

HIGHLIGHTS

**Stronger Communities for Children
Knowledge Sharing Seminar**

**MPARNTWE, ALICE SPRINGS *
23RD & 24TH OCTOBER 2024**

Proudly supported by the Australian Government:



Australian Government
National Indigenous
Australians Agency



NIAA



**NINTI • STRONGER
ONE • COMMUNITIES
CHILDREN**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this publication may contain images, voices or names of deceased persons. Ninti One sincerely apologies for any distress, sadness and/or offence this may cause.

Attendees

Ntaria
Utopia Homelands
Plenty Highway – Atitjere & Engawala
Ltyentye Apurte
Ngukurr
Gunbalanya
Galiwin'ku
Maningrida
Ninti One
NIAA

Ninti One acknowledges all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traditional Custodians of Country and recognises their continuing connection to land, sea, culture and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Contents

Welcome to Country	1
Community Presentations	3
Two Way Yarning	7
Local Community Board Session	13
Facilitating Partner Session	15
Pre-school Outcomes Measure Overview	16
Ninti One Update	17
Feedback	18
Thank You	19

Welcome to Country

Kumalie Kngwarraye

The welcome to country was presented by Kumalie Kngwarraye, an Arrernte woman from Alice Springs. Kumalie has affiliations to the land and spiritual connections with the Arrernte country inherited through her grandmother. She is passionate about teaching her language and culture to all who are interested in learning.



Community Presentations

Ngukurr

Local Community Board
Strongbala Pipul Wanbala Bois Komiti
Facilitating Partner
Yugul Mangi Aboriginal Development Corporation

Strongbala Pipul Wanbala Bois Komiti is made up of seven clan groups that speak as one voice in local decision making to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. Our remote location prevents services being delivered in our community; however, we follow in our elders' footprints and work positively in collaboration with other service providers towards closing the gap. Programs and activities we are working on include:

- Cultural Induction with external stakeholders to share information regarding who we are and how we live
- Cultural Governance Training
- Connected Beginnings service program(s)
- Code of conduct for young people starting physical fitness activities, such as footy.
- Kriol literacy program
- School attendance and engaging with parents when kids are disengaged
- Violence Prevention Committee developed a video with key messages in Kriol about the 7 forms of violence for our mob
- Diversion services
- Colonisation and trauma impact training

Ngukurr presented a video called 'Maitbi we gin jinggabat naja wei', which translates to, 'Maybe we can think about another way'. It showcases the seven forms of violence in Kriol and acknowledges the deep impacts of colonisation throughout the video.



Galiwin'ku

Local Community Board
Yolngu Wanganhamir Mity
Facilitating Partner
Yalu Aboriginal Corporation

Our Board of Directors is 100% Yolngu. We operate effectively as a team, working together to reach our destination. Our impact pillars are community, children, families, the Yalu team and partnerships.

The programs and activities the SCfC team are running in Galiwin'ku include:

- Men's wellness program, Yudangu Yawirriny Mala, that connects young men who have disengaged from school. We recently completed a 4-week program delivered in language, focussing on mental health, stress, trauma, and resilience.
- Girl Power programs for women. This program is run by women and designed to support women. Last week they had a camp for women's business and have been to Sierra Leone for a cultural exchange.
- Baby Wrap Around program supports young parents with wraparound services to keep young families strong and healthy.
- AFL NT is strong in the community. They work in Homelands with the kids and have a Stop Bullying program.

Galiwin'ku performed a beautiful song for the forum that they recently wrote.

"Wherever you are, whatever you do, keep the fire burning. You are changing young people's lives and the community".



Maningrida

Local Community Board
Nja'marléya board
Facilitating Partner
Nja'marléya Cultural Leaders and Justice Group

NMCLJG held the first Lurra Festival during the month of September in 2024.

The festival focussed on five key areas and themes, such as:

Culture

- Bringing the culture to life
- Dukurrdji Traditional Owners supported the ceremony opening and Welcome to Country

Sport

- "Sport brings everyone together"
- "It's good to see young people engage in sport"
- Maningrida has a proud history in sport and wants to boost and support local talent

Fashion

- Designs were developed at the Bábbarra Women's Centre where they also did the textile screen printing and hand printing
- Young people learned how to print on to textiles
- A fashion show of local designs was held at the festival
- Women from Bábbarra Women's Centre have travelled the world to show and talk about their design stories.

