



Annual Report 2012-13

Come into my world



Our vision

To end intergenerational trauma and inequity in Australia's most disadvantaged communities, by ensuring the next generation have amazing opportunities to celebrate their cultural, social and economic wellbeing.



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Chair's report

A new day is dawning on what everyone already knows about and what it takes to create a different future for children, families and communities experiencing the greatest levels of disadvantage and inequity in Australia. It simply requires us to be led by empowered local expertise, vision and intelligence, informed by best practice nationally and internationally.

This has not been done in communities, at scale, over the course of a generation. And that is the point and purpose of Children's Ground.



As an Aboriginal man, I have lived through the most devastating policies of our nation, and watched many of my own family members die and suffer from the lack of fundamental human rights and basic respect. I have led key organisations over the last 20 years, attempting to work within a system that has been unable to secure the change we need.

I am watching my grandchildren live the consequences of the legacy of our history. I have an absolute resolve that radical change is needed and a profound conviction that Children's Ground provides the model, approach and ability for that change to occur.

We are now 18 months into our 25-year vision. It has been inspiring for the Board to see the passion and commitment of the small Children's Ground team, as they have worked relentlessly to turn that vision into a reality.

Since its commencement in February 2012, Children's Ground has:

- established a fully functioning national organisation, and national profile
- conducted an intensive 10 month Community Engagement and Planning process in Kakadu, West Arnhem
- entered into an Agreement with Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) for the conduct of a Community Engagement and Planning process in Kakadu, West Arnhem
- negotiated with GAC and the West Arnhem Social Trust for funding
- negotiated with the Australian Government for funding
- developed a 'Community of Practice', which brings major Commonwealth Government Departments together, to influence current policy approaches to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- established a working partnership in Alice Springs, with the Akeyulerre Healing Centre.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'William Tilmouth'.

William Tilmouth
Chair



In summary, Children's Ground has moved from start-up to early operational phase, as detailed in this, our first Annual Report.

These achievements were only made possible by our angel investors, who believed in our vision and had faith in our embryonic organisation's ability to realise it.

On behalf of the Board, and the communities we serve, I would like to extend my personal thanks to: Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation; Commonwealth Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations; Eureka Foundation; Limb Family Foundation; Igniting Change; Coopers Foundation; Coopers Investors; Oxfam Australia; and, the Northern Territory Government for their vital financial and organisational support.

I extend special thanks and deep regard to Yvonne Margarula and the board of Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation. These are true leaders. They hold and protect their role of custodians for their country fiercely. They have chosen to partner with us to secure the future for their land, culture, children and families.

They have, as they have done before, shown radical leadership and we look forward to honouring this and working with them to support the West Arnhem Region for many years to come.

On behalf of the Board I would like to congratulate Jane and all the team for their efforts and achievements over the last 18 months. Jane's leadership and fortitude has been central to all that has been achieved thus far, and she continues to inspire us all.

We have an outstanding board with a depth of experience. Over these past 18 months our Board has made a significant contribution to guiding the work of the Children's Ground team across a range of areas, including strategic direction and planning, investment and corporate governance. I would like to thank all our Board members for their continuing commitment and passionate contribution to Children's Ground.

I look forward to the next year filled with optimism as we consolidate the organisation, grow and develop our work in Kakadu West Arnhem, and start to strengthen our involvement with other communities.

I thank you for your interest and support thus far or, if you are new to Children's Ground, I invite you to join us.

CEO's message

The life, vitality and ability of a child is universal. It does not choose a culture, colour, gender or geographic location. It is for us as a community to create the environment that will allow this vitality and ability to flourish.

We are demanding the best for the future of children; creating local solutions driven by local people, responding to local opportunities and circumstances, over the long term. There is no room to see the problems, the solutions are in front of us and we are watching them come to life.

Children's Ground has devised a 25-year Strategy. It will take a generation to achieve deep, enduring change and replace intergenerational poverty and inequity with amazing opportunities that celebrate the cultural, social and economic wellbeing for children across their community.

