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22

Annual Report



**ARDS**  
ABORIGINAL  
CORPORATION

CREATIVE MEDIA & COMMUNICATION SPECIALISTS



# About ARDS

This year, ARDS celebrates 50 years of working with Indigenous communities, government agencies and other organisations across the Northern Territory. Our skilled cultural and language consultants are uniquely placed to listen deeply to Yolŋu voices, to understand local aspirations and challenges, and to work in collaboration from a ground-up, community-based way.

Our vision is for Indigenous people to be able to engage on equal terms with the wider Australian society, its organisations and systems. Our work involves “spanning the gap” that exists between mainstream services and the information they typically share, and the information Indigenous communities want and need.



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## Chairperson Report

**Yow nhämirr nhuma bukmak? Njarrany yäku Gawura Waṅambi. Mälkdja ṅarra dhuwal Gamarraṅ' ga Marrarṅu ṅarra dhuwal yolṅuny Raymaṅgirrwuy wāṅawuy.**

Hi all, Gawura Waṅambi is my name, and I am a Marrarṅu man from Raymaṅgirr. I am the chairperson of the ARDS Aboriginal Corporation. As the chairperson of the organisation, I also work on so many projects. I am involved in the LDM (Local Decision Making) process, Language work, working in creating my own Marrarṅu dictionary and CCT (Cultural Competency Training). I am also a Senior Cultural Advisor and a Facilitator.

Firstly, I would like to welcome our new ARDS board members: Charlie Ramandjarri Liliyana from Raminginir and Damien Magunguṅ Guyula from Gapuwiyak. Both are senior leaders of their bāpurru' and have knowledge and experience in working for the community and the Yolṅu people.

We now have a new CEO and his yäku is Ben Grimes, his mälk is Wämut. He has been adopted by our former chairperson Maratja Dhamarraṅydji. I call him gutharra and he calls me märi. Gutharra's CEO djäma has lifted us up and we are in a good position as an organisation. Our financial situation is now manymak. Our organisational structure has been renewed. We had made a lot of changes to our rule book.

This year has been a very manymak year for us all and things have improved. We have new good staff, both Yolṅu and Balanda, in both offices: here in Darwin and in Nhulunbuy. I really want to acknowledge the work of each staff member, old and new, Yolṅu and Balanda, and thank them for their efforts. I also would like to thank and acknowledge my board and Wämut Ben for everything and every way we work together to get us from where we were to where we are now.

I am looking forward to the coming years with excitement as we look to resume many of our projects and take on new projects for the benefit of our people right across East Arnhem Land.

Ma', djutjdutjnha bukmak!

**Gawura Waṅambi**







## CEO Report

**The past year has been a year of growth for us as an organisation. In nearly every area of the organisation – number of staff, number of hours worked, financial income – we have grown. The challenge with growing is to make sure that we don't compromise the quality of our work, and I want to thank the entire team for continuing to deliver high-quality work while we do more work.**

I extend my thanks and appreciation to the ARDS board, who are a pleasure to work with and provide me with consistent advice and direction. I'm looking forward to being able to have board meetings together in person again. ARDS has two new board members, Damien Guyula and Charlie Ramandjarri Lijipiyan: they have already made good contributions to the organisation.

We have recruited many new staff in the last year, including two lawyers, a linguist, health educator, a business development coordinator, Nhulunbuy operations coordinator, two Yolŋu creative media workers and four Yolŋu language workers. I want to thank all our new staff for doing such a good job learning about ARDS work and being good team players.

We have had some changes in our senior leadership team. I want to acknowledge the good work of Emma Murphy and Joy Bulkanhawuy in looking after the Language team (previously filled by Hannah Harper), Lisa Kay and Sylvia Njulpinditj who have taken on the djägamirr (manager) role for the Creative Media team (previously filled by Nic O'Riley), and Janos Kerekes who has taken on the djägamirr role for the Community Development team (previously filled by Andrew Pascoe). The fact that we have been able to fill all our manager roles with

existing ARDS staff shows the depth of experience that we have as an organisation. It has also meant that even though we have several new managers, this has not caused much disruption to us as an organisation.