Music

- Thirteen bands performed at the festival
- "Music makes us happy, creates memories, helps us tell our stories"



"Lurra is about everyone coming together to share knowledge."

Youth

- The Maningrida Dance group choreographed their own dances to perform at the festival
- The Maningrida Dance group were proud to showcase their talent to their own community, after having performed frequently elsewhere
- Members of the dance group were in youth diversion just five years ago. Now they are inspiring younger generations and being good role models and leaders in their community.
- J-Milla attended the festival after being interviewed. He wrote a song with two young people from Maningrida called, "We Are Not the Problem".

The measurable data from the festival:

- 3,600 meals provided
- 18 organisations working together to organise and facilitate the festival
- 94 jobs were created
- Each job had training and professional development of each young person.
- 1,500 participants in total
- 107,395 impressions on social media

This entire festival was only organised in 6 weeks! This goes to show the importance of collaboration and community engagement.

Ltyentye Apurte

Local Community Board

Ltyentye Apurte Decision Making Group

Facilitating Partner

Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation (AAAC)

The AAAC Decision-Making Group has developed and organised activities this year, such as:

- A family camp for 85 people (double last year's number). During the period of the camp, 18 young people rode their push bikes 8km near Yeperenye Trail.
- Barber Blak Kings provided a 6-week barber training course for some young fellas, and they now have work opportunities stemming from this course
- Blak Doll has run some physical and mental health workshops for mums and bubs. They will eventually be returning to run a 5-week Deadly Dads program.
- Arrernte Boxing Academy is running a 10-week boxing program with our young people.
- Girls from the school designed and painted a mural on the water tank at the oval.
- Six young men travelled to Melbourne Football Club to do some leadership training and attended a Demons vs Magpies match at the MCG.
- Spinifex Skateboards is running four 3-day skate workshops for young people, this is the only skatepark in a remote Northern Territory community. Girl's participation has seen an upward trajectory, and everyone has reported having a great time.
- Initiatives for emu tracking, gathering wood for spears and making hand cream with bush medicine under the Alternative Education Engagement Program. This program will soon be superseded by a 3-year Junior Ranger Program. The Junior Ranger program is not SCfC-funded but will overlap with some SCfC activities.

Ltyentye Apurte presented a video presentation of Spinifex Skateboards' visit and support for the young people in the community.

Plenty Highway – Atitjere & Engawala

Local Community Board

Atitjere Decision Making Group

Facilitating Partner

Children's Ground

Since we started SCfC in 2018, we have gone from strength to strength. Self-governance and workforce are improving every year.

We now have twenty-five staff members, most of whom are also on the Local Community Board.

On County Learning:

We have run 36 bush trips in total so far, these include the following activities:

- Collected bush medicine and taught the young ones about bush medicine.
- Fossick for gems
- Taught the history of our Country
- Taught the young people how to hunt, cook and eat bush tucker
- Taught them how to cut up and prepare the animals traditionally
- Gathered seeds for jewellery-making
- Hunting, fishing and telling stories across the Queensland border

We have developed new language resources, published some new books, and a developed a mobile app in language.

We attend the Utyerre Apanpe First Nations Language Conference run by Children's Ground.

We are building enterprise with Arltarpilta screen printing.

Community members volunteer at Food Bank. There was also some artwork commissioned for Foodbank displayed in the art centre.



For the young people:

Our young people select their own programs based on their own interests, some of those choices are:

- Screen printing (Visual Arts Cert IV)
- Jewellery
- Music
- Sports
- Leadership development

The Local Board has appointed a youth team (Ziah, Ashley, Donita, Sharmika and Shayleen). This team will be employed and trained by the Board to take leadership roles within the community.

- A mechanic workshop has been established where young people participate in mechanical training facilitated by Right Tracks Rusted Gems. This program is designed to encourage the preparation of vehicles, once repaired, these vehicles are entered into the Red Centre Nats. This has proven to be a success with members reporting being excited about seeing the vehicles participate. There has been expressed interest in supporting more younger ladies within the program.
- Music NT has a music program promoting music creation in the community, currently there are efforts of developing a reggae band to record music within this facility.
- There was a facilitated 6-week footy program in Ti Tree through AFL NT.
- Over 40 young people turned up to a meeting to establish the Engawala and Atitjere Youth Board. The board decided they wanted to combine the Plenty Highway team under the RedTails PinkTails Right Tracks program.
- Engawala Playgroup has started and operates from Tuesday-Thursday with 3 employees on the roster.
- Engawala school comes to Atitjere to do some activities.