The strategy is based on a fundamental reform of five key functions, being: *Approach, Governance, Social Investment, Workforce, and Evidence.*

Our *Approach* – the Children's Ground Learning, Wellbeing and Development (LWD) platform – moves away from a history of poorly funded, short term, program-silo, crisis driven approaches. We replace it with an integrated, locally led, and designed approach combining the rigour of international evidence with deep grass roots experience. The platform responds to what we traditional know as education, health, employment and community development.

The LWD platform is not an imposed 'model' or 'turn-key solution;' rather, it is a base on which communities can build to achieve their aspirations, for their children, their communities, and themselves.

We have created a robust Governance approach that combines local grass roots agency with strong corporate Governance. Our Social Investment approach creates the environment that allows for innovation and enables excellence. Our Workforce, focuses on long term local sustainability and combines the very best in their fields, both locally and nationally. Finally, and critically, we closely monitor and evaluate our work to Evidence impact over time.

We are unapologetically and relentlessly optimistic about these communities. We have experienced their capacity and vision to create the community and world in which they want to live, so that their children will thrive. This change is urgent. This change requires and should deliver justice, equity, and respect. We believe it is a worthy investment of our nation's time, money and resources.

The Mirarr people living in Kakadu, West Arnhem are leading the way. Their organisation, the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) has established a Trust for the social, cultural and economic development of the region. Following discussion over a number of years, GAC and Children's Ground undertook a ten month community engagement process, commencing in August 2012. Discussion occurred with over half of the members of the local community, including people in each of the 13 outstations.



Jane Vadiveloo
Chair

With community support an Implementation Plan for Children's Ground, West Arnhem was developed. This plan formed the basis of a draft Agreement between GAC, the Kakadu West Arnhem Social Trust, and Children's Ground.

It is an honour to be working with the Mirarr. Their decision to invest significant money into the long term wellbeing of their community is groundbreaking. They, along with Aboriginal people across the region, have set a standard for their children; to emerge as adults with a strong foundation in their first language and culture, and to be university ready and equipped to engage with the economic opportunities that surround them. We are walking together, watching this vision come to life. I am keenly aware, as per our experience and principles, that it is a journey for the long term. And that journey has now started.

Children's Ground came to life as a result of visionary grass roots leaders and the collective strategic, funding and partnership efforts of key people and groups. The critical incubation process with the Social Innovation Team in the Australian Government Department of Employment, Education and Training; the leadership of Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation; our Angel Investors; the Northern Territory Government; all came together to back the ambitious vision of Children's Ground. I am deeply grateful for this critical early support.

The Board has played the vital role of corporate governance with considerable energy and expertise. I would like to thank them for their guidance, advocacy and consistent support, through the good times and the challenging times. I would particularly like to extend my profound personal thanks to our Chair, William Tilmouth, for his wise counsel, leadership and friendship.

I would like to thank the many people who have inspired Children's Ground over the years and to remember those who have passed on but whose legacy remains in our work. I extend my warmest thanks to Justin O'Brien and the board of Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation for their vision, partnership and their courage in setting a new benchmark to enable enduring change.

Finally, my personal and heartfelt thanks to the small Children's Ground team for their dedication, passion and determination in 2012. We reflect often on the incredible privilege it is to work at Children's Ground, to help unleash the wisdom, knowledge, skills and courage of community members.

It is going to be an exciting, and challenging year ahead, as we scale from the team of four, to a team of around fifty in the months ahead.

I look forward with great excitement as we collaborate with wonderful people who are passionate about their children and their future, and who believe that change is possible.

Who we are

Children's Ground arose from the ambition of Aboriginal people committed to changing their future – where people want their kids 'strong both ways' – strong in the oldest living culture in the world, and fully engaged in the Western world.

Behind the devastating statistics are communities of people with strength, ability and determination, who want the very best for their kids. We also believe the same is true of any community experiencing entrenched disadvantage; we believe Children's Ground will be relevant to all and any such communities, not just rural and remote Aboriginal communities.



