

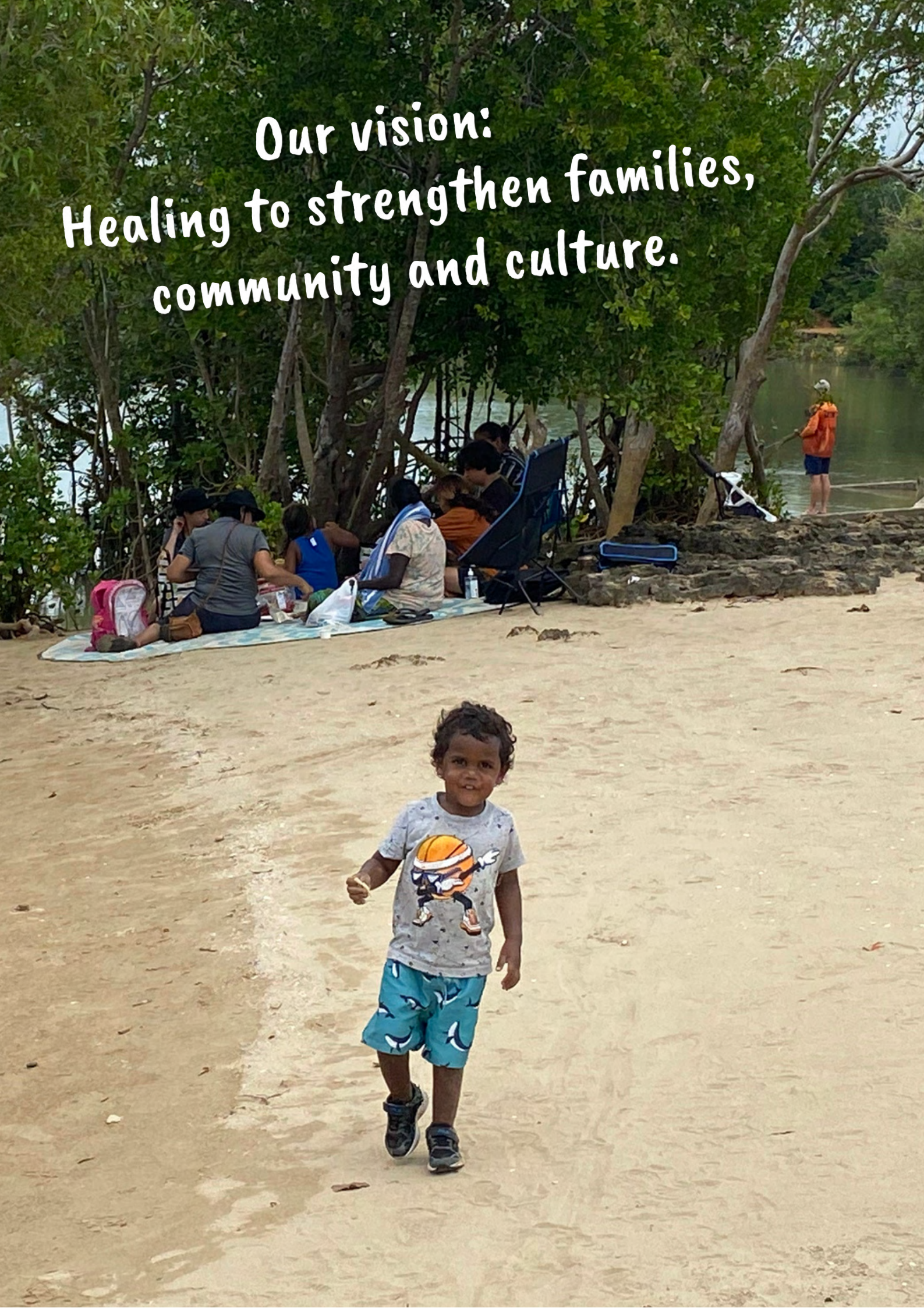
# 2023 Annual Report

CAAPS  
Aboriginal  
Corporation





Our vision:  
Healing to strengthen families,  
community and culture.





## Title: When the desert meets the sea

Artist: Tia Young



## Front Cover Description

Tia's artwork is a story that showcases her grandfather's Stolen Generations journey.

It is a contemporary Aboriginal art piece that captures the story of her grandfather as a two-year-old Luritja boy sent to Retta Dixon Home and the Melville Island Inland Mission.

The dot work represents Tia's connection to her grandfather's mother's traditional homelands of Central Australia, and the sea turtle represents the Melville Island land and water that protected her grandfather through his childhood journey.

Tia's story speaks of strength, wisdom and resilience passed down to her by her grandfather.

## Artist Background

Tia Young is a local Darwin Aboriginal woman, a descendent of the Stolen Generations with bloodline connections to the Gurindji, Woolwonga, Marathiel, Gudanji and Luritja peoples of the Northern Territory.

Tia is a granddaughter of Stolen Generations children who were sent to institutions throughout the Northern Territory and Queensland, inclusive of Melville Island Inland Mission, Croker Island Mission, Retta Dixon Home, Kahlin Compound, Pine Creek Boys Home and The Bungalow at Jay Creek, west of Alice Springs.

Tia is employed as a Youth Worker in the Youth Service Program at CAAPS Aboriginal Corporation.

Tia is mentored by her uncle, Kenny Hopkins, a local Aboriginal artist. This piece is a reflection of this year's NAIDOC theme, For Our Elders, in honour of her paternal deceased grandfather.

# About Us

## Our Story

CAAPS Aboriginal Corporation is a community-based service that provides healing and support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and families.

CAAPS has been working across the Top End of the Northern Territory for over 35 years, with a proud history in delivering family-centred and culturally appropriate alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment to adults, families and young people.

Over the last five years, CAAPS has grown to support families and communities beyond AOD, delivering services that improve social and emotional wellbeing as we build on our foundations in culturally appropriate, family-centred, holistic and trauma-informed care.

