people care for and work with Indigenous children, and achieving this by increasing capacity and leadership, and enriching and supporting environments in which children flourish.

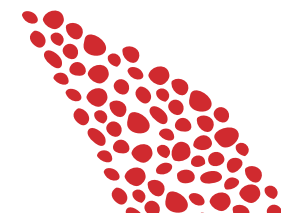
Activity: Support for the 'Building Educational Capital: Supporting Early Childhood Educators to Support Aboriginal Children, Families and Communities' program.

UNSW

FY19 funding \$25,000

Objective: To be Australia's global university, improving and transforming lives through excellence in research, outstanding education and a commitment to advancing a just society.

Activity: Supporting the development of the 'What does success mean for the Aboriginal children in NSW preschools?' project during the Scoping/Relationship Building phase.





Mary Ruth Mendel in Action.
Image courtesy of The Australian
Literacy and Numeracy Foundation

COMMUNITY GRANTS

The number of Community Grants grew this year, with many impressive applications received. Our directors approved 9 grants totaling \$325,000, which were distributed among Aboriginal-led organisations, all of whom do amazing work in their communities. The community grants are one-off investments for such activities as professional development or the provision of resources, with the long-term goal of strengthening the Aboriginal-led community sector.

BAWINANGA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION, MANINGRIDA NT

\$25,000

Objective: To improve the health and well-being of Maningrida community members.

Activity: Funding the production of educational videos in multiple local languages aimed at preventing Rheumatic Heart Disease in pre-school children.

DALAIGUR PRESCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES, KEMPSEY NSW

\$25,000

Objective: To promote an affordable and committed quality educational program for transition to school and a lifelong love of learning.

Activity: Funding to update flooring, the outdoor environment and outdoor equipment.

GUMALA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION, TOM PRICE WA

\$25,000

Objective: To alleviate entrenched poverty and the associated psychosocial impacts experienced by Traditional Owners due to ongoing issues related to colonisation and the Stolen Generation.

Activity: Funding the training of 3 Gumala staff to develop early learning skills and knowledge through a training partnership with World Vision.

PIUS X ABORIGINAL CORPORATION KIAH PRE-SCHOOL, MOREE NSW

\$30,000

Objective: To provide Aboriginal health and early childhood services in Moree and surrounding areas.

Activity: The pre-school received approval to open 20 places and sought funding to facilitate the expansion.

PUUYA FOUNDATION, LOCKHART RIVER QLD

\$50,000

Objective: To develop leaders to empower local communities.

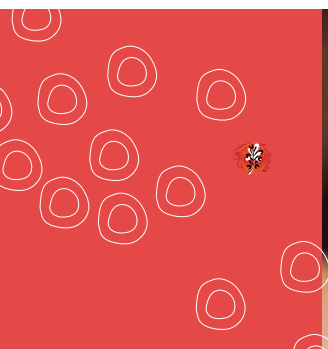
Activity: Support for capacity-building initiatives for the Foundation's Early Years program for parents and families.

THE KARRKAD KANJDJI TRUST, WARDEKKEN NT

\$50,000

Objective: To protect and enhance West and Central Arnhem Land implementing projects which reflect the values of local Traditional Owners.

Activity: Resources to strengthen an Early Learning Program for children and parents in Northern Territory.



TOBWABBA ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE, FORSTER NSW

\$35,000

Objective: To provide holistic primary and allied health care services to the Worimi community.

Activity: Capacity building, programs and resources funding.

WALTJA TJUTANGKU PALLYAPAYI ABORIGINAL CORPORATION, ALICE SPRINGS NT

\$50,000

Objective: To address disadvantages and gaps in service delivery for families maintaining culture and language.

Activity: Support to document the cultural practice of the Indigenous smoking ceremony for babies.

WILLUM WARRAIN ABORIGINAL ASSOCIATION, HASTINGS, VIC

\$30,000

Objective: To provide a place of hope and healing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, with a primary focus on cultural strengthening.

Activity: Staffing, resourcing of Welcome Baby to Country program.

SOCIAL IMPACT INVESTING GRANTS

The Social Impact Investment Grants aims to support Indigenous businesses and enterprises by attracting investments from the broader social impact investment marketplace, while also supporting organisations engaged in building sustainable communities. During the 2018-19 financial year, \$261,500 was distributed in four grants to Aboriginal-controlled organisations.

FIRST AUSTRALIANS CAPITAL

FY19 funding \$167,000; Total funding over 4 years - \$392,000

Objective: To invest in Indigenous economic independence by linking 60,000-plus years of Indigenous business experience with the modern market place. First Australians Capital believes that Indigenous businesses can contribute enormously to build a new economy for all Australians.

Activity: Funding of operating expenses.

FIRST HANDS

FY19 funding - \$20,000

Objective: To build empowered and resilient indigenous communities through cultural re-connection, education, employment and enterprise.

Activity: Support for the National Indigenous Art Fair, an annual event showcasing the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. The fair is a platform to celebrate, encourage and support Aboriginal artists to reach the next stage, while also encouraging greater audience participation through a more diverse range of products, displays, performances and exhibitions.

ORIGINAL POWER

FY19 funding - \$60,000

Objective: To provide healthy, vibrant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with the resources needed to promote self-determination.

Activity: Driving a locally-owned solar project to support the Borroloola community to mitigate energy poverty, and provide a cleaner alternative to the current diesel-powered energy sources.

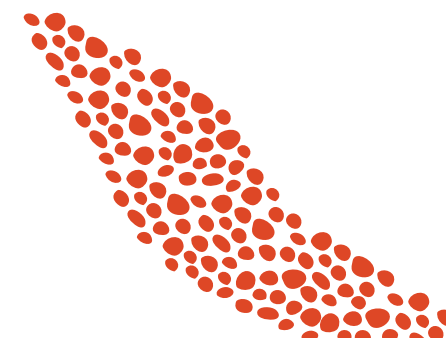
SEVGEN

FY19 funding - \$15,000

Total funding over 4 years \$45,000

SevGen is a community-driven development concept. It supports a range of social enterprises with learning at their heart to empower power who feel 'dissed', disconnected or disenfranchised to find deeper meaning and sense of purpose in their lives.

Activity: The purchase of a new coffee cart and capital expenditure required to refurbish the coffee hub.



SECTOR DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Introduced this year, the Sector Development Grant stream was established to explore ways CAGES Foundation could support the development of the wider Indigenous sector, as well as directly support the advocacy work of peak bodies and other organisations seeking to influence government policy. As a first step to developing productive relationships, we allocated \$80,000 in grants to support the initiatives of two organisations.

IN MY BLOOD IT RUNS, THROUGH DOCUMENTARY AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION

FY19 funding - \$30,000

Told through the eyes of a child, this compelling and moving story shines a light on the inherent agency of Indigenous children, families and communities to drive their own solutions.

Activity: Our funding supported the three primary goals of the documentary team: To shift the often-negative dominant narratives around Indigenous families; To champion and build support for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led education system; and to support mainstream schools to become more culturally safe for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

ULURU DIALOGUE (INDIGENOUS LAW CENTRE, UNSW)

FY19 funding - a \$50,000 initial relationship-building grant

Uluru Dialogue seeks constitutional reforms to empower First Nations people and take their rightful place in their country. It calls for a First Nations Voice to be enshrined in the Constitution, so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are able to walk in two worlds, with their Indigenous culture being their gift to Australia.

Activity: Advocacy supporting dialogue around the Uluru Statement from the Heart.









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