Health & Nutrition:

- Some of the older ladies attended workshops for Women's Health Week
- Men's health program came to the community. These men had to get a health check before they could do music
- Nutrition education and community cook ups. Teaching young people how to prepare healthy food and incorporating playing games to teach the young ones about hygiene in a fun and engaging way.

Community celebrations:

- NAIDOC Week celebrations
- Music marathon
- Elder's night to thank and give back to the Elders for their knowledge-sharing
- Lady's pampering & talking about women's business
- Children's Ground Festival
- Engawala music concert
- Community bingo for kids and families in Atitjere and Engawala



Two Way Yarning

SCfC Local Community Boards recognised the importance of nurturing young people as future leaders, understanding that meaningful involvement in decision-making leads to better outcomes for youth. With this vision, the boards called for leadership opportunities to ensure young voices are actively shaping their own future. In response, the first SCfC Youth Leadership Forum was held alongside this year's Knowledge Sharing Seminar. During the two-way yarning session, facilitated by Penangke Cultural Consultants, participants from both forums came together to hear the perspective of young people and explore ways to integrate their voices into community decision-making.

The youth perspective

Young leaders Toni Sagiba-Gebadi from Maningrida and Leroy Petrick from Atitjere shared some of their insights on behalf of the Youth Leadership Forum participants.

- A good leader is someone who is healthy and a good role model for the young ones. They lead by example and practice what they preach.
- Good role models and mentors are important. We look to our elders and families to model the right path for us to follow.
- Mentors help us balance out the white way of doing things, as well as the cultural way of doing things, and how to merge them together
- We look to our mentors and elders to support us to employment and participate in cultural activities that keep our connection to culture strong
- Sometimes we feel like we don't have a voice. When we try to have our say and give our input, it's important to hear us out and listen. We are told that we're too young to have an input, but this certainly isn't the case
- We need to keep our young people active and motivated, they're our future leaders. We need our older people to get along with the young ones through compassion and empathy, come together and plan to be leaders in the community
- We want to see change. We want to help make programs more inclusive for us as we want our young people to come back to community and stay.
- We struggle with cultural barriers blocking equality between men and women. Men are still seen as more respected in the community
- More emerging leadership programs are needed for young people while they are still in school.
- What is your advice to other young people to help them get into leadership positions?



"Try not be shame. We won't get anywhere in life being shame. If you get rid of that shame you can make a big difference. Find the passion and stand strong for your community."



Whole Forum Discussion

What are the strengths and potential of the young people today to build and grow a better future for your community?

- They relate to one another
- They are good at sports, music and art
- They have the ability to walk in different worlds and learn two ways
- They are committed and can work together
- They are resilient
- Their challenges and experiences are unique
- Young people have potential to learn right from wrong, they understand the consequences of misbehaviour
- What could you do better to include young people in planning and decision-making?
- Give them the opportunity to make changes within themselves
- Put younger people on boards and committees. People between the ages of 25-30 can relate to the younger generation best, have trusted relationships with them, and have the maturity to be respected board members
- Involve young people in Local Decision Making and Local Area meetings
- Turn their personal interests and strengths into real jobs for them through workforce development
- Give them the opportunity to step up and be strong and be good role models in their communities
- Show young people trust and respect
- Motivate our young people to be the best versions of themselves
- Encourage young people to stay in their respective communities and maintain strong connection to culture, traditional dances, hunting practices and engage in ceremonies
- Walk together on the land, sea and air
- Establish a youth network and/or emerging leaders program to hear young people's voices
- Have more activities and forums for youth to get together from different communities
- Support children to engage and desire to become community leaders
- Give young people direct access to Elders for knowledge-sharing
- Succession plans for young people to be on boards and committees
- Be united as a community to help our young people have a good future
- A youth or leadership group is essential in all communities. There is no point spending unnecessary money on items the youth don't want. They need to have input into funding opportunities and help guide those decisions
- Alternative educational pathways. Traditional education and trade courses in community.