This includes child and family services, homelessness and housing, youth services and community-based programs.



## Our Values

**Caring** for clients, culture, community and each other

**Openness,** honesty, accessibility and inclusiveness

**Respect** the rights and values of everyone

**Empowerment** of others to be the best they can



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## Acknowledgement

CAAPS Aboriginal Corporation respects the culture and lore of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the Northern Territory. CAAPS acknowledge the past, present and emerging elders and leaders of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and especially recognises the Larrakia people, who are the traditional custodians of the Darwin area on which we work and live.

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to their elders past and present.



# Board Messages

## Michelle McColm – Chairperson

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of our dedicated employees, who are diligently collaborating to advance CAAPS and realise its purpose of providing culturally appropriate, family-centred and evidence-based services and support to people and families. As the Chair of the board, I am keen to support the purpose and ensure it encompasses the entirety of the remarkable work undertaken in the day-to-day operations of this organisation. CAAPS' commitment to staying responsive and relevant is being demonstrated in the dynamic nature of the work.

I commend everyone for their enthusiasm and hard work over the past 12 months. Their commitment and collective efforts will lead CAAPS to even greater success in the future.

## Leonie Patterson – Deputy Chairperson

Leonie Patterson is a descendent of the Stolen Generations, from Kija, Bardi and Worrora peoples of the Kimberley in Western Australia. Born and raised in Garramilla (Darwin), Leonie has extensive experience as a leader in the government and not-for-profit sectors. Her career in Aboriginal affairs has been dedicated to advancing the self-determination of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in all matters that affect them.

Leonie joined the CAAPS board in 2022 believing she could make a meaningful contribution to the board and future direction of the organisation. It has been a busy 12 months, and she is immensely proud and grateful to be part of the CAAPS journey.

She takes this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all CAAPS staff and fellow board members for the great strides made in 2023.



## Frank Ahmat

We have successfully navigated our way through another challenging year; however, it is great to see that CAAPS Aboriginal Corporation has continued to provide core services to a high standard. I am particularly proud of our staff for their continued dedication and commitment to our organisation. I would like to thank former CEO Jill Smith for her great 10 years of service to CAAPS, also to Darren Johnson, Kay Gehan and Mike Levy for their dedication to CAAPS and support to all.

CAAPS Aboriginal Corporation will continue to build strong relationships and partnerships with other Aboriginal community controlled organisations, which will benefit our community. I take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank my fellow board members for their continued volunteering, which greatly assists and supports our organisation. Wishing everyone a safe and happy break at the end of the year and best wishes for 2024.

## David Pugh

In April 2023, I joined the board of CAAPS as a non-member director. When I worked in Arnhem Land in the 1980s, I witnessed the development and the importance of CAAPS for remote Aboriginal communities. CAAPS has always been a culturally secure organisation that supports Aboriginal families using Western knowledge with a deep commitment to Aboriginal culture and understandings. This both-ways approach has positioned CAAPS to continue to be an important service for urban and remote families.

In my role at Anglicare NT, I was privileged to work closely with the previous CAAPS CEO, Jill Smith. She made a significant contribution to CAAPS and our community. Coincidentally, I had also partnered with our new CEO, Chris Hammond, and I am encouraged by the skills and commitment he brings to his new role.

Thank you to the previous and current board and staff who have worked hard to ensure CAAPS continues to impact on the lives of our community. Well done to all.



I am honoured to present my first CEO report for CAAPS Aboriginal Corporation. Since assuming the position in early May 2023, I have been inspired by the incredible dedication and resilience displayed by our staff, their unwavering support for our clients, and their steadfast engagement with our community. Our team at CAAPS demonstrates unwavering commitment to our mission and values. Their dedication, expertise and teamwork has been instrumental in the progress we've achieved. We celebrate their hard work, passion and the positive impact they have on our clients and the community at large.

Our commitment to serving our clients with the utmost care and professionalism remains steadfast. We have witnessed the transformational impact of our services on the lives of those we serve, empowering them to overcome challenges and achieve their goals. The trust and confidence our clients place in us drives us to continually enhance our programs and services.

Collaboration and partnership are at the heart of our approach. Over the past months, we have actively sought and nurtured relationships with other organisations, businesses and government bodies that share our goals. Through these partnerships, we aim to enhance our impact, expand our reach and create a stronger support network for the communities we serve.

Looking ahead, we are committed to furthering our mission and expanding our services to better meet the evolving needs of our community.

Our strategic focus will be on fostering innovative partnerships, leveraging technology to enhance efficiency and service delivery, and maintaining a client-centred approach in all our endeavours.

I am incredibly proud of the achievements we have made over the past few months and the positive trajectory we are on. The path ahead is exciting and together, with the continued dedication of our team and the support of our clients and community, we are poised for even greater success.

Thank you for entrusting me with the role of CEO at CAAPS Aboriginal Corporation. I look forward to leading this exceptional organisation into a future filled with growth, collaboration and positive change.



**Chris Hammond**  
**CEO**



# Strategic Goals

## Strong organisation

Strengthen our organisational sustainability and develop systems and processes to promote staff development, continuous learning and growing our Aboriginal workforce.

## Connected to community

Nurture our relationships, maintain our presence in Darwin and deepen connections with remote communities through meaningful engagement to support community aspirations and needs.

## Effective partnerships

Increase our profile with Aboriginal-controlled organisations through genuine partnerships and taking a leadership role in our sector. Strengthen our existing partnerships across the service system to drive capacity building internally and bring services into Aboriginal hands.

## Impactful services

Strengthen existing services by enhancing cultural components and healing models, continuity of care, need-based resource allocation, and outcomes measurement to drive greater impact.