Strategy

Children's Ground's strategy is to demonstrate how best to break the cycle of entrenched disadvantage. We do this by adopting:

- A governance model which blends formal corporate governance with strong local community ownership and engagement.
- A collective approach to investment which is outcome based and invites support from: communities which are able to contribute; governments; corporations; and, philanthropists.
- A workforce of cultural and community experts and sector experts, with over half of the workforce being locally sourced as a starting point
- An approach which is directly informed by decades of on-the-ground experience in working in and with rural and remote First Nations communities, combined with the best international experience
- A commitment to evidencing the educational, social, health, economic and cultural impact of our work, measured against key community, government and international benchmarks.

We will partner with a select number of communities and, given we can evidence an end to intergenerational cycles of entrenched disadvantage, we will then advocate this approach to governments and other service providers. In this way, Children's Ground seeks to achieve deep, enduring change within our partner communities, and in all disadvantaged communities, through systemic change over time.

How we create change

Our Learning Wellbeing and Development platform starts pre-birth and provides an integrated system of high quality activities for children and young people from 0–24 years, their families and their communities. Our intergenerational approach recognises the role of Elders and senior people in the community as teachers, advisors and mentors.

- Our Learning and Wellbeing work begins with the early years and secures high parental involvement. Our extended hours program, which operates all year round, provides physical activities, recreation, IT, homework sessions, music, and culture
- Our Health and Wellbeing work is a multi-disciplinary approach to family health and wellbeing. It addresses healing, health promotion with a focus on maternal health, and nutrition activities
- Our Community Development and Wellbeing work focuses on community and leadership development. Core to this stand is the operation of intergenerational community centres that provide a safe community space and venue for community and service activities
- Our Economic Development and Wellbeing work focuses on social enterprise development, workforce training, and support for entry into the work force. A key aspect of this is the support and training of Indigenous staff employed within Children's Ground. This work is underpinned by learning and skills development within the learning platform.

Each of the four areas of work are interdependent and rely on each other to achieve wellbeing of children, families and community. Children's Ground's approach starts pre-birth, providing a complete integrated system of high quality services in learning, wellbeing and development for children and young people from 0–24 years and their families and their communities. Our intergenerational approach recognises the importance of elders and senior people in the community as teachers, advisors and mentors. Underpinned by our eight core principles we:

- **create whole of community change**
We know each individual child and their families, and work with them closely, responding to their strengths and needs. We work with every family in a community, so that we can work with a critical mass who together, over time, will change the course of their community.
- **are directed by the community**
Just as important as 'what' we deliver, is 'how' we deliver. Local people have agency in Children's Ground: as designers, researchers, users and deliverers.
- **value and respond to cultural knowledge systems**
For children to have a strong future, they must have a strong sense of identity and belonging. For First Nations children, identity and wellbeing is connected to land, language, and relationship: and these cultural knowledge systems are integral to our work.

- **deliver and expect excellence**
Our programs are resourced at a level that delivers the quality in learning, development and well-being that the majority of Australian children experience. In turn, we expect outcomes on a par with mainstream Australia.
- **respond to the whole child – through an integrated system of services**
We begin with ability and build on this. The social, cultural, cognitive, physical, spiritual, economic well-being of the child and their family is joined together, in an individualised approach.
- **set a benchmark of excellence**
For too long children and families who need and deserve the best struggle to access the bare minimum. This can not be accepted any longer. Our model demands resourcing at a level that will allow quality over the long term, providing the environment for children to enjoy new opportunities that are taken for granted in many parts of Australia.
- **innovate and actively impact**
We are building a learning platform that will ensure children are equipped as adults to take on the economic and employment opportunities in their local region, as well as the global community. We are constructing an innovative and deep skills and knowledge based platform that will ensure young adults are equipped in the digital age and with the knowledge and foundation from their first culture and western cultural domains.

Measuring our impact

The Children's Ground approach is underpinned by a substantial body of research and experience.

In 2011, the Murdoch Children's Research Institute was commissioned by the Commonwealth Government to review the Children's Ground platform. The Institute concluded that:

The Children's Ground approach is supported by a strong rationale and program logic, as well as a powerful confluence of various streams of evidence. For the most disadvantaged families and communities in our society, it represents the best chance of achieving a better future.

Performance is measured in terms of the Overall Children's Ground Outcomes Framework, set out opposite.



Children's Ground Outcomes Framework

To create an environment with families and communities that realises their aspirations for the next generation of children - to be free from trauma and suffering, to enjoy equity and safety and be able to grow into adulthood happy and healthy, and with agency over their social, cultural and economic future.



