

Indigenous Literacy Foundation Fact Sheet

**Reading Opens Doors - that is,
doors to future opportunities
and choices.**

KEY MESSAGES:

Our purpose is to invest in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities to provide the tools and resources they request to shape the future direction of their child's literacy future.

We are Community-led, responding to requests from remote Communities for culturally relevant books, resources and programs to support Communities to create and publish their stories in languages of their choice.

Everyone can help! Make a donation, host a Great Book Swap, Busk For Change, hold a fundraiser throughout the year, or contact the ILF office to discuss your partnership ideas.

In 2023, the ILF aims to raise \$5.83m to support its programs. We receive no Government funding and rely 100% on donations from supporters.

The Foundation is Community driven. All funds raised go to the ILF's three programs:

- 1. Book Buzz** aims to develop pre-literacy skills and familiarity with books for babies and toddlers, through a regular story-time session. Parents and carers are supported and are given the tools to talk about, read and share books with their children, in First Languages and in English.
- 2. Book Supply** gifts books that aim to interest and engage the Community in reading and sharing books together. The books are carefully chosen so they are culturally appropriate, and between 45% - 50% are by Indigenous authors or illustrators. The books are distributed by road, air or sea to crèches, playgroups, schools, women's centres, and health centres who use them in different ways.
- 3. Community Publishing Projects (CCP)** support adults and children to write and illustrate their own stories in languages of their choice. The ILF publish the books and gift them back to the Community. These books are highly desired because they often share a local story that a Community is familiar with and many are written in First Languages.

Since 2011, ILF has gifted books to more than 400 remote Communities, supported 90 remote playgroups with its early literacy program, *Book Buzz* and published 109 books written by Community reflecting up to 31 Indigenous Languages.

Indigenous Literacy Day

The ILF initiated Indigenous Literacy Day, an annual and national day of advocacy, celebrated on the first Wednesday in September. On this day, the ILF encourages schools and organisations to acknowledge, explore and learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories, languages and cultures. Please visit www.ilf.org.au for details.

BACKGROUND:

In remote Communities across Australia there is often no infrastructure such as libraries or bookstores. Access to reading material is extremely limited and this impacts the achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Through investment in Community and strategic partnerships the ILF will support sustainable and positive change in Indigenous literacy through the supply of books and a greater focus on the publication of Indigenous content.

We aim to advocate and build awareness among the wider Australian population of the strengths, knowledge and wisdom held within remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.