



ANNUAL REPORT
2016-17

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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

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FROM OUR CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WITH THE HARD WORK
OF OUR DEDICATED TEAM
CAGES FOUNDATION HAS
SO MUCH TO BE PROUD
OF IN 2017.



Image courtesy of Royal Far West



Paul Salteri AM
Co-Founder and Chair

Sandra Salteri
Co-Founder



Gemma Salteri
Executive Director

This year, 31% of our funding has been granted to Aboriginal controlled organisations with another 56% of funds being distributed to organisations that can demonstrate close partnerships with Aboriginal controlled organisations and community.

We distributed just over \$1.4M with over \$1.2M of funds being directed towards organisations working to ensure every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child has the opportunity to reach their full potential. We also completed our strategic review, deepened our relationships with community and participated in the Philanthropic Benchmark Initiative.

The privilege that everyone working for CAGES Foundation shares is being exposed to innovative community led organisations working hard to solve some of our Nation's most complex and entrenched social problems. We thrive on the successes these organisations are having and are humbled by their dedication to improving the opportunities in their communities. We hope you enjoy reading about the amazing work we and some of our partner organisations are doing.



Image courtesy of Ngroo Education Incorporated

WALKING TOGETHER, LEARNING TOGETHER

Ngroo Education Incorporated (Ngroo) is an Aboriginal controlled organisation established in 2009 to improve the opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to achieve their potential by increasing their level of participation in mainstream early childhood education and other relevant services.

Ngroo have developed the “Walking Together” model, which is a partnership between Ngroo, community Elders and non-Indigenous services, resulting in culturally safe centres for Aboriginal children and their families. Since 2015 Ngroo have also begun a transition in school program, which has seen an improvement in attendance and performance for Aboriginal children in their first year at primary school.

CAGES Foundation has been supporting Ngroo since 2013. Whilst this support began as program funding it became apparent that what Ngroo really needed was consistent, ongoing support for operational expenses whilst they continued to develop best practice programs and build a strong evidence base. CAGES Foundation was delighted to play this role as it directly aligned with our own funding principles around long term support, capacity building and self-determination. Additionally, through the relationship we built with the Ngroo team, including founders Jan Wright and Aunty Rita, we were the beneficiaries of rich cultural learning and connection, which we have been able to apply in our own processes.

Ngroo’s deep and authentic links to community and strong evidence-base is now resulting in regular government support and recognition. This includes the state-wide roll out of “Walking Together” to more than 160 services by the Early Childhood Education Care Directorate NSW. Meanwhile, the Federal Government, via the Indigenous Advancement Strategy, are currently supporting Ngroo in 6 schools and 10 preschools to examine school preparation with an Aboriginal Educator to assist Aboriginal children in collaboration with the classroom teacher. Over time the work of Ngroo will impact on thousands of Aboriginal children and their families.

CAGES Foundation’s ability to provide certain and flexible funding in times of uncertainty allowed Ngroo to get on with their great work. We are excited to watch as Ngroo now moves onto the next part of their journey having been invited by Department of Education and Training to apply as the Mount Druitt Lead Agency for Connected Beginnings, a project that integrates early childhood, maternal and child health, and family support services with schools in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities of high need.

CAGES Foundation has been supporting Ngroo since

2013





TRANSPARENCY **ACCOUNTABILITY** EVALUATION



Image courtesy of Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation



This year CAGES Foundation has introduced an online application process using the Smartygrants platform.

Transparency is a key principle at the Foundation and having an open application process that anyone can engage is an important. In the last funding round we received an application from Willum Wirrain, an Aboriginal controlled organisation based in Victoria. Developing relationships and hearing feedback from organisations so closely connected to their communities is of immense value to CAGES Foundation and we will continue to develop processes and programs that encourage and nurture these sorts of relationships.

CAGES Foundation has undergone another round of evaluation using the philanthropic benchmark initiative.