	Children and young people	Family	Community
ASPIRATIONS	Children are thriving-engaged in life, brimming with laughter, pride, confidence and opportunities	Families feel strong, supported and confident about their children's future, feel valued, and are involved in their children's learning, wellbeing and development	Communities care for each other and provide a safe environment for every child. They enjoy economic, cultural and social strength and opportunity.
HIGH LEVEL OUTCOMES	Children are healthy Children are happy Children know their history and feel confident in their cultures Children have the knowledge and skills for life and learning & are creative problem solvers	Families feel confident in the wellbeing for their children Families are involved in their child's learning, wellbeing and development Families are socially and economically strong	The community values its place and heritage and continues to grow The community enjoys employment and economic opportunity The community is safe, inclusive and respects diversity
CG OPERATIONAL SYSTEM	CG support family, and individuals to access services that support health and wellbeing CG embeds social and emotional wellbeing in learning frameworks and undertakes a variety of healing and wellbeing initiatives CG promotes cultural knowledge systems as a core foundation for learning wellbeing and development CG creates opportunities for learning and wellbeing.	CG support families to create and maintain safe environments for their children CG support family to be decision makers CG creates opportunities for employment training and enterprise.	CG supports history, culture, identity and place CG creates opportunities for employment and training and enterprise. CG promotes inclusion, respect, and diversity, and celebrates community
CG OUTPUT MEASURES	% of families engaged in family health outreach program % of children and families engaged in social and emotional wellbeing initiatives % of families who report their children have a strengthened cultural foundation as a result of CG % of children and families regularly accessing activities and programs	% families and children reporting improved safety in their environment No of individual child & family support plans as % of pop. % of parents actively engaged in individual child plans No of Bininj people supported into employment and training by CG	% of Bininj people report satisfaction with CG cultural platform No and efficacy of employment, training and enterprise initiatives supported by CG No of regular child, family and community celebration events supported by CG enjoyed by the community
MEASURES: OUTCOME INDICATORS (INDICATIVE)	Mortality rates /1000 Child morbidity rates (local data if available) 0-5 yr olds: % vulnerable in one or more AEDI domain % of children and young people reporting positive social and emotional wellbeing Children know their land, language, cultural knowledge % School attendance % achieving standards for literacy & numeracy against timeframes appropriate for speakers of first languages other than English	% families self reporting confidence in the wellbeing for their children % families self reporting satisfaction and engagement their child's learning, wellbeing and development % families reporting social and economic wellbeing	% young people and adults reporting pride in their community % employment 25-50 y.o. % children, young people and adults reporting safety and inclusion

Children's Ground Timeline

50,000 YEARS

An estimated 750,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders people, speaking 700 languages, live on the continent in different nations. They develop and maintain a sophisticated worldview anchored in the stewardship of the land; rich, complex kinship systems; and education, law, health and environmental management systems.

1788

European colonisation of Australia begins.

1960'S-2000'S

Efforts of First Nations peoples to redress the devastating impact of colonisation evolves in the national consciousness. Grass roots, innovate models emerge. The Gap between the wellbeing of First Nations peoples and the rest of the Australian population remains unacceptable.

2009
GENESIS

"The status quo has failed" Jane Vadeloo

Elders of the Arrernte nation in Alice Springs and several colleagues, including Jane Vadeloo, acknowledge that, after twenty years of effort, the system has failed to end the cycle of intergenerational poverty in Alice Springs. At the same time, knowledge of what has worked is solidified, and barriers to the use of this knowledge are identified.

2010
A NEW
APPROACH

Systemic reform model is designed, articulating the approach to: governance, services, workforce, policy and evidence. Leading international practice, such as Harlem Children's Zone, inform the model.

MAY

- New approach presented to the Social Innovation Unit within DEEWR, Commonwealth Government.
- Discussions with the Mirarr people, through Gundjehmi Aboriginal Organisation, about establishing the approach in Kakadu West Arnhem.