It is impossible to summarise all the projects and good work we've been doing, and more importantly, the positive impacts we see in Yolŋu communities. I do want to draw special attention to the Law & Justice work, mediation, youth restorative justice and – hopefully in the near future – Law & Justice groups. This is an area where we know there is significant room for improvement in how the dominant culture systems interact with Yolŋu communities, and it's exciting to see ARDS leading the way in navigating this complex space.

Our Cultural Competency Training has also been a highlight this year, with participants consistently giving ARDS extremely high scores in their feedback forms. Good quality cross-cultural training for Balanda is something that many Yolŋu have been asking for over many years, and we're glad to see that finally happening. Our internal Yolŋu Rom training has not happened as frequently as we wanted, and this will be something we'll do more of next year.

This year, we also received confirmation of ARDS' status as a Language Centre, which has already significantly increased the impact we're able to have in promoting and strengthening Yolŋu languages. Working as a language centre allows us to be much more responsive to Yolŋu families and individuals in doing language work.

I also need to make note of the high quality of the six community festivals that we ran in late 2021, together with the filming done for NITV. It takes a huge amount of work to pull together high-quality festivals in remote locations, and it's a sign of the strength of the team that they were able to run six festivals in a short space of time. The Yolŋu Radio team is noticeably getting stronger under Will Porter's leadership, and I have no doubt we'll see even more impressive things in years to come.

Lastly (and hopefully for the last time), I want to reflect on and thank everyone who worked extra hours and on weekends when COVID came to East Arnhem Land at the beginning of 2022. We had staff getting on planes on Christmas Day (2021), and for around three months had a seven-day-per-week roster dedicated to COVID Yolŋu Matha messaging, advice to government, and face-to-face engagement and education. Despite how much work was involved, this time reinforced why we exist as an organisation. Organisations like ARDS do not exist for the organisation, we exist for the benefit of the people and communities we serve.

Bilin',

**Ben Grimes (Wämut)**



# Community Development

Message from Janos Kerekes, interim Community Development Manager



The previous years presented many challenges for ARDS, but also brought many opportunities for the organisation – we put in a lot of effort in the past 12 months to harvest these opportunities. New pathways opened in front of us: after the pandemic, existing community development projects started again with renewed spirit, new team members joined us and brought fresh energy and skills, and we kick-started several new exciting initiatives that we will develop further during this year and beyond.

I wanted to highlight three main areas

where our teams put in significant effort and delivered many great outcomes. Our Yolŋu and Balanda facilitators in the areas of cross-cultural dispute resolution and law & justice did lots of meaningful work with Yolŋu: our Yolŋu and Balanda *napuŋgawuy* *djämamirr* (mediators and project facilitators) helped individuals and families to understand their rights and responsibilities and supported them in finding ways through the Balanda legal system. Our facilitators also created pathways for people to seek help in community dispute resolution. This is a

very exciting initiative to empower Yolŋu to resolve conflicts at the community level, though incorporating Yolŋu and Balanda law.

Our health educators created valuable in-language resources and worked in collaboration with key stakeholders to achieve meaningful outcomes for Yolŋu.

And finally, our Cultural Competency Training (CCT), which not only supports Balanda government officials and community workers in gaining cultural competency skills, but responds to the

long-term request of Yolŋu leaders to support Balanda in understanding Yolŋu concepts and values, and help them to learn about the ‘Yolŋu experience’ of living in the contemporary world. Based on feedback from workshop participants, the CCT program delivers positive learning outcomes and supports meaningful future engagement between Yolŋu and Balanda.

On behalf of ARDS’ management, I thank ARDS’ *djämamirr mala* (team) for their tireless and hard work, strong work ethics, and supportive attitude towards

a positive team spirit. I also want to thank ARDS’ senior Yolŋu facilitators and advisors for their ongoing support, advice, resilience, and patience; *nhumalaŋu dhäruk, gayangu, gakaŋ ga ganydjarr mirithirr guŋga’yunhamirr, buku-gurruapan nhumalaŋu bukmaŋku marrkapmirr ŋajapaŋmirr mala.*

Ma’ manymak.  
Buŋany

**Janos Kerekes**







# East Arnhem Cultural Competency Training

The 2021-22 financial year was the most active time in the history of ARDS' Cultural Competency Training program (CCT). During the 12-month period, hundreds of participants went through the training. Participants learned about Yolju culture and worldview, languages, contemporary life, cross-

cultural engagement, and communication. The feedback from participants gave our CCT facilitators great opportunities to develop the training further, to create a more 'living and breathing', flexible and easy-to-tailor cultural training.