LISTEN to the youth



NTIBN Business Development Workshop

Driving economic growth in remote Aboriginal communities is crucial, as employment opportunities have long been limited. Some SCfC communities have taken innovative steps by launching small social enterprises that fulfill community needs while creating local jobs and training opportunities.

Businesses already operating in SCfC Communities

Ltyentye Apurte

- Good Food Kitchen
- Second-hand furniture shop
- Traditional craft centre
- Hair salon
- Coffee shop
- Spinifex Skateboards operating in the community.

Atitjere

- Screen printing
- Jewellery-making
- Bush medicine
- Precious stone/gem fossicking

Ngukurr

- Coffee Shop

Many more SCfC communities are exploring the potential of starting businesses that draw on their rich local knowledge and cultural heritage. At this year's Knowledge Sharing Seminar, the NT Indigenous Business Network (NTIBN) hosted a dynamic business development workshop, showcasing the support services available to communities eager to establish their own ventures.

In the workshop, participants stepped into an entrepreneurial mindset, developing business concepts and building mock business canvases to visualise and map out their ideas. The session sparked enthusiasm, with several young attendees approaching NTIBN afterward to discuss business ideas they've been nurturing. NTIBN is committed to supporting these aspiring entrepreneurs, working alongside them to transform their ideas into reality and foster sustainable growth in their communities.

Business ideas from the workshop

Maningrida

- Dance Group for youth

Ngukurr

- Football clinics to empower women

Ltyentye Apurte

- A car wash service for community

Atitjere/Engawala

- A takeaway shop to provide good food and more variety to the community

Gunbalanya

- An art centre that offers cultural tours & cultural awareness training.

Utopia Homelands

- A dog rescue centre/kennel to address the stray dog problems.

Ntaria

- A laundromat to reduce diseases like scabies.

Galiwin'ku

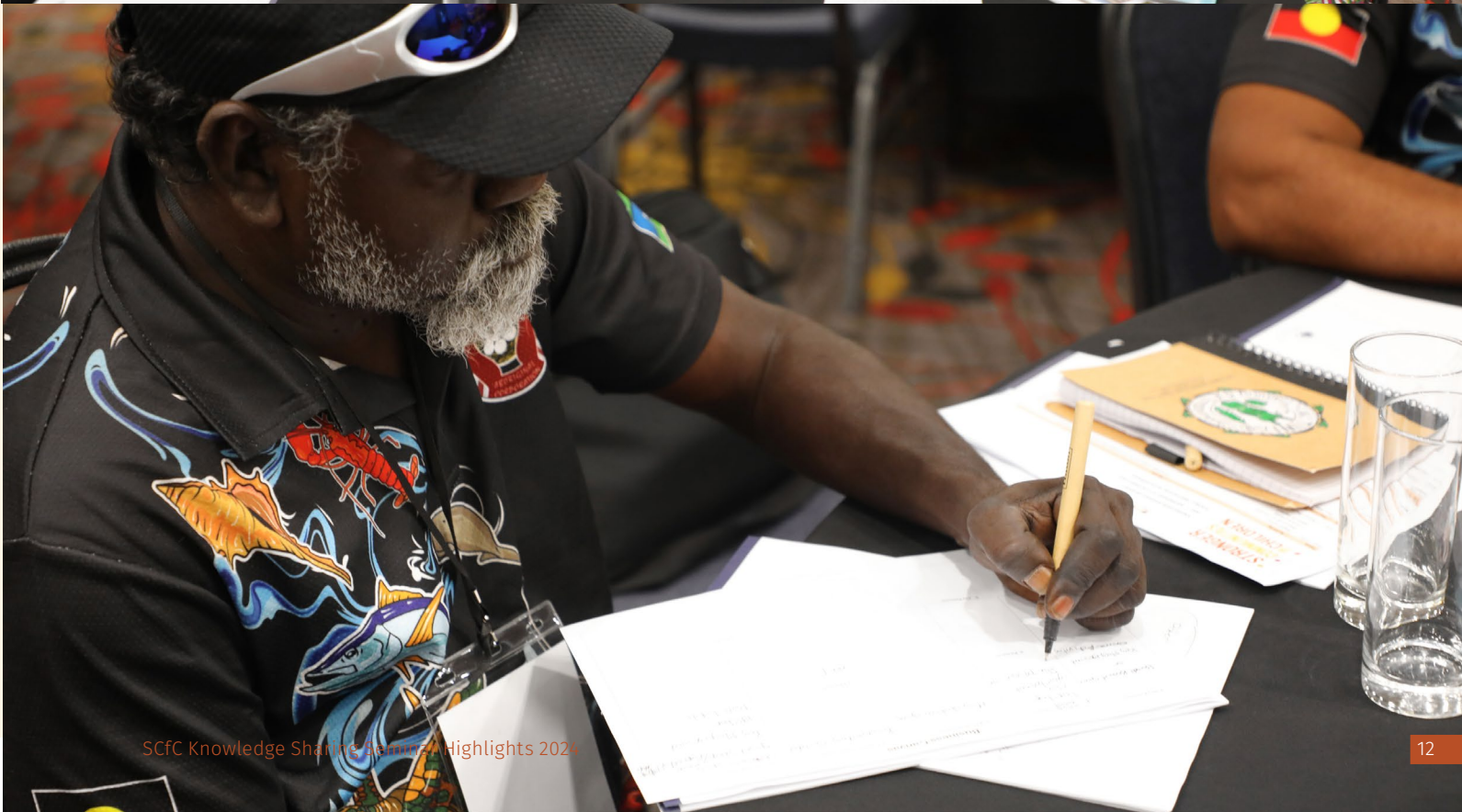
- A taxi boat service to go between islands and the mainland.