SEPTEMBER

First meeting of Critical Friends convened by Robert Griew is attended by Geoff Whalan, Chris Gratian, Ngaire Hoskings, Helen Hambling, Smiley Johnson, Justin Mein, Rosemary Addis. The group critiques approach and contributes strategic thinking and action.

OCTOBER

- DEEWR supports Jane Vadeloo to incubate the new approach in light of broader international best practice. This work was supported by the Social Innovation Group:
Robert Griew – Associate Secretary, DEEWR
Rosemary Addis – Social Investment Strategist (Group Manager)
Libby Dummett – Strategic Advisor, Social Innovation Branch
Joanne Hutchinson – Branch Manager Social Innovation Branch
Seri Renkin – Project Director Children's Ground; Strategic and Investment Advisor, Social Innovation Branch
Katheryn Danylak – Education Specialist; Social Innovation Branch
Micheal Lye from FaHCSIA provides critical cross-departmental support.

2011
INCUBATION

Incubation focuses on governance, funding, evidence and strategy for implementing the new approach.

APRIL

- Community engagement in Alice Springs commences with strong support from the community.

MAY

- Strategic development with with Social Innovation team includes the decision to establish a new NGO, with strong corporate governance, named 'Children's Ground' to implement the new approach.

OCTOBER

- Murdoch Children's Research Institute complete a major review.

OCTOBER

- Lack of funding and challenging organisational environment slows progress in Alice Springs. Liaison with other communities, especially Kakadu, West Arnhem continues.

NOVEMBER

- Children's Ground Ltd incorporated (ACN: 154 403 086)

DECEMBER

- First meeting of Children's Ground Board.
William Tilmouth – Senior member of the Arrernte Nation and Founding Chair Kon Karapanagiotidis OAM
Josie Douglas – Non-Executive Director
Josie Rizza – Non-Executive Director
Jane Vadeloo – Executive Director
Founding CEO of Children's Ground

2012
COMMENCEMENT

FEBRUARY

- DGR Status secured.
- Seed funding received from DEEWR.
- Jane Vadeloo, CEO; Seri Renkin, part time Project Director, and Lisa Walker, part time Executive Assistant commence as first employees of Children's Ground.
- Clive Ringler joins Board.

MAY

- Northern Territory Government provide funding for Community Engagement
- Office opened in Malvern.
- Diana Peters joins as office manager, part-time. Seri Renkin leaves to start 10Twenty Foundation.

AUGUST

- The Mirarr people, through Gundjehmi Aboriginal Organisation, provide formal and financial support for a Community Engagement Program in Kakadu West Arnhem.
- Angel investment received from Coopers Foundation, Eureka Foundation and private individuals.
- David James joins as General Manager.

SEPTEMBER

- Community Engagement Program commences in Kakadu, West Arnhem.
- Kathy Bannister, Veronica Wellings, and Roxanne Nahborlhborlh start 'Walking and Talking' with community members about their hopes and aspirations for their children, in Jabiru and 13 outstations.

DECEMBER

- Children's Ground Prospectus launched by William Tilmouth in Melbourne on 10th December, Human Rights Day.
- Website launched.
- Jane Vadeloo and Justin O'Brien, CEO, Gundjehmi Aboriginal Organisation, meet with the Hon. Peter Garrett, Minister for Education.

2013
DEVELOPMENT

JANUARY

- Full scale holiday program conducted in Kakadu, West Arnhem.

FEBRUARY

- Community Engagement Program complete.
- Leonie Sheedy joins staff team for two days a week as Project Officer, Policy and Practice.
- Adrian Appo joins the Board, replacing Josie Douglas.

APRIL

- Angel investment received from Limb Family Foundation and Duggan Family Foundation.
- Children's Ground host Akeyulerre at Koori Heritage Centre, Melbourne.
- Andrew Pascoe joins Children's Ground as Communications volunteer.
- Advice regarding funding provided to Commonwealth Government.

JUNE

- Discussions, consultations and negotiations continue with:
- Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation, for funding of \$7.5million in funding over three to five years for Children's Ground West Arnhem;
- Australian Government, for funding of \$3.2 over three years for Children's Ground Shared Office ('head office'); and
- Various philanthropic foundations and private social investors for funding to match the commitment made by the Mirarr people ... in the hope that Children's Ground would commence with full scale operations in Kakadu West Arnhem in the new financial year.