ARDS started the development of the CCT program in 2018. The training consists of two parts; online modules and face-to-face workshops. The online modules provide a foundation to the learners to understand some of the basics of Yolju life and culture. The follow-up face-to-face workshops build on these learnings, and the one- or two-day workshops are designed to build skills and capacity for the participants to engage with Yolju in mutually meaningful ways.

## Online CCT

The fully online, self-directed training consists of 10 modules,

featuring interviews with Yolju leaders on a range of topics, interactive learning activities, and practical skills for engagement. Since the start of the program, more than 900 users registered for the training; during 2020-21, more than 400 new users signed up – indicating a jump in interest and demand for the program.

Apart from high interest from individuals, several local and interstate organisations included ARDS' online CCT in their own training programs. ARDS is proud to support these initiatives through CCT. The modules discuss topics such as:

- Cross-cultural communication and cultural protocols.
- The basics of Yolju languages.
- Using Plain English to improve communication.
- The importance of kinship and how it influences cross-cultural relationships, at work and outside of work.

## Face-to-face Workshops

The face-to-face CCT component is an effective way for participants to deepen the learnings from the online modules, directly engage with ARDS' Yolju and Balanda facilitators to refine their understanding, and discuss topics and concepts. This part of the program is highly recommended for anyone who visits Yolju

country for shorter or longer periods. There are different modules available to include in the one- or two-day workshops. The content is designed to be flexible for each workshop, to fit the organisational needs of the participants.

Due to the high interest in the program, ARDS' CCT facilitators had a busy year delivering workshops across the Top End: 16 Yolju and Balanda facilitators delivered 18 one- or two-day workshops in Yurrwi, Ramingini, Galiwin'ku, Yirrkala, Nhulunbuy and Darwin. More than 300 people participated in these workshops. Since the ongoing training development is the focus of ARDS' management, each workshop contributes to the further improvement of the training content.

In 2022-23 ARDS' CCT Team will continue the program delivery across Arnhem Land and in Darwin. Training dates and further information is available at [cct@ards.com.au](mailto:cct@ards.com.au).



Nhulunbuy Primary School teachers learning about Yolju Rom at the open classroom at Gayjuru (Town Lagoon) in Nhulunbuy.



# Mediation

Message from Georgia Hagias and Emma Cook, Coordinators of Law & Justice Projects

## “A Yolŋu-led approach to dispute resolution”

The ARDS mediation service has been operating in its current form for two years, since May 2020, but we know that the concept of dispute resolution and mediation in East Arnhem Land, and amongst Yolŋu people, has been operating for thousands of years longer.

The ARDS mediation model is based on recognising, respecting, and supporting existing Yolŋu dispute resolution practices, Yolŋu knowledge, Yolŋu Rom (law and worldview), Yolŋu mediators, and gurruŋu (kinship).

preventing potential community violence and easing community tensions. Here is a link to a video created by ARDS, which involves an ARDS’ Yolŋu ŋapungawuy (mediator) and Senior Cross-Cultural Advisor, Wayalwaŋa Marika, reflecting on her experience in this burial dispute: Wayalwaŋa Marika - ŋapungawuy reflections (vimeo.com).

Consistent feedback from Yolŋu participants indicates that this Yolŋu-led approach to dispute resolution, which allows participants to have direct control, in first language, using Yolŋu protocols, is welcomed and more effective than processes that are controlled by Balanda and undertaken in a Balanda way. We both started working with ARDS in April/May 2022, and since then the service has grown larger. It has been an important part of our job to keep the strong foundations in place set by our djāmamirr, but also move forward to grow the service in the right way.

connected to the project, but also happy to see new Yolŋu djāmamirr come on board. The number of open matters has grown this year; in April 2022 there was seven open mediation files, and now at end of October 2022 there are 34.

Some of the mediation topics our service assists with include: domestic and family violence, burial disputes between families, tensions between young people, personal violence matters such as stalking and threatening, damage to property, land ownership and cultural recognition, family attendance at funerals and ceremony, and navigating the Balanda legal system. Some of these disputes we have helped resolve have been long-running, complex, and entrenched conflicts.

