

BUSKING FOR CHANGE

2025 INFO PACK

Learn a song,
change the world.



Busking For Change is the Indigenous Literacy Foundation's (ILF) musical fundraising event developed by ILF Ambassador Josh Pyke. It engages school students in a multiliteracy activity incorporating song, music, movement and language.

The idea is simple:

1. students commit to learning to play, sing, or dance to a song sung in an Aboriginal First Language
2. students gather support/donations from their friends and family
3. students 'busk' or perform their rendition to their friends, family, school, or post a video online.

The song, charts and lyrics and translations are provided by the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

Busking For Change is a fun and educational activity that acknowledges and promotes the rich diversity of Indigenous languages and cultures, while raising funds to help create more books in languages that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children speak at home.

What is the 2025 *Busking For Change* song?

The story of *Country Tells Us When...* has been adapted into a joyful song about the seasonal changes of the Kimberley by ILF Ambassadors [Josh Pyke](#), [Justine Clarke](#), [Dobby](#) and Tehya Makani. This song celebrates Yawuru knowledge systems, culture, language, and Country.

[Country Tells Us When...](#) is a book written by Community from Cable Beach Primary School and published by the Indigenous Literacy Foundation in 2023. It shares and celebrates the 6 seasons of Yawuru Country in Western Australia, around the area of Rubibi/Broome.

"Us Yawuru mob, we don't have four seasons that are told to us by a calendar. We have six seasons and Country tells us when they have arrived by what we feel, see, taste, smell and hear."

2025 Goal

To recruit at least 100 schools and raise \$80,000 for ILF's *Community Publishing* program.

Key Audience

Primary schools & Early Childhood Centres - music teachers and classroom teachers. We also welcome participants from organisations, clubs and workplaces.

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Key Message

Busking For Change - learn a song and raise funds for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

When do schools Busk For Change?

You can host your *Busking For Change* fundraiser at any time throughout the year. However, we recommend Term 3 as your "busking season" - culminating on Indigenous Literacy Day, Wednesday 3rd September.

- Term 2 - Sign Up
- Term 3 - Start fundraising
- Wed Sep 3 2025 - 'Busking Day' performances take place on the same day as ILD.

How do schools get involved with this campaign?

A dedicated website at buskingforchange.ilf.org.au provides all the tools and resources schools need for a successful *Busking For Change* fundraiser. The site provides videos and links for teachers and parents and comprehensive Q&As as well social media posts, posters, music charts and scripts.

All registered schools who raise at least \$50 will be send a *Busking For Change* Book Pack with two ILF published children's books (including *Country Tells Us When...*). These books help share the work of the ILF and inspire the school community.

What is UNESCO's Decade of Indigenous Languages?

2025 is the fourth year of UNESCO's Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032). The Los Pintos Declaration, the roadmap for UNESCO's Decade of Indigenous Languages, emphasises Indigenous peoples' rights to freedom of expression, to an education in their mother tongue, and to participate in public life using their languages, as prerequisites for survival of Indigenous languages.

How does ILF align with the Decade of Indigenous Languages?

The ILF works to meet the wishes of remote Communities across Australia, to assist with the publishing of books created by Community, many in First Languages as well as to fund the development of digital, audio, or other learning resources and workshops. Each year, *Busking For Change* will promote a new song featuring an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language created by a remote Community. Not only does this activity promote Indigenous languages, it actively encourages students to learn and use words in a First Language.

ILF Ambassador
Josh Pyke with
students from
Yeo Park Infants
School on their
Busking Day in 2024.