Now
BUILDING NEW
GROUND

JULY

- The Commonwealth Government approved a grant of \$2 million for two years.

AUGUST

- With the express, prior support of Gundjehmi Aboriginal Cooperation, the Kakadu West Arnhem Social Trust approved a donation of \$7.5 million over three to five years.

FROM SEPTEMBER

- Children's Ground West Arnhem commences....



Highlights



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PLANNING: KAKADU, WEST ARNHEM.

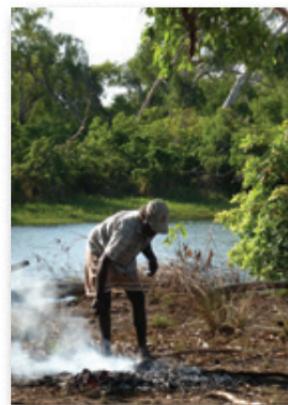
In July 2013, Children's Ground was invited by the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) to partner with them to establish the Children's Ground platform, as the basis for a locally led service system in the West Arnhem region of Kakadu, Northern Territory. To establish the basis for the partnership, Children's Ground undertook a Community Engagement and Planning (CEP) process in West Arnhem, Northern Territory from July 2012 to March 2013. The CEP process addressed nine objectives, organised into four areas. All objectives were met. The team of four, including two local people:

- Visited all 17 outstations, many several times, and engaged in conversation with about half the target group, in a Walk and Talk process. The feedback gained through this process of listening to the community, and sharing information, evidenced that there was an urgent sense of need, and support for Children's Ground's approach.

- Using data obtained from the Walk and Talk, and from other sources, a demographic profile of the region was developed. This was an important and necessary task, given the lack of agreed demographic data in the region.

- Mapped, and met with several service providers, with a view to developing partnerships. A formal partnership was established with the Jabiru Area School, in the form of a draft Memorandum of Understanding.

Finally, the perspectives, ideas, and data gleaned from the Walk and Talk, the demographic picture, and the mapping and discussions with other service providers, were brought to bear in the development of an Implementation Plan for the region. The final version of this plan has been used as the basis of long-term partnership between Children's Ground and Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation, and the Kakadu West Arnhem Social Trust.



LAUNCH OF CHILDREN'S GROUND PROSPECTUS

On 10th December 2012 – Human Rights Day – William Tilmouth launched the Children's Ground Prospectus to a breakfast gathering of around 120 people in Melbourne. The Prospectus presented the Children's Ground case for a social investment of \$14.6 million over three years, to enable Children's Ground to commence in Kakadu, West Arnhem.

William observed that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 13rd September 2007, and ratified by the Australian Government on 3rd April 2009. He went on to say:

"That the United Nations, and the international community more broadly, has extended human rights specifically and expressly to First Nation peoples is, in historical terms, of the most profound significance. As both history and personal experience tells us, First Nation peoples have suffered the loss of their lands, the destruction of their cultures and way of life, and were seen as non-human, or less than human. Now, finally, and in perpetuity, we First Nation people take our place amongst all the peoples on the planet. Our challenge, now, is to make those rights a lived reality on the ground, in Alice Springs and Halls Creek, Cape York and the Kimberley, and in West Arnhem. The Children's Ground Prospectus is directed to this end, and I invite the West Arnhem community, governments, philanthropists and each of you to support it."

KAKADU, WEST ARNHEM HOLIDAY PROGRAM

In December/January 2013, Children's Ground conducted a school holiday program in Kakadu, West Arnhem. The program was held to "walk the talk", by providing an experience to the community about the benefits of a child-centred social platform within the community.

During the week of Monday 17th to Friday 21st December, 2012, an Out and About Program was conducted, with a different cultural site in Kakadu National Park visited each day. Sites included Burrunguy Rock, Muirella Park campground, Mirray Lookout and Coinda, where kids engaged with their families and Elders in cultural learning and play.

Between the first three weeks of January 2013, a wide variety of activities, involving around 90 members of the community, most of them young, were conducted in Jabiru. Activities included: song writing /music and soap making, free pool days, photography and film workshops, movie screening, Auskick and boxing sessions. Evening discos, which ran from 6-9.30pm, were a particular success.