In addition to mediation, the service also facilitates family meetings, supports people through complicated legal system processes, and provides legal education. Our team has played a key role in helping Yolŋu better understand and navigate the Balanda legal system to achieve positive outcomes, for example:

- navigating complicated processes and laws to have incarcerated loved ones attend important funeral and ceremony;
- facilitating access to urgent education, advice and assistance where errors in the Balanda system and misunderstandings could have led to wrongful arrests; and
- explaining the contents of Domestic Violence Orders in Yolŋu Matha, where the recipients had left the court not understanding the content of the order.



The service is built on long-standing relationships with Yolŋu. It is a service run by Yolŋu, for Yolŋu, and much of our work is undertaken in Yolŋu Matha.

The financial year 2021-2022 brought about some challenges, with COVID impacting the ability to travel and undertake work. ARDS djāmamirr used this time to make the project’s foundations strong. Despite COVID interrupting work, the mediation team was still able to successfully mediate a large, complex burial dispute at the end of 2021; an outcome that we as a team still talk about today as a proud success and an example of the strong, Yolŋu-led approach to dispute resolution in

work closely with our Yolŋu djāmamirr every step of the way to do this. We feel privileged every day to work with such wise, strong leaders. We are happy to see existing Yolŋu djāmamirr stay

Alongside the fast and responsive assistance our service can provide when urgent help is needed, our longer-term and slow-paced community education

**THE ARDS MEDIATION MODEL IS BASED ON RECOGNISING, RESPECTING, AND SUPPORTING EXISTING YOLŊU DISPUTE RESOLUTION PRACTICES, YOLŊU KNOWLEDGE, YOLŊU ROM (LAW AND WORLDVIEW), YOLŊU MEDIATORS, AND GURRUŋU (KINSHIP).**



When I was growing up, there was a lot of sharing about gurruŋu with my family, in a loving and caring way. But this is a different era – things have changed yindi, big time. Sharing and learning about gurruŋu does not take place in the same way anymore. Today young people use gurruŋu in a superficial way, but they don’t know the deeper meaning about gurruŋu. Respect is built into gurruŋu.”

- Sylvia Njulpinditj, ARDS Creative Media djāgamirr (manager).

work aims to increase understanding of family violence and legal processes more broadly, and span the gap between the Balanda legal system and Yolŋu dispute resolution.

The ARDS mediation service currently receives referrals from the Community Justice Centre (CJC), North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service (NAAFLS), government departments (including DCMC), local community organisations, concerned members of the community, Gove District Hospital and Royal Darwin Hospital, and police referrals through SupportLink. Yolŋu mala will also often walk into our Nhulunbuy office to self-refer (tell us about a family problem or legal problem and see if we can help them navigate it). We are always happy to see self-referrals because it means that Yolŋu on the ground and in community respect and trust our service.

Looking forward, our goal is to continue helping Yolŋu people and families in the challenges they face, so that strong, sustainable solutions can continue to come from within community. We also want to keep talking to the community members that we engage with about their experience with the service, so that we can evaluate this project and create an evidence base for the important work that is done.

The learnings from this project, and as we move forward and grow, will continue to have a broader impact on other related ARDS work, including Youth Restorative Justice Conferencing, Local Decision Making, Law & Justice Groups and Respectful Relationships Workshops across the region.

# Respectful relationships

In the past year, ARDS has been helping deliver a series of respectful relationship workshops for Yuŋa Yolŋu (younger Yolŋu). Our planning for these workshops has identified the importance of centering respectful relationships workshops for young people around gurruŋu (kinship), because it provides a safe, non-threatening way to discuss this complex topic with young people, and is seen by Yolŋu as the foundation of respectful relationships.

ARDS delivered the first round of workshops in mid-2022 in Yurrwi in collaboration with the Milingimbi Outstations Progress Resource Aboriginal Corporation Rangers (MOPRA), Learning on Country (LOC) program and Yurrwi School.

The workshops, led by ARDS’ senior Yolŋu facilitators, involved discussions and activities about:

- Social media use and safety when using the internet.
- Cyberbullying and what it means.
- What is and isn’t appropriate to share online (with reference to the Yolŋu kinship system).
- Looking out for one another and using social media respectfully.
- Gurruŋu (family) and the kinship system, and about the different roles and responsibilities within the Yolŋu kinship system.