# Our Staff



## Training and Development

Throughout the year, CAAPS has been dedicated to advancing our staff across all programs and levels in growth and development. Along with required training courses such as Mandatory Reporting and Applied First Aid, staff had the opportunity to participate in the Kidsafe NT Transporting Children Safely workshop to enable them to understand the legislative requirements and key safety outcomes of child restraints.

In June, a large number of staff participated in a two-day strengths-based training workshop. Staff were enabled with the skills to focus on identifying, mobilising and celebrating clients' strengths, whilst never losing sight of the challenges and difficulties they face.

In July, a group of staff attended Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), a two-day intensive participatory workshop where they developed practical skills in suicide prevention. This training was proudly facilitated by Anglicare NT.

In August, staff were invited by AMSANT to participate in a two-day Culturally Responsive Trauma Informed Practice workshop, where participants learned the six R's of culturally responsive trauma-informed practice: Realise, Recognise, Respond, Reduce, Rebuild and Regenerate.







## Outstanding Performance

At each quarterly all staff meeting, CAAPS recognises employees who have been nominated by their peers based on the CAAPS CORE Values: Caring, Openness, Respect and Empowerment.

This year the following staff were recognised:

**Dee Voysey, Domestic Advisor**

**Kat Kennedy, Child and Family Services Manager**

**Michael Duckenfield, IHSAP AOD Case Manager**

**Anita Adejumo, AOD Social Worker**

**Mick Fisher, AOD Counsellor**

**Marielle Santos, Business Support Officer**

**Quentin Theron, AOD Support Worker**

**Sarah Hammet, Homelessness Outreach Support Worker**

**Najnin Sultana, Clinician**

**Chelsea Fawcett, AOD Counsellor**

## Staff member of the year 2022

**Sharon Smellin, Finance Officer**

## Testimony from outgoing staff

### Sharon Smellin, Finance Officer 2012–2023

After working in the private sector for many years, which included running my own businesses, I was tired and needed a change from the pressure I had been under. I applied and was accepted as 'Accounts Assistant' with CAAPS and commenced in March 2012. This was a job that suited me well. I had a Business Manager as my supervisor who was the go-to man at CAAPS. He knew everything and was such a great mentor. Into my first year at CAAPS, the Business Manager up and left – without much warning, so my stress-free job of Accounts Assistant immediately became a very stressful job of managing CAAPS Finance. As I had only worked in the private sector up until then, I was not familiar with grants, etc. I advised the CEO that I did have the skills to 'keep the place going' until such time as the (very much missed) Business Manager was replaced. It was then that I drew on my knowledge gained during my 25 years' experience in accounting, Associate Diploma in Accounting and two years of an Accounting Degree. I would not have been able to do the job without this knowledge.

As time went on, there were lots of changes in the management team and CAAPS was growing stronger financially every day. I saw the implementation of our satellite office at Coolalinga, which proved very successful and later moved into a bigger premises to accommodate the growing success. Huge investment by a private company (Viva Energy Australia) enabled CAAPS to hire an education officer to help our young people get back into the education system. I was proud to be a part of this hugely successful endeavour during my time at CAAPS. I got to witness first-hand young people gaining their confidence back – some going into the workforce as apprentices,

others going to boarding school to complete their schooling. They all gained valuable life skills playing football for the local club. I have always felt proud of working at CAAPS. I was also very involved in establishing the Child and Family Centre at Malak, which continues to be hugely successful. Over the years the finance team grew from one to 1.2, then back to one again.

I strongly believe that CAAPS helps people from all walks of life, and I am proud to be a part of this incredible organisation. During my 11 years at CAAPS, I realised one thing never changed while I was there: we were always struggling for the financial support required to do the things we could see needed doing. Up until my retirement this has not changed, but the one thing we always had is dedicated staff fulfilling their roles to the best of their ability with limited resources.

I wish everyone at CAAPS all the best and hope that they take with them happy memories and wonderful friendships, as I have. I will never forget my time at CAAPS, particularly the people.



Sharon being presented with the staff member of the year award 2022



## Farewells, Welcomes and Staff Movements

This year we farewelled Naina Qureshi, who moved to Tasmania. During her time at CAAPS, she undertook the roles of Youth Services Coordinator and AOD Clinical Coordinator. We then welcomed Joan Washington to the Youth Services Coordinator role. Elisabete Pinto, former Strong Steps Coordinator and AOD Counsellor, was promoted to the position of AOD Clinical Coordinator.

Following these movements, Angela Clark, AOD Counsellor, was promoted to include the duties of Strong Steps Coordinator into her role.

In December 2022 we farewelled CEO Jill Smith after nine years of service, and in May 2023 we welcomed Chris Hammond to the role. Chris came to CAAPS with significant experience in executive roles in the Northern Territory, including his most recent role as Deputy CEO in our partner organisation, Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation and has held senior director roles within the Northern Territory Government.

This year several staff members have been successful in moving from casual to permanent employment or increasing from part-time to full-time hours. There have also been several internal promotions. Jamiee English was promoted from Administration Officer at the Darrandirra Child and Family Centre (CFC) to Key Worker; Chrissy Grant moved from Family Worker to Homelessness Outreach Service (HOS) Worker; Joseph Okoh moved from Support Worker to AOD Social Worker; and Teka Voysey moved from casual all-rounder to Programs Administration Officer.

CAAPS is committed to staff development and is proud to see so much internal movement and promotion. We have also inducted 25 valued new staff since December 2022.

## Long Service

This year we recognise two staff members who have each reached nine years of continued service: Transport Officer, Tommy Friel; and Youth Services Active Night Worker, Catherine Hallworth. Congratulations! We value your dedication and commitment to CAAPS.

## Student Placements

CAAPS has hosted four students this year to support them in their studies. All student placements this year were already CAAPS staff members or gained employment with CAAPS following placement. We celebrate our investment in students to succeed professionally, not only at CAAPS but in the greater community.