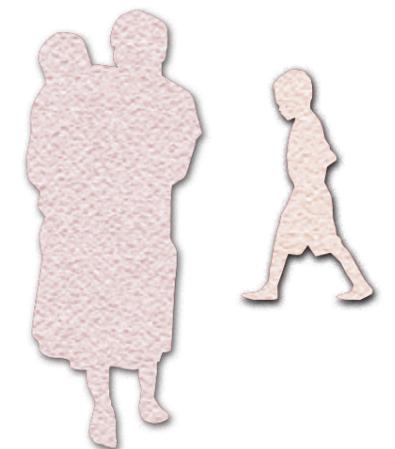
Apart from ensuring the children engaged in entertaining and often instructive activities, the holiday program served to strengthen relationships between families, improved school engagement, and provided a concrete, positive experience of the value of child focused programs.

AKEYULERRE VISIT

Children's Ground works in partnership with Akeyulerre, a community service and healing centre established by the Arrernte people of Central Australia. Akeyulerre works to protect, nurture and pass on the incredible rich culture and knowledge of the Arrernte people living in and around the Alice Springs region.

In April 2013, Children's Ground hosted a function at the Koori Heritage Centre, Melbourne, where Arrernte Elders and young people from Akeyulerre shared their story with a large and enthusiastic crowd.

The visit was an opportunity for people in Melbourne to hear directly from Arrernte young women and Elders about the work of Akeyulerre and, in particular, the Interrentye Traditional Healing social enterprise of Akeyulerre Healing Centre.



Who supported us



Children's Ground would like to thank the following friends and partners for their support:

Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation
 Commonwealth Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
 Northern Territory Government
 Eureka Foundation
 Limb Family Foundation
 Igniting Change
 Coopers Foundation
 Coopers Investors
 Oxfam Australia

Financial statements

This financial report is an extract from the audited financial statements for Children's Ground for the year ending 30 June 2013. The full audited financial statements and Directors' Report is available on our website – www.childrensground.org.au.

Directors' Report

Your directors present their report on the company for the financial year ended 30 June 2013.

The names and details of the Company's directors and board members in office during the financial year and until the date of this report are as follows. Directors and board members were in office for this entire period unless otherwise stated:

	Meetings Held	Meetings Attended
Kon Karapanagiotidis (Director and Board Member)	6	2
William Roy Tilmouth (Director and Board Member)	6	5
Jane Shanthini Vadiveloo (Director and Board Member)	6	6
Josie Rizza (Board Member)	6	5
Clive William Ringler (Board Member)	6	6
Josie Douglas (Board Member: Resigned 02 November 2012)	6	1
Adrian Appo (Board Member: Appointed on 05 February 2013)	6	3

The loss of the company amounted to \$17,343 (2012 Profit: \$103,506).

No significant changes in the company's state of affairs occurred during the financial year, which are not highlighted in this report.

The principal activity of the company during the financial year was providing opportunities to help break the poverty cycle for disadvantaged indigenous children.

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the financial year.

Other than the payment of a premium for a Directors and Officers' and professional indemnity insurance policy, no indemnities have been given or insurance premiums paid, during or since the end of the financial year, for any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the company.

No person has applied for leave of a Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the company or intervene in any proceedings to which the company is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the company for all or any part of those proceedings.

The company was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

William Roy Tilmouth, Director
 Dated this 30th day of October 2013

Jane Shanthini Vadiveloo, Director
 Dated this 30th day of October 2013

Financial statements

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
Revenue	2	417,621	173,532
Expenses	3	(434,964)	(70,026)
(Loss)/Profit Before Income Tax Expense		(17,343)	103,506
Income tax expense	4	-	-
(LOSS)/PROFIT AFTER TAX		(17,343)	103,506
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Net loss on revaluation of non-current assets		-	-
Net gain on revaluation of financial assets		-	-
Share of other comprehensive income of associates and joint ventures		-	-
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax		-	-
Total other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE (LOSS)/PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE ENTITY		(17,343)	103,506

Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	5	137,352	171,800
Accounts Receivable	6	22,000	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		159,352	171,800
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment	7	5,972	1,245
Total Non-Current Assets		5,972	1,245
TOTAL ASSETS		165,324	173,045
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	8	62,249	69,539
Provisions	9	16,912	-
Total Current Liabilities		79,161	69,539
TOTAL LIABILITIES		79,161	69,539
NET ASSETS		86,163	103,506
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus	10	86,163	103,506
TOTAL EQUITY		86,163	103,506

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Statement of changes in equity for the year ended 30 June 2013

	Retained Profit/(loss) \$
Balance at 1 July 2011	-
Income attributable to members	103,506
Distribution to members	-
BALANCE AS AT 30 JUNE 2012	103,506
Balance at 1 July 2012	103,506
Loss attributable to members	(17,343)
Distribution to members	-
BALANCE AS AT 30 JUNE 2013	86,163

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:			
Donations Received		70,080	26,000
Grants Received		320,528	159,071
Payment to Suppliers and Employees		(418,625)	(12,026)
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	11	(28,017)	173,045
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(6,431)	(1,245)
NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(6,431)	(1,245)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
NET CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		-	-
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held during the year		(34,448)	171,800
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the year		171,800	-
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	5	137,352	171,800

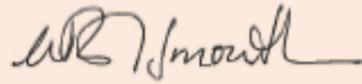
The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Directors' declaration

The directors of the company declare that:

1. The attached financial statements comprising the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Changes in Equity and notes thereto present a true and fair view of the state of the financial position of the company as at 30 June 2013 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. In the directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



William Roy Tilmouth, Director

Dated this 30th day of October 2013



Jane Shanthini Vadiveloo, Director

Dated this 30th day of October 2013

Independent Audit Report

To the members of Children's Ground Limited

Scope

We have audited the accompanying financial statements, being a special purpose financial report of the Children's Ground Limited for the year ended 30 June 2013, as set out on pages 2 to 15. The financial report comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2013, and the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2013, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the Directors' Declaration.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the company's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001. We confirm that the independence declaration required by the Corporations Act 2001, which has been given to the directors of Children's Ground Limited, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of the auditor's report.

Qualifications

This is the first year we have audited the financial statements of Children's Ground Limited. As a result it is not practicable for us to express an opinion on the balances disclosed for the previous accounting year.

It is not practicable for the Children's Ground Limited to establish controls over receipts prior to their initial entry in the accounting records, nor is it practicable for us to ensure all such revenue has been brought to account.

Our examination related to receipts was therefore limited to the amount included in the records of the Company.

Qualified Audit Opinion

In our opinion, subject to the matters referred to in the qualification paragraph, and except for such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary as a consequence of same, the financial report of the Children's Ground Limited is in accordance with:

- (a) the Corporations Act 2001, including:
 - (i) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2013 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
 - (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the Corporations Regulation 2001.
- (b) other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia.

MCG PARTNERS, Camberwell
Chartered Accountants, Melbourne



ANGELO MAZZONE
Partner

Dated this 31th day of October 2013

Auditor's Independence Declaration

To the Directors of Children's Ground Limited

In relation to the independent audit of the Children's Ground Limited for the year ended 30 June 2013, to the best of my knowledge and belief there have been:

- i) No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- ii) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

MCG PARTNERS, Camberwell
Chartered Accountants, Melbourne



ANGELO MAZZONE
Partner

Dated this 31th day of October 2013

Organisational directory

Organisation

Children's Ground Limited CAN 154 403 086

Organisational form

Company Limited by Guarantee

Tax Status

Public Benevolent Institution;
Deductible Gift Recipient;
Tax Charity Concession

Trading Name

Children's Ground

Directors (non-executive)

William Tilmouth,
Josie Rizza
Clive Ringler
Kon Karapanagiotidis, OAM
Adrian Appo
Jane Vadivelloo

Company Secretary

David James

Registered Address

C/-Akeyulere
3 Stuart Terrace
Alice Springs

Principal Office

673 Bourke Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000

Contact Details

Email: cgadmin@childrensground.org.au
Web: www.childrensground.org.au
Phone: 0447 903 084

Postal

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