ARDS is continuing to develop these workshops and will deliver them to more community groups across East Arnhem Land in the coming two years.



# Public Health Resources

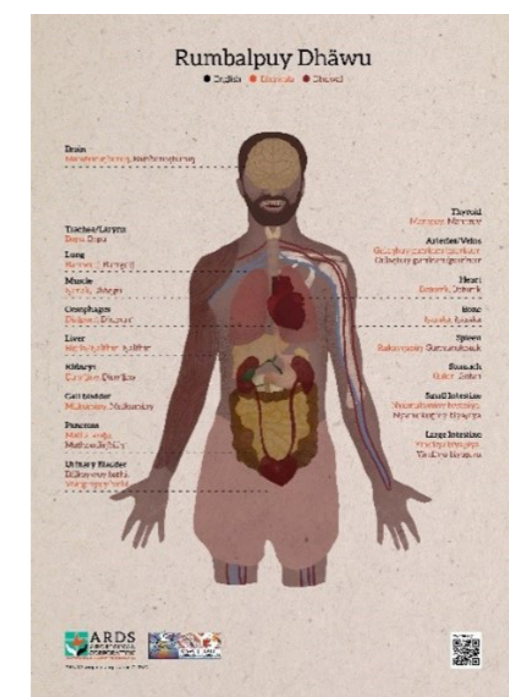
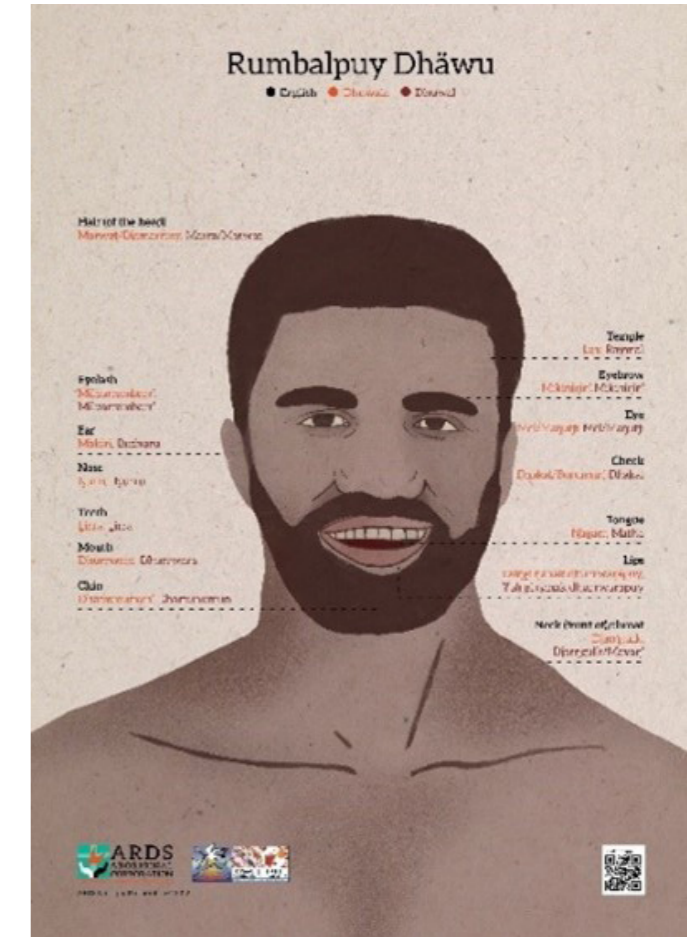
ARDS has created many public health resources, to help health workers and practitioners communicate with Yolŋu about important and sometimes difficult topics. An exciting resource ARDS has created is the YouTube film *Wanha dhukarr yalalanjimirriw?: Where is the path for the future?*

Last year, ARDS visited Yurrwi to speak with many Yolŋu, young and old, about the troubles that young people are facing. Together with the help of the MOPRA Rangers, we made a video to talk about these struggles and how we can overcome them.

This video talks especially about the problems that young people have with alcohol, drugs and sniffing things like petrol. It has information for everyone about why these things are bad for our body.