Interview with Telita Braun

Aboriginal business owner and talented forum photographer Telita Braun shared her inspiring journey of bringing *Tilly's Photography 5* to life.

Growing up in Tennant Creek with a dream of becoming a photographer, Telita followed her love of photography with passion and determination. Purchasing her first camera, she enrolled and completed her first photography course in Sydney. This course inspired her to become a business owner and taught her a valuable lesson between juggling her business, as well as a full-time job and being a mother of three. Through sheer power and determination, Telita demonstrated the commitment and resilience it takes to pursue a dream.

With ambitions to expand her business and eventually work full-time in her own business, Telita is a powerful example of dedication in action. Her advice to young people aspiring to start their own businesses is straightforward and empowering: "Don't be shame! If you want to chase something, chase it. Don't let people stop you."





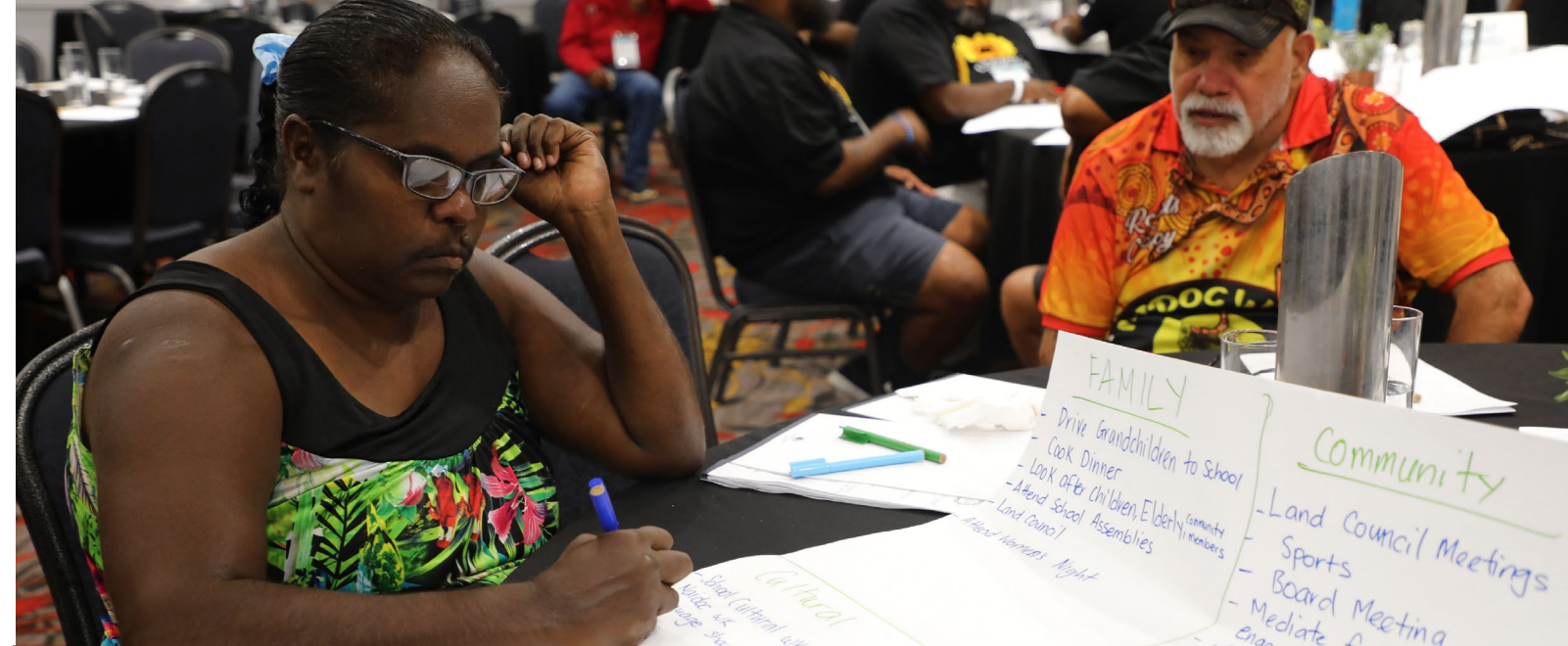
Local Community Board Session

Jess from SpeakWrite Consulting and Kynan from Kings Narrative led an inspiring workshop for SCfC Local Community Board members, unlocking the powerful value of their unique cultural and intellectual property

Together, they delved into the sources of strength within their culture and communities. They uncovered the added responsibilities they bear as First Nations people, as well as obligations that often go unrecognized and can often weigh heavily on them.

The workshop celebrated the profound knowledge each board member carries, knowledge inherited from the world's oldest living culture. This knowledge and wisdom that cannot be taught in any classroom or university but must be passed down through the generations.

These Local Community Board members are united by their passion for driving meaningful change, bettering outcomes for their communities, and shaping a stronger future for generations to come. The workshop emphasised how the success of SCfC programs and activities is directly rooted in the valuable cultural and intellectual contributions each board member brings.





Facilitating Partner Session