This year we hosted Sarah Hammet in her Bachelor of Psychology, specialising in Children and Families; Christiana Adedoyin in her Counselling degree; and Chelsea Keir and Charlie Murrell in their efforts to complete a Diploma of Community Services.

# Healthy Families





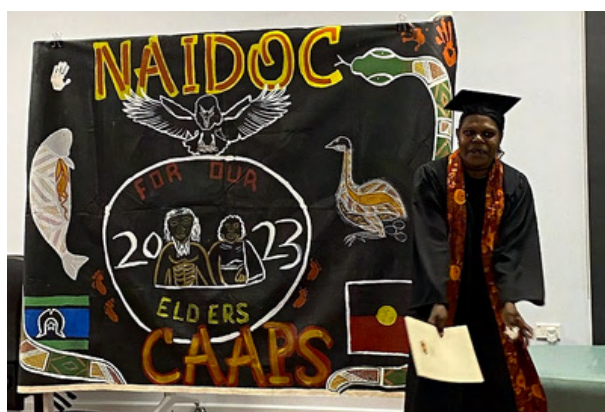
# AOD Program Delivery

The AOD psychotherapy program has maintained its steady growth and flourishing status. Clients are actively involved and respond positively to sessions that have been carefully designed to respect cultural sensitivities and hold significant meaning. Impressive accomplishments are evident, including an uptick in clients enrolling in dual courses at Charles Darwin University and specialising in business and land management. Notably, this year 20 clients completed the 12-week program, a feat which was unprecedented in the last three years.

Significant alliances continue to form among diverse groups, namely Darwin Indigenous Men's Service (DIMS), Mission Australia Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Service (MARRTS), and Darwin Aboriginal & Islander Women's Shelter (DAIWS). DIMS, aside from providing wellbeing programs for men, now orchestrates wholesome cooking classes that are open to all genders at the CAAPS outdoor community kitchen. Among this year's highlights noted by clients were the self-care sessions for women at DAIWS, involving clients designing and crafting their own jewellery.

This year, the one-day workshop organised by Stay Safe proved exceptionally popular and captured substantial interest from the clients. Additionally, clients collaborated with their children to produce a banner for the NAIDOC march, showcasing their joint efforts.

The program maintains its unwavering dedication to enhancing resources and activities that are varied, up-to-date, culturally safe and relevant. These components are meticulously tailored to address the most pertinent practices for Aboriginal families seeking to create strong pathways towards health and wellbeing.





# Children's Program

On arrival, parents are supported with the enrolment of their school-aged children and introduced to the Children's Program if they have accompanying children aged four years and under.

Parents are accompanied to their child's school for parent-teacher meetings when required and homework support sessions are available after school four days a week. We continue to work predominantly with Karama Primary School and Sanderson Middle School; however, other schools such as Moil, Anula and Moulden Primary School have also been utilised for these requirements. Darrandirra CFC supports us in finding school placements for preschool children, as all schools in the area have indicated they are currently at capacity. School holiday programs are planned to cater for the age range of children and activities include whole-family and all-client outings.

We have commenced liaisons with HIPPY Australia and Early Childhood Australia to access a range of support programs available in the wider community to parents and children. We look forward to further engagement with these and other organisations and providing our parents and children with optimum access to programs that cater to their needs.







**79.1%**

Occupancy rate



**68**

Total clients

**35%**

Male clients

**65%**

Female clients



**99.9%**

of clients identified as  
Aboriginal and or Torres  
Strait Islander



**171**

referrals in 6  
months



Over

**50**

Children supported





## Youth Services

In 2022 and 2023, Youth Services, funded by the Northern Territory Government, have been running the Intensive Assessment Program (IAP) and Substance Treatment Program (STP) residentially and in an outreach capacity. The IAP is in an intensive assessment period based on an approach that is not one size fits all. It is based on the needs of young people aged 12 to 17 and engages a treatment approach that is holistic in nature and aims to engage with trauma-informed principles of choice, collaboration and control in a safe and relational environment.

The assessment is aimed at providing a care plan and recommendations regarding the ongoing care and treatment of each young person.

The focus then moves to the STP program, which supports the young person through treatment goals that have been identified via the IAP report. Services engage in a residential capacity, with 24/7 support from a team of youth support workers, clinicians, social workers and family workers. It engages with a process of psychoeducational work, engagement with other educational opportunities, varying therapeutic approaches and engaging with individual interests and recreational opportunities for young people.

The program is designed to be flexible and responsive and will work with families and other relevant stakeholders, connecting clients with varying supports as required and facilitating those connections. The program aims to work with all relevant services and supports for a young person and engages a team approach based on needs of the youth.



When young people complete programs they have the option to engage with aftercare support for any additional needs as they transition back into general life. Staff have a wide range of skills and have worked to increase their capacities to respond in a challenging space. Additionally, Youth Services have been working with young people within Don Dale Youth Correctional Centre, and a number of young persons have come from remote communities as well as locally. Flexibility of the program has enabled entry of younger people within the program, accompanied by a parental/guardian figure.

Throughout the 12-month period some of the communities represented within the program intake have included:

- Gapuwiyak
- Darwin/Palmerston region
- Alice Springs
- Baniyala
- Nhulunbuy
- Katherine
- Tennant Creek
- Yuendumu
- Groote Eylandt
- Milingimbi
- Ali Curung
- Daly River



There have been more than 50 referrals to the service with enrolment of approximately 25 into programs. The reasons for non-enrolment often vary relating to capacity, motivation, contact ability for assessment and readiness of an individual to engage with the program. The program is voluntary; therefore, compelling a young person to engage is not optional.







## Strong Steps

Strong Steps is now in its sixth year of providing alcohol and drug counselling services. The referral numbers continue to grow, with referrals being received from a range of agencies and individuals across the greater Darwin Region.

Phone counselling is offered to clients who live in remote locations. Strong Steps has clients throughout the Northern Territory, including Nhulunbuy, Wadeye, Katherine, Daly River, Maningrida and many other communities.