ARDS also worked with Miwatj Health to develop Rumbalpu Dhāwu (anatomy) posters for health clinics. These posters show the English, Dhuwala and Dhuwal names for body parts and can help with communication between Yolŋu patients and Balanda doctors, nurses, and other health workers.

**WATCH FILM**



Posters show the English, Dhuwala and Dhuwal names for body parts





# Language & Resources

## Message from Language Team djägamirr manda, Bulkanhawuy & Emma

In mid-2021, we said goodbye to Hannah Harper, the previous Languages and Resources Manager, and stepped into this role together. It has been a big year for language work at ARDS: we have been lucky enough to receive operational funding from the Federal Government's Indigenous Languages and Arts program for ARDS to work as a language centre for the region.

With this funding, Yolŋu elders and language workers have been able to design and do their own language projects, without having to first apply for funding. ARDS is now able to quickly respond and support Yolŋu to look after their languages. We are proud to share the highlights of some of this work with you here.

We have also been growing as a team! Alberta Muḏaltjiwuy joined us as a language worker, and Kathrin Dixon joined our team of linguists. They both came with a lot of skills and passion, and we are really happy to have them in our Darwin office. Roslyn Malŋumba from Mäpuru also started doing some work with us – particularly some very beautiful Milkarri work with Dikuŋ, Bulkanhawuy and Kathrin.

As well as the language projects listed here and providing language and translation support to other ARDS teams, the language team has continued to provide fee-for-service translation and resource creation for many other organisations. We are always looking for ways we can grow and develop our team so we can meet the high demand for these services.

We were excited to publish Dhuwandja Yolŋu Matha Rirrakay ga Dhäruk

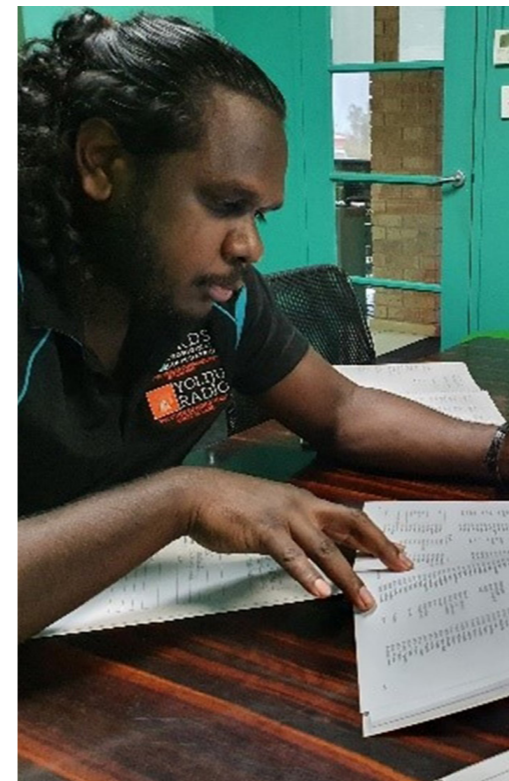
Djambarrpuyru, a Yolŋu Matha alphabet book. We look forward to producing more resources for children and adults in the future.

ARDS has continued our dictionary work: our chairperson Gawura Waŋambi has compiled a first draft of a Marrarŋu dictionary. He has taken this back to Gapuwiyak and Marrarŋu country, Raymangir, to share with his family members. We look forward to publishing future versions of his dictionary.

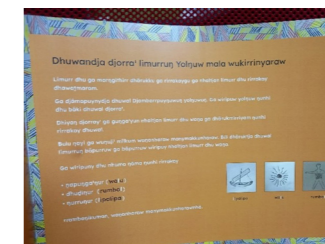
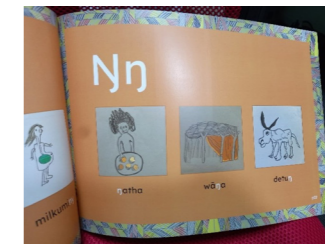
A historical dictionary is close to completion, to celebrate 50 years of ARDS' work and close to 100 years of Yolŋu and Balanda doing language work together. "A First Gupapuyru Dictionary" is the first known wordlist of a Yolŋu language from 1927. We look forward to publishing this.