Our performance improved in areas of relationships and understanding of the issues we are funding

- 90% of respondents said we had good engagement level up from 84% in 2015
- 80% of respondents believe we have a strong understanding of the issues we fund up from 68% in 2015.

Whilst most of our processes performed at or above the benchmark we did get feedback that some of our processes are taking too long and need to be clearer.

- 60% of respondents thought this was fast enough (benchmark 64%)
- 50% of respondents thought we were excellent at keeping them in the loop (benchmark 55%).

Over the last couple of years we have seen a steady increase in the number of applicants to CAGES Foundation and although the number of grants we provide has also increased it has not been at the same rate. We have clarified some of our criteria on our website and we hope that the Smartygrants process will continue to streamline and make the grant application process more efficient.

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FUNDING THE EARLY YEARS

A Voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children

SNAICC

Total funding \$255,000

Multi-year funding: 4 years

Grant: \$75,000

SNAICC – National Voice for our Children is the national peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children’s services. SNAICC plays an integral role for its members as they collectively advocate for the rights, needs and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families – directly to government and by raising public profile. CAGES Foundation has committed funding towards building capacity in SNAICC’s media and communications benefiting important programs that SNAICC is currently undertaking like Family Matters, which aims to eliminate the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care, and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Day, which sees local communities celebrate the strengths and culture of their children on 4 August.

Community led solutions

Bourke Justice Reinvestment

Aboriginal Legal Service

Total funding: \$225,050

Multi-year funding: 2 years

Grant: \$103,500

The Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project in Bourke is a community led strategy, which looks to address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people in the criminal justice system and to create alternate pathways for them. The overarching strategy has a whole of community approach with objectives for all children, aged 0 – 18, and the adults around them. It is exciting for CAGES Foundation to be funding the early childhood component knowing that this sits within a larger strategy that considered the life journey of the child. Each component of the strategy is integral to the other, and although they may have different stakeholders it is an excellent example of community coming together to collaborate towards a common goal – ensuring the children of Bourke reach their full potential.

Creating shared language

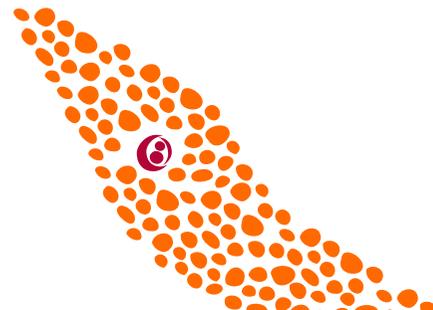
Ninti One

Grant: \$50,000

The Interplay Wellbeing Framework is a practical, evidence based, tool developed in a shared space with community. This framework can effectively and respectfully assess the impact of investments and programs whilst giving communities a powerful tool to articulate what is working for them with both qualitative and quantitative data. The framework has demonstrated that wellbeing is measurably improved when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ cultural authority is recognised and communities have significant influence in designing, implementing and assessing programs. CAGES Foundation has provided early funding for Ninti One to continue to bring together community, philanthropy and other stakeholders to ensure the importance of using culturally endorsed tools to measure and design programs are understood.



Image courtesy of SNAICC





Thank you
to

CAGES

Foundation





OUR 2017 FUNDING

- Over \$8.2 Million in cumulative grants
 - \$1.2 Million in FY17 towards improving opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
 - Capacity building funding for impact investing
-

Image courtesy of Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation

ABSEC

Grant: \$19,927

Funding provided to explore partnership opportunities for ABSEC to provide programs around resilience to children in remote and regional communities.

Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation

Total funding: \$1,322,775

Multi-year funding: 7 years

Grant: \$220,000

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.

Barnardos

Total funding: \$212,800

Multi-year funding: 3 years

Grant: \$81,400

Supports the work of Barnardo's in building the capacity of accredited Aboriginal agencies operating in child protection.

Dalaigur Preschool and Children's Services

Total funding: \$127,075

Multi-year funding: 6 years

Grant: \$15,000

Supports the training and facilitation of Aboriginal workers at the Daligur Playgroup.