The Facilitating Partner (FP) session's primary goal was to discuss the SCfC Community Plan and other reports within the program and to discuss the evolution of the FP's roles and responsibilities. This session enabled all communities to collaborate and share feedback on how the program works from an administrative/on the ground perspective and where improvements can be implemented. They felt a sense of comfort that others are experiencing similar constraints and are committed to advocating together for program reforms.

Pre-school Outcomes Measure Overview

The Australian Council for Educational Research, in partnership with Ninti One, presented an innovative Preschool Outcomes Measurement tool that is being developed to support teachers in assessing children's language development and executive functioning. Unlike a traditional screening tool, this resource will empower teachers with insights into each child's development and provide strategies to help them thrive.

This outcomes measure is being carefully crafted to be culturally inclusive, ensuring it serves First Nations children and educators and can be effectively used nationwide. With research and development underway until early 2026, Ninti One will be guiding the project to ensure it is shaped by First Nations communities, operates in a culturally safe way, and resonates deeply with our young ones, allowing them to see themselves reflected in the program.

The national applied trial, scheduled for 2025, invites educators to use the tool and provide feedback for refinement. Participating services will secure parent permissions and provide necessary technology, while teachers will receive professional learning, conduct assessments, and share their experiences to refine the tool, so it is fit for purpose for our children. Post-trial, ACER, in partnership with Ninti One, will finalise the measure for government implementation in 2026 and beyond.

Communities interested in joining this transformative research project can register for the national trial. For more information, contact preschooloutcomesmeasure@acer.org or todd.nelson@nintione.com.au, visit the Department of Education [website](#), or subscribe to the [Preschool Outcomes Measure Update](#). This project represents a significant step towards an inclusive and supportive educational future for our children, with research and development continuing until early 2026.



Ninti One Update

Ninti One, the SCfC Implementation Support Partner and Knowledge Sharing Seminar facilitators, shared updates on some of their recent projects and program developments.