ARDS language workers attended the Top End Languages Forum at CDU



Dictionary Work during a workshop



ARDS' new Yolŋu Matha Alphabet book

## Literacy Training

Building on our successful pilot literacy workshop in 2021, ARDS received funding from ILA to deliver two first-language literacy workshops in East Arnhem Land. These will be delivered in the second half of 2022. Our highly skilled Yolŋu literacy teachers will deliver training in Galiwin'ku, and we look forward to sharing with other communities in the future.

Yow narra yäku Lynette Guyula ga narra li ga djäma dhiyal ARDS-nur ga narra li ga dhuŋupayam-mala dhäruk translate benur Yolnu Matha-nur ga bala English-lil.

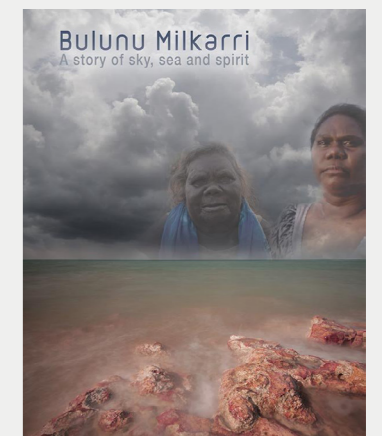
Hi, my name is Lynette Guyula and I work here at ARDS. And my work is translating from Yolnu languages to English.

Yow narra yäku Milly ga narra li ga djäma language project dhiyal ARDS-nur ga marŋgithirri narra li ga mirithirri dhiyak djämaw ga bulu wiripuw mala djämaw dhiyal ARDS-nur.

Hi, my name is Milly and I work at ARDS as a language project worker. I love this work and I learn more about other different skills in this job.

## Connection to Culture

Based in and around Gove Peninsula, this project provides opportunities for elders and younger Yolŋu to spend time together engaging in activities that promote intergenerational learning of language and culture. ARDS was pleased to receive multi-year funding from NIAA for this exciting project, which is still in its infancy. A highlight from the 2021-22 year was a Milkarri workshop in Birritjimi. Milkarri is women's songlines, expressed through crying, or wailing. For this workshop, Bulkanhawuy (ARDS Language djägamirr- manager), and senior women from Birritjimi discussed Milkarri and encouraged younger women to practice in different clan languages.







**THIS PROJECT AIMS TO  
CREATE AN OPEN-ACCESS  
CULTURAL HERITAGE  
LIBRARY OF TRADITIONAL  
SONGS OF EAST ARNHEM  
LAND**

## Manikay Nupan- Tracking Songlines across Northeast Arnhem Land

ARDS has been collecting, recording, and preserving traditional clan songs in East Arnhem Land over the past 40 years. The current library, consisting of over 1500 manikay (traditional songs), is mainly accessible through Yolŋu Radio. This project aims to create an open-access cultural heritage library of traditional songs of East Arnhem Land.

In order to organise the database, first the project team needs to restructure the current traditional song library and include vital information that is missing from the database – for example, recording the names of the songmen present on the recordings, and other important information that preserves the intricacies of the culturally and historically valuable assets. This enormous work requires many hours of listening. This process must also be done in a sensitive way, involving the right people and protecting restricted information.

Once adequate data is collected about each song, the recordings and the linked metadata will be uploaded to a database that is specifically designed for this purpose. The database design happens with the support of First Nations Media. Once the database is ready, ARDS will provide access to Yolŋu who wish to listen to these songs, and provide broader access where permissions have been granted.

Apart from database review and design, the project has another two important objectives. Part of the program is to identify clans that are currently not represented on Yolŋu Radio and might not have recordings of their songlines. We will ask these clans if they are interested in recording some of their song-cycles and including them in the database. The project also aims to create accompanying educational programs to discuss the connection between specific clan songs, languages, and clan estates. The 10-episode radio program will involve the key consultants of the Manikay Nupan project, who will highlight some of the 'gems' of the database with the primary focus on historically significant recordings. This series of radio programs will be captured in language and will contribute to intergenerational knowledge transmission.

The project is currently funded for two years, and due to finish at the end of the 2023 financial year.



# Creative Media

Our Creative Media work consists of **recording, event production, and film production**. To keep up with the amount of work coming in over the past year, **the Creative Media team has nearly doubled**. This year the team has been particularly busy **supporting resource development for other ARDS teams**.

