

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 direction of their children'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 to discuss your partnership ideas.

We receive no Government funding and rely solely on donations from supporters.

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 the ILF supports 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, knowledges and wisdoms held within remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.

The ILF is a Community-led organisation that has three core programs, including:

- 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 50% - 55% 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** supports 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, the ILF has gifted 869,266 books to more than 424 remote Communities, supported 107 playgroups with its early literacy program and published 126 books reflecting 36 First 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 participate in the celebration of First Nations stories, cultures and languages by watching the annual ILF film and livestream from the Sydney Opera House. Please visit www.ilf.org.au for details.

The
Great
Book
Swap



ilf.org.au

P: (02) 9280 0644 E: info@ilf.org.au ABN 45 146 631 843
17/207 KENT STREET SYDNEY NSW 2000