Employee Funding Stream

Grants: \$15,000

Family Funding Stream

Total funding \$230,000

Grants: \$50,000

Good Pitch

Grant: \$10,000

Supporting the development of the documentary KIDS (working title) focusing on education in and beyond-the-classroom through the eyes of children in the Northern Territory.

OUR 2017 FUNDING (CONT)

Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation

Total funding: \$635,875
Multi-year funding: 6 years
Grant: \$100,000

Supports the development and implementation of the Early Childhood Strategy for Broken Hill.

Marninwarntikura Fitzroy Women's Resource Centre

Total funding: \$80,000
Multi-year funding: 2 years
Grant: \$50,000

A general donation to support the early educational outcomes of children by strengthening organisational infrastructure and internal supports.

Nangala Project Limited

Total funding: \$520,275
Multi-year funding: 6 years
Grant: \$50,000

Continuation of the Indi Kindi program which, supports children in early literacy and numeracy development in Borroloola and Robinson River

Ngroo Incorporated

Total funding: \$532,775
Multi-year funding: 5 years
Grant: \$64,000

Support an Elder group who will incorporate cultural activities with the objective of bringing early childhood services together to work cohesively across community.

Royal Far West

Grant: \$80,000

Support capacity building and health service delivery in the Bourke community.

Shine for Kids

Total funding: \$325,000
Multi-year funding: 4 years
Grant: \$50,000

Supports the employment of an Aboriginal worker to provide support for children with a parent in the criminal justice system.

Social Impact Funding Stream

Grants: \$100,000

First Australians Capital \$75,000 (capacity building Aboriginal businesses and enterprises).

Philanthropy Australia \$25,000 (grants for capacity building in social enterprises with the potential for social impact investment)

Telethon Institute

Total funding: \$675,000
Multi-year funding: 5 years
Grant: \$100,000

Support partnership with PATCHES Paediatrics to provide clinics to delivering high quality child development and early intervention services to hard to reach children.

University of NSW

Total funding: \$480,000
Multi-year funding: 3 years
Grant: \$160,000

Supports research and services at Tharawal Aboriginal Medical Service to ensure Aboriginal children, and their mothers, have access to appropriate healthcare.

Willim Wirrain

Grant: \$9,500

Support for "Welcome Baby to Country", an Aboriginal cultural version of a christening where babies are formally introduced onto country by Elders.



IMPACT INVESTING



Image courtesy of Ngruo Education Incorporated

We continue to move our portfolio towards impact with 43.5% of our investments now classified as impact investments¹.

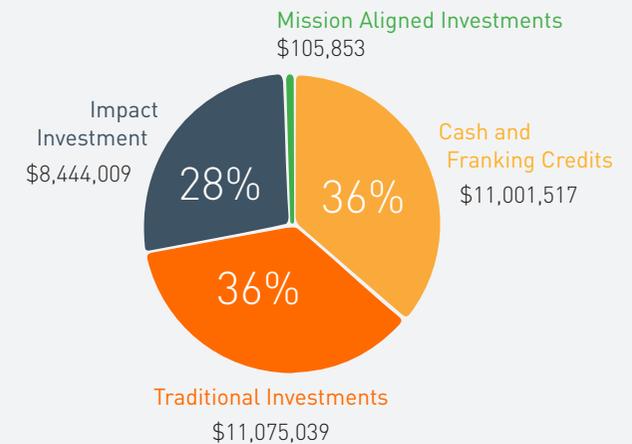
CAGES Foundation makes impact investments along the asset class / return rate spectrum. Some examples of our impact investments are Impact Investment Groups (IIG) GC Healthcare Trust, IIG Solar Income Fund, IIG K5 Property Fund, Future Generation Global Investment Company (FGG), Murry Darling Water Fund, SEFA loan fund, Foresters Community Finance Fund, HireUP and Kurrowang Solar Project.