- Ninti One is crafting a *Stronger Communities for Children Induction Book*, aimed at empowering stakeholders with a deeper understanding of the SCfC program. The first chapter, “What is SCfC”, has been completed, and work is underway on further chapters covering topics such as the Community Plan, Community Governance, and the roles and responsibilities of SCfC stakeholders.
- In response to requests from Local Community Boards for a unified decision-making body, Ninti One invited each participating community to nominate representatives for a foundational workshop in Darwin to establish a *One Mob Decision-Making Group*. Representatives collaborated to define the group’s purpose and operational framework, concluding with a signed statement of commitment. This initiative marks an exciting path forward, strengthening SCfC’s impact and empowering communities to shape their futures.
- Once funding is secured, planning for the first meeting in 2025 will commence, and SCfC communities will be invited to nominate two representatives each.
- The SCfC program has transitioned within NIAA, moving from the NT Strategic Partnerships team to the NT Remote Aboriginal Investment team, aiming to enhance support and focus on sustainable community development.

We, the nominated Local Community Board Members, are deeply committed to strengthening our communities and improving outcomes for our children through the Stronger Communities for Children (SCfC) program and the establishment of a SCfC One Mob Decision Making Group,

As representatives from 7 participating communities, we come together with a shared purpose – to guide the strategic direction of SCfC, share learnings and best practices, and ensure the program remains responsive to the unique needs and cultural priorities of our people.

Through this collaborative governance structure, we pledge to:

- Provide strong, community-led oversight and decision-making to shape the SCfC program
- Foster open communication, mutual understanding, and collective problem-solving across our diverse communities
- Elevate the voices, experiences, and traditional knowledge of our elders, families, and youth
- Advocate fearlessly for the resources, support, and flexibility our communities need to thrive
- Model the values of respect, inclusiveness, and shared responsibility in all our interactions
- Continuously learn, adapt, and improve the SCfC program to achieve the best possible outcomes

We stand united in our dedication to nurturing stronger, healthier, and more resilient communities for the benefit of our children, now and for generations to come.

This is our solemn commitment.



SCfC Knowledge Sharing Seminar Highlights 2024

Feedback

“Everyone has learned a tonne that we are going to bring back to the Community. It was great to have the future leaders engaging and we hope they learned something valuable in the process.”

“...Discussions with other FPs on ways to influence policy and program directions was informative and gave us lots to reflect on.”

“My highlight was the 60,000-year clock. I was impressed by how it was laid out and explained. It was simple to understand”

“My highlights were the cartoon presentation, the community presentations celebrating success, and the singing.”

“We loved that sessions were interactive. It was a great way to start the conference instead of long speaker sessions. Great work”

“We found the sessions so uplifting and motivational and loved hearing the success stories from our friends and neighbours across the NT”

“The last two days have been really inspiring. I’ve learnt a lot!”

“I wish we could catch up more often to share what we do!”

“The interaction with the Youth Leadership Forum participants was my highlight. The Q&A session was really good.”

“Thank you for a fantastic event, everyone really enjoyed the week and left home in high spirits!”

SCfC Knowledge Sharing Seminar Highlights 2024

Thank You

Ninti One extends heartfelt thanks to all the vendors and stakeholders whose invaluable support made the 2024 Knowledge Sharing Seminar an unforgettable success. This inspiring event simply wouldn't have been possible without their contributions.

A special recognition goes to the outstanding Aboriginal businesses that provided exceptional services. Ninti One remains deeply committed to supporting First Nations businesses and driving economic empowerment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through a dedicated commitment to buying Blak.

Here are some listed below:

- Tingkabee
- Akmans Prints & Designs
- Tilly's Photography 5
- Penangke Cultural Consultants
- NTIBN
- SpeakWrite Consulting
- Kings Narrative
- Red Sands Creative
- Australian Council for Educational Research
- DoubleTree by Hilton





WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE PARTICIPANTS OF THIS
KNOWLEDGE SHARING SEMINAR FOR MAKING THE JOURNEY FROM
YOUR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES TO SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE
WITH EACH OTHER, AND TO CONTINUE TO BUILD THE STRENGTH OF
SCFC IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Proudly supported by the Australian Government:



Australian Government
National Indigenous
Australians Agency



NINTI • STRONGER
ONE • COMMUNITIES
FOR CHILDREN