Strong Steps has male and female counsellors with a range of skills, education and experience. Counsellors are matched with clients, taking the clients' specific needs into consideration. One CAAPS counsellor has lived and worked in a number of remote locations and brings the knowledge and experience into her work with Aboriginal clients.

The Strong Steps male counsellor attends Darwin Correctional Centre weekly to provide face-to-face counselling with prisoners. He works with prisoners to assist them to plan and prepare for their release with the knowledge and skills to help them with their substance use goals while considering the challenges they will face on the outside. There has been a lot of positive feedback from prisoners receiving that service and Strong Steps is now receiving referrals specifically asking to see 'the counsellor who comes out here (Darwin Correctional Centre)'.

There has been a marked increase in the number of referrals for female clients. In July 2023, more referrals for women were received than men, which is a first.



### CLIENT FEEDBACK

'The person I spoke to was very patient and understanding'

### CLIENT FEEDBACK

'Wonderful experience'

### CLIENT FEEDBACK

'I appreciate you, and I'm thankful that I've been able to link up with you'



# 356

Referrals for the year  
July 2022 - June 2023

## Primary Substance of Choice



# 8%

Cannabis



# 33%

Alcohol



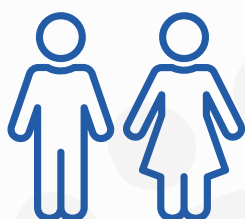
# 7%

Methamphetamine



# 21%

Alcohol & Cannabis



62% Male Clients  
38% Female Clients

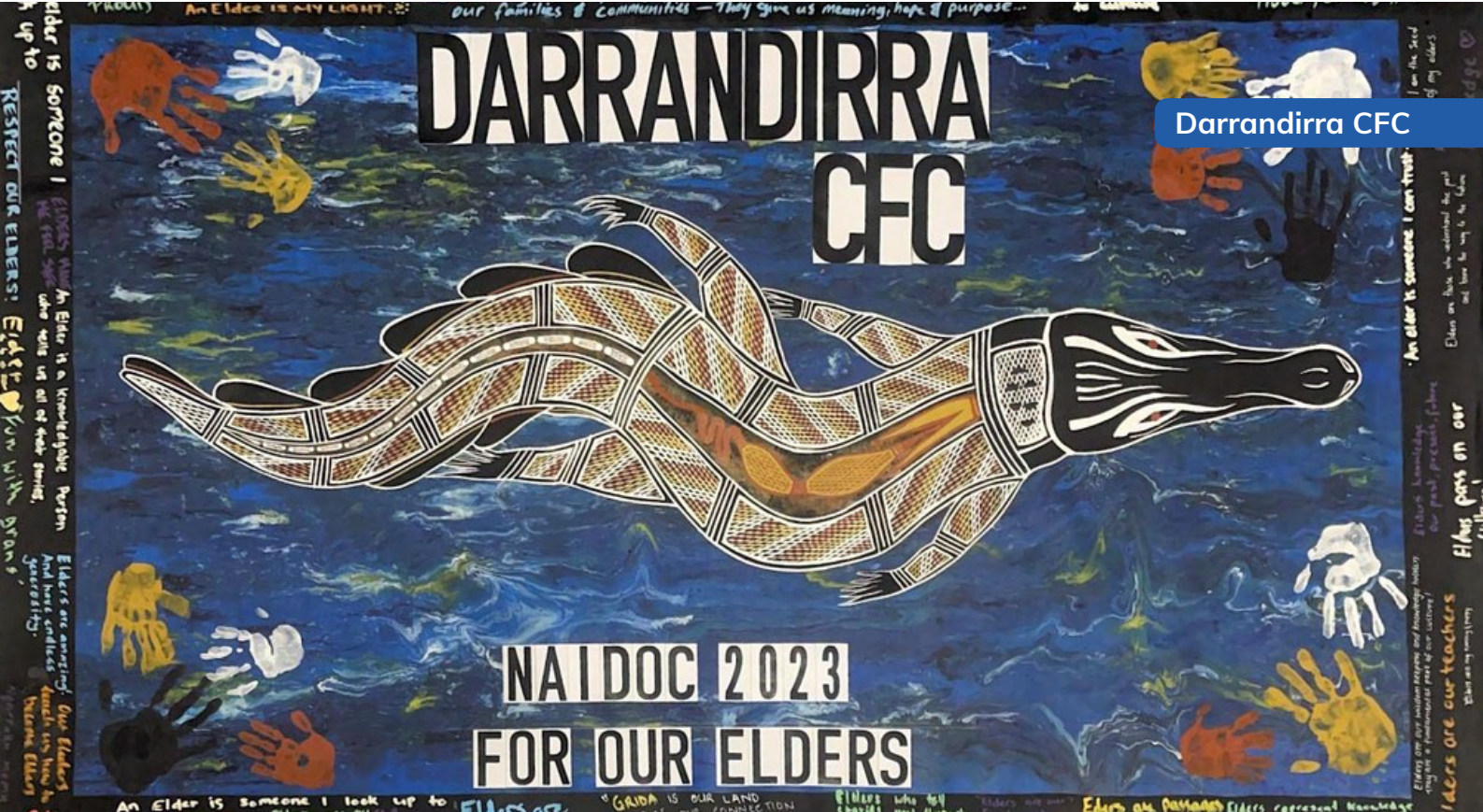




# Family and Community Programs







Artwork kindly donated by Mr Kenneth Hopkins

## Darrandirra Child and Family Centre

Darrandirra CFC, located in the northern suburb of Malak, has continued to provide a 'safe and culturally appropriate' space for children, young people and families to access programs, activities and supports. The centre is now operating as a service hub providing access to programs and family-friendly activities throughout the year.

Led by Darrandirra's 2016–2022 community consultation report, 'All of Us', Darrandirra CFC embeds the National Suicide Prevention Trial in Darwin, using the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community designed systems-based approach to suicide prevention (Strengthening Our Spirits) model into the Darrandirra service model.