We are proud to continue supporting First Australians Capital in its aim to alleviate the poverty and disadvantage in life outcomes experienced by Indigenous Australians by building on the strengths and assets of Australia's first peoples by providing untied operational funding.

CAGES Foundation supported The Impact Investment Ready Discovery Grant program which provided 6 grants to a total of \$285,000 to non-profits exploring pathways towards financial sustainability and future impact investment propositions through capacity building. The initiative is the second part of an Impact Investing Program established by Philanthropy Australia in partnership with National Australia Bank (NAB).

¹ We use the Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN) definition of Impact Investing which is "Impact Investments are investments made into companies, organizations, and funds with the intention to generate social and environmental impact alongside a financial return".

Investment Allocations



FINANCE AND INVESTMENT REPORT

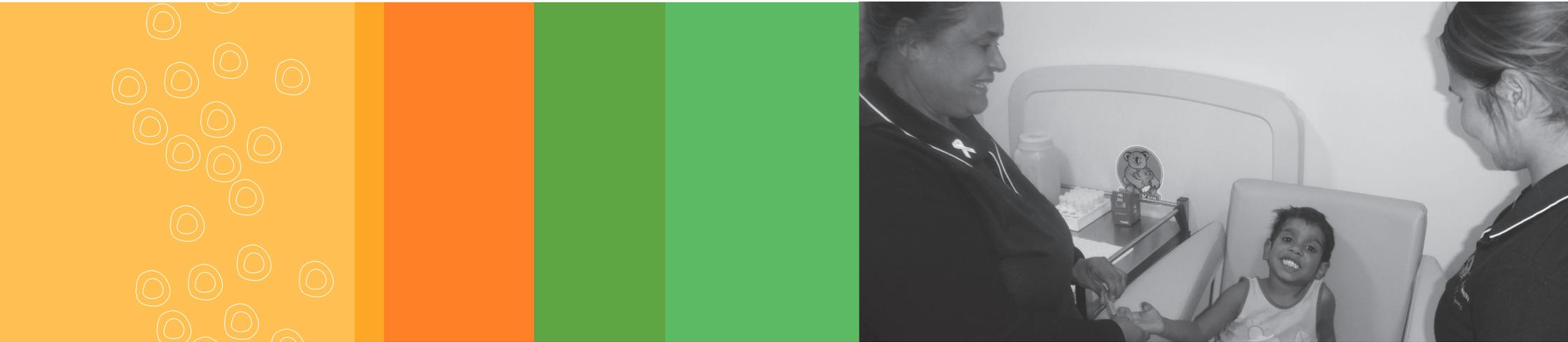


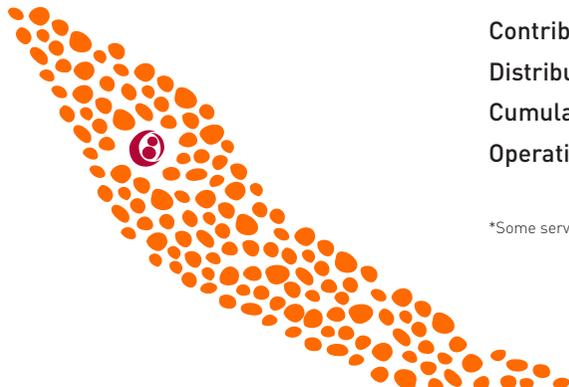
Image courtesy of Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation

The corpus of CAGES Foundation is managed carefully to minimize risk whilst maximising returns, our investment committee meets monthly to review investments.

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

	2017	2016
Portfolio Market Value	\$30.87M	\$26.72M
Investment Gain/(Loss)	\$1.1M	\$1.86M
Contributed Capital	\$4.50M	\$3M
Distributions	\$1.40M	\$1.22M
Cumulative Distributions	\$8.3M	\$6.85M
Operating Expenses as a % of Net Assets*	0.80%	0.67%

*Some services have been provided in kind to the foundation and are not captured in this figure.





www.cagesfoundation.org