The Strengthening Our Spirits model's artwork was utilised as a visual tool to identify the area of need in which children, young people and families need access to live happy and healthy lives.

Darrandirra CFC provided access to areas identified within the model, inclusive of warm referral pathways delivered by Darrandirra Key Workers to access health and wellbeing services, education, justice, emergency response services and community.

Darrandirra is identified as a safe community hub, providing pathways for community to access programs and supports to meet the needs of the local community from all cultural backgrounds.

For more information on the Strengthening Our Spirits model, please see the below link:  
[Strengthening Our Spirits – Northern Territory PHN \(ntphn.org.au\)](https://ntphn.org.au)



This year Darrandirra staff collaborated with a range of organisations and government agencies that delivered programs within the centre providing greater access for the community to participate.

Services and programs include City of Darwin mobile libraries and Story Time programs, Saltbush Wellbeing Program, Capacity Plus Craft and Care Program, Services Australia Community Outreach Program and education workshops, Hearing Australia 'HAPEE' Hearing Assessment Program – Early Ears, Northern Territory Stolen Generations Social and Emotional Wellbeing elders program, Australian Childhood Foundation, the Back On Track program, FASD assessment clinics, Anglicare NT community SafeTALK workshops and Danila Dilba Health Service Eat Well, Feel Well program to name a few.

Darrandirra CFC staff hosted, supported, and attended numerous community events throughout the year, inclusive of Indigenous Literacy Day, Close the Gap Day, 2023 NAIDOC celebrations, All Abilities Expo, and local primary and middle school events.



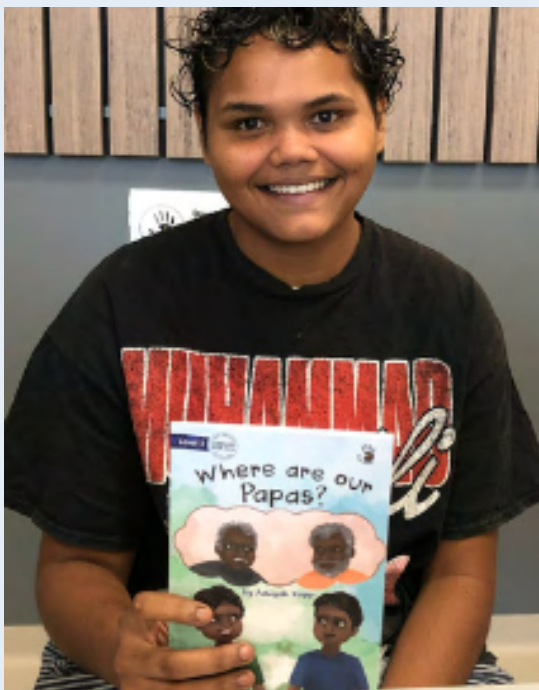


## Local mother becomes published author

Darrandirra CFC played an instrumental role in empowering a local mother to achieve her dream of becoming a published author. In collaboration with Libraries for All, Darrandirra CFC hosted a free community writing workshop in late 2022, funded by the City of Darwin Community Grants. Among the participants was a young local mother who showed remarkable talent and passion for writing.

This dedicated young mother's journey took an inspiring turn when her book titled *Where Are Our Papas?* was published, marking her as a recognised author. The book resonates as a touching narrative centred around the memory of two grandfathers who have passed away. Through this heart-warming story, the author masterfully weaves a tale involving twin grandsons and their parents, who recount stories to ensure the grandfathers' legacies endure.

As a testament to the power of this achievement, *Where Are Our Papas?* has found a place in the Darrandirra library collection. Hard copies and digital versions are now accessible to the entire community. This success story not only celebrates the creative ability of a local mother but also showcases how Darrandirra CFC's collaboration and support can be a catalyst for individual accomplishments and meaningful community connections.



## Darrandirra Quilting and Patchwork Program

Darrandirra CFC has demonstrated its commitment to fostering community engagement and skills development through the Darrandirra Quilting and Patchwork Program. This grassroots initiative, developed in partnership with local elders who frequently attend the CFC, holds immense significance for its participants and the wider community.

The program's core focus is to provide a space where community members can not only acquire valuable life skills but engage in a creative and purposeful endeavour. Through quilting and patchwork, participants contribute to crafting nursery quilts destined for babies in the local community.

A particularly heartening aspect of this endeavour is the intention behind the quilt donations. These quilts are thoughtfully designed to serve as donations to the Royal Darwin Hospital Special Care Nursery. Darrandirra CFC's program not only nurtures creative expression and skill acquisition but also extends its impact to touch the lives of the youngest members of the community.

Through the Darrandirra Quilting and Patchwork Program, the CFC exemplifies its commitment to holistic community enrichment, fostering intergenerational connections and creating tangible contributions that resonate across multiple levels of community wellbeing.







**2,233**

people over the age of  
10 years old were  
provided access to CFC



**529**

children under 10  
years old were  
recorded to have  
accessed the CFC



**594**

partners accessed  
the CFC



**81**

meetings were  
hosted for sector  
partners



**65**

Darrandirra CFC referrals  
were received throughout  
the reporting period

# Integrated Homelessness Supported Accommodation Program (IHSAP)

CAAPS Aboriginal Corporation has established many valued partnerships, including a subcontract agreement with Mission Australia to deliver the IHSAP program at YISSA. Through this work, CAAPS employs a full-time Senior AOD Case Manager based on-site at YISSA providing holistic interventions and supports to build capacity and coping tools to assist people using substances.

This multi-agency model taps into the skill and expertise of specialist organisations to provide targeted supports to assist people experiencing homelessness. The IHSAP program also works collaboratively with other CAAPS programs including HOS, Healthy Families, Strong Steps, and the Darrandirra CFC with additional referrals and collaborative case management occurring when needs exceed program scope. Some of these organisations include Saltbush and Darwin Community Legal Service.

## Housing Option Pathway Program (HOPP)

CAAPS delivers a range of programs in partnership with Anglicare NT, including the HOPP.

CAAPS staff support the HOPP by assisting people in private or public housing to sustain their tenancy, supporting people residing at the Garaworra Transitional Accommodation Service, and providing drug and alcohol information and referral pathways to support recovery from substance misuse.





## Homelessness Outreach Service (HOS)

The HOS strengthened its collaborative assertive outreach operations this year, working with Larrakia Nation and the Aboriginal Interpreter Service and supported by the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet. The HOS team provides brief intervention supports to assist people impacted by the lack of affordable housing in the greater Darwin and Palmerston regions and develops a care plan to provide longer-term support through a care-coordination model, working collaboratively for improved outcomes.

The support of NT Shelter has provided a platform for strong advocacy to best support people utilising our service through regular Housing Reference Group meetings. CAAPS accessed brokerage throughout the year to provide some respite and support people into homes. Other charitable organisations assisting with this include GIVIT and Share the Dignity, providing much-needed essential products.

The HOS team attended many community events, including weekly Arts in the Grass, 2023 Couch Surfing, Homelessness Week activities, Reconciliation Week and the TFHC collaborative community engagement events held across the public housing complexes. This work supported warm referrals into specialist support services, including CAAPS residential AOD and HOS workers trained in conducting AOD assessments, short-stay accommodation, Family Support Services (FSS) and Return to Country.



## HOS Case Study

Judy, a single mother of six children, left Queensland escaping a serious domestic violence relationship. The family travelled by car and arrived in Darwin with only a few personal belongings.

On arrival in Darwin, Judy attempted to access support through domestic and family violence shelters but was informed that due to the perpetrator being interstate, he posed no immediate threat and she would need to seek homelessness support.

All six children have varying levels of autism (two verbal, four non-verbal) and range between seven and 15 years of age. Support through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) had not been accessed prior, due to the perpetrator not allowing assessments to be carried out in the home.

Judy and her children had been sleeping in the car and on a blow-up mattress on a rural property for one month due to the lack of affordable rentals and no crisis accommodation with capacity to house her large family.

The HOS team worked through a relational, strengths-based model of care to co-develop a plan to support the immediate needs of the family. Support included strong advocacy resulting in accessing a two-bedroom unit through TeamHealth. While this is a small dwelling given the size of the family, this has provided them with safety, care and hope to work towards family functioning priorities and accessing more suitable long-term housing.

Judy is currently being supported by the HOS team to explore housing options with Venture Housing. To access a property through the National Rental Affordability Scheme, Judy will require a four-bedroom home for long-term accommodation due to being a family of seven. With the support of the HOS team, Judy has received brokerage and the Escaping Violence Payment to purchase basic furniture, as well as \$2,800.00 towards rent and \$700.00 for food vouchers to support saving for a bond.

Judy is working towards assessments and advocacy for her children to access support through the National Disability Insurance Scheme. She has expressed feeling well supported and hopeful for her future.



# Family Support Services (FSS)



## 63

**Families supported  
through to June 30,  
2023**

Since the commencement of the FSS partnership, CAAPS and Anglicare NT have forged a strong working relationship to deliver a high-quality service to support families in staying strong and together. This work has enabled many positive outcomes for families, including the reunification of children to birth parents, access to AOD rehabilitation, increased family functioning with families feeling more connected, and access to housing.

CAAPS and Anglicare NT management teams meet regularly to track progress on the transition plan that was co-developed to place this important work with an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation.

The FSS team brings strength of innovation, vast skills and expertise to walk alongside families and empower them to work through adversity to meet their goals. The work of the team is celebrated within both the organisations and, earlier this year, was recognised throughout the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities, with CEO Ken Davies congratulating Milly Busch on her outstanding work at CAAPS.



## Mantiyupwi Child and Family Centre (CFC)

In July 2022, CAAPS Aboriginal Corporation and other service providers were invited to participate in a presentation to the Mantiyupwi Board of Directors to express interest in supporting the development of the new CFC in Wurrumiyanga. Following on from this, the Board of Directors conducted a site tour of Darrandirra CFC meeting with management to talk about the establishment phase of the CFC from being an outreach operation through to becoming a vital community hub.

In May 2023, the Mantiyupwi Board of Directors announced CAAPS as the successful Ngaruwanajirri (helper) organisation for the first Tiwi owned and operated local service provider on the island. To formalise this work, a subcontract agreement was developed outlining the importance of two-way learning, building a collaborative foundation for working 'Stronger Together'.

Initial work commenced in early 2023, which involved community engagement sessions with local service providers and a community information session about the CFC and employment opportunities for local Tiwi people. The recruitment process is now in progress to secure a Coordinator role and Key Workers to commence the CFC through an outreach model while the old clinic site at Wurrumiyanga is developed for the new centre.

CAAPS Aboriginal Corporation is privileged to be the Ngaruwanajirri organisation and looks forward to walking alongside the Mantiyupwi Family Trust through the establishment of the Pumulayu CFC.





**Demographic Report for Outreach - CAAPS Comm Based Outreach & Referral Period  
01/07/2022 to 30/06/2023 (Excludes Filenotes)**



**222**

**total distinct persons  
having recorded  
contact with outreach**

**Of the 222 distinct persons:**



**61%**

**Women**



**39%**

**Men**



**1541**

**total recorded contacts  
made by Outreach -  
CAAPS Comm Based  
Outreach & Referral**



**81**

**number of these persons  
with an open plan  
during report period**

## Indigenous Status by Distinct Persons and Contact Details



# 99.9%

Indigenous status by  
distinct persons and  
contact details



## 558

Aboriginal

## 983

Torres Strait Islander

## 11

ATSI

## 1

Other

## Percentages of time since last permanent address



## 3.8%

were homeless for  
less than 1 week

## 5%

were homeless for 1  
week to 1 month

## 15%

were homeless for  
more than 1 month  
to 6 months

## 8.2%

were homeless for  
more than 6 months  
to 1 year

## 12%

were homeless for  
more than 1 year to  
5 years

## 17%

were homeless for  
more than 5 years

## 29.1%

Don't know

## 9.8%

Not applicable



# Directors' Report

The directors present their report on CAAPS Aboriginal Corporation ('the Corporation') for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

## Directors

The names of the directors in office at any time during or since the end of the financial year are:

Name	Date if appointed this year
Carlene Gehan	Ceased on 18/11/22
Curtis Roman	Ceased on 25/11/22
Darren Johnson	Ceased on 24/11/22
Francis Ahmat	
Jillian Smith	Ceased on 20/01/23
Michael Levy	Ceased on 23/03/23
Michelle McColm	
Leonie Patterson	
David Pugh	Appointed on 17/05/23

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

The secretary in office during the financial year was Cheyniah Godinho (appointed on 22/02/23).

## Operating Results

The loss of the Corporation for the financial year after providing for income tax amounted to \$493,070 (30 June 2022: profit of \$654,852).

## Review of Operations

A review of the operations of the Corporation during the financial year, and the results of those operations, found that during the year the Corporation continued to engage in its principal activity as described below, the results of which are disclosed in the attached financial statements.

## Significant Changes in State of Affairs

No significant changes in the state of affairs of the Corporation occurred during the financial year.

## Principal Activities

The principal activity of the Corporation during the financial year was the provision of community-based services that support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to improve social and emotional outcomes. No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

## Events Subsequent to the End of the Reporting Period

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Corporation, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Corporation in future financial years.

## Likely Developments

The Corporation will continue to pursue its strategic objectives by increasing the intensity of addressed principal activities to enhance the value chain and achieve the addressed strategic objectives.

## Environmental Issues

The Corporation's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a state or territory.

## Indemnification of Officer

During or since the end of the year, the economic entity has given indemnity or entered an agreement to indemnify, or paid or agreed to pay insurance premiums in order to indemnify the Directors of the Corporation against liabilities past, present and future.

## Indemnification of Auditor

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 auditor of the Corporation.

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

## Proceedings on Behalf of the Corporation

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

## Auditor's Independence Declaration

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under section 339-D of the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* is set out on page 3 of the Financial Report.

This Directors' Report is signed in accordance with a resolution of the directors:



**Michelle McColm**  
(Chairperson)

Dated in Darwin on this 12th day of October 2023



## Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Income</b>		
Grants and other contributions income	6,924,019	7,077,112
Other income	153,093	147,106
<b>Total income</b>	<b>7,077,112</b>	<b>7,247,850</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administrative expenses	1,528,365	1,270,590
Repairs and maintenance expenses	235,530	265,677
Technological expenses	178,229	206,971
Employee benefits expenses	4,844,837	4,302,245
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	623,899	416,053
Other expenses	159 322	131 461
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>7,570,182</b>	<b>6,592,997</b>
<b>Profit before income tax</b>	<b>(493,070)</b>	<b>654,853</b>
Income tax expense	-	-
<b>Net (loss) / profit for the year</b>	<b>(493,070)</b>	<b>654,853</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>(493,070)</b>	<b>654,853</b>

## Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Currents Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,720,465	1,820,132
Trade and other receivables	332 835	346 370
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>2,053,300</b>	<b>2,166,502</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	3,391,171	3,699,050
Right-of-use asset	678 574	808 188
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>4,069,745</b>	<b>4,507,238</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>6,123,045</b>	<b>6,673,740</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	510,559	321,737
Contract liabilities	545,294	583,236
Employee benefits provisions	248,953	393,011
Lease liabilities	241 970	212 614
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>1,546,776</b>	<b>1,510,598</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Employee benefits provisions	52,255	-
Lease liabilities	460 925	606 983
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>513,180</b>	<b>606,983</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>2,059,956</b>	<b>2,117,581</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>4,063,089</b>	<b>4,556,159</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained earnings	3,907,594	4,400,664
Asset revaluation reserves	155 495	155 495
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>4,063,089</b>	<b>4,556,159</b>



# CAAPS Supporters

CAAPS board and management would like to thank our supporters who have made it possible for us to continue meaningful services to the community over the past year.

This includes our funders, sponsors, volunteers and the people and organisations who have donated time, money and material goods to CAAPS. Whether it is an ongoing commitment or a one-off project or donation, we greatly appreciate it.

## Special thanks goes to:

- Darwin Correctional Centre for providing Trustees to assist in managing our grounds maintenance.
- Local community members' donations of clothing and household items
- VIVA Energy
- The Buff Club
- Durack Civil
- Brumby's Bakery Karama
- Old Mate Bakery Palmerston

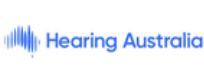
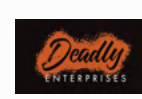
## We would like to thank our sponsors and partner Aboriginal community controlled organisations:



- Department of Health
- Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities
- Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet



National Indigenous Australians Agency



## CAAPS Logo



CAAPS gratefully acknowledges William Parmbuck's contribution to the CAAPS logo design.

The people in the centre of the logo represent the clients and families helped by CAAPS. The people around the outside of the circle are from all the communities that are serviced by and are members of CAAPS. The two boomerangs represent keeping together and staying strong. The gaps at the top and bottom show CAAPS is always open to families and represents their coming in and going out.



# Accreditation



CAAPS has been accredited with QIC, a nationally recognised accreditation program, since 2015. CAAPS was assessed by QIP again in 2021, achieving a third cycle of accreditation certification. The QIC Health and Community Services Standards support a wide range of organisations like CAAPS to strengthen and develop a cycle of continuous quality improvement.