The team's expansion gave us the capacity to **build and launch new ARDS website** and **increase our news and other online content**. The new website allows us to share content through various other platforms, such as YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram. **The new website was built 100% by ARDS staff**.

An exciting development for the Creative Media team has been **growing our relationship with NITV**. This year, **NITV purchased five one-hour shows from ARDS**, for TV broadcast. The relationship with NITV allows ARDS to give **a national platform for Yolŋu voices and stories**.

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**ARDS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION** **YOLŊU RADIO** THE VOICES OF WESTERN EAST ARNHEM LAND

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## A bridge between worlds

**Nalimurr goŋ ga rälmanapanmirr romgu yolŋu ga balanda**

*Start with the Yolŋu way first.*  
*Nurruyirr'yundhu Yolŋuwal gakalyu nurruyunyu.*  
*Language, kinship, country and law gives us the strength*  
*Dhärükthu, gurruŋuy, wäŋay ga romdhu ŋalmu*

Our work champions the importance of language and culture in developing service platforms to enable Aboriginal voices to be heard, and support Aboriginal communities in partnership with mainstream services and systems.

ARDS has nearly 50 years experience working with Yolŋu communities in Northern Territory. ARDS' cross-cultural approach puts Yolŋu perspectives, skills and experiences at the heart of our work.

**OUR VISION**

**Community development**  
 We enhance communication and understanding between mainstream service providers and Indigenous communities through the development of tailored community information services that are culturally responsive and can be delivered in a range of mediums.

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**Language and translation services**  
 We enhance communication and understanding between mainstream service providers and Indigenous communities through the development of tailored community information services that are culturally responsive and can be delivered in a range of mediums.

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**Yolŋu Matha Literacy Workshop**

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**ARDS Language team publishes new YM Alphabet Book**

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 9am - 4pm

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**YOLŊU RADIO LISTEN LIVE**





## Staff Profile Baykali Ganambarr

I was born in Alice Springs but was raised on Elcho Island (Galiwin'ku) because my father is a saltwater man from Arnhem Land and my mother is from Ti-Tree 6 mile.

I used to speak my grandmother's language, Anmatjere, when I was a kid and still understand a bit of it. But now, I speak Djambarrpuyŋu dhäruk which is my other grandmother's clan language, and I speak it fluently but my clan/Bäpuru is Datiwuy/Njajmil.

I'm a retired dancer from Djuki Mala (Chooky dancers) and also an actor. I've been in a feature film called The Nightingale, which was directed by Jennifer Kent, and I'm the lead actor in it. I did a few other acting jobs, but my everyday work right now is working at ARDS Yolngu Radio in Darwin, which I really love and I've been very active here.

### What has been your favourite project this year?

My biggest and favourite project I had, was being able to broadcast live on Yolngu Radio at the Semi Finals AFL game at The Gabba Brisbane last year, which was for the Brisbane Lions v Western Bulldogs game.

### What was fun about this work?

Just everything, to be honest. Editing work, learning more Yolngu Dhäruk, recording and commentating Australia's massive game.



Baykali interviewing Tony McAvoy SC, the NT Treaty Commissioner

## COVID-19 Emergency News

The hit of COVID-19 to communities meant that ARDS has had to increase the amount of news. Between November 6, 2021 and March 13, 2022, ARDS recorded 40 new emergency health bulletins, with each news update typically running for 4-10 minutes.

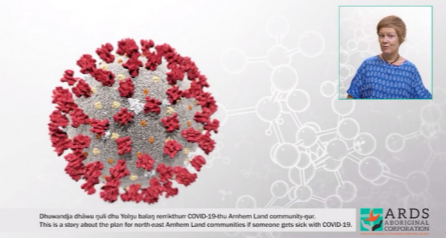
These recordings were delivered in Yolngu languages and broadcast on-air through Yolngu Radio and YouTube videos to share on East Arnhem Land Facebook pages.

In addition, we had on-site ARDS staff, with Dr Jamie Mapleson and Creative Media co-djägamirr Sylvia Njulpinditj traveling to Yurrwi and homelands. Dr Jamie extended these visits to Galiwin'ku and homelands (Elcho Island).



## Audio-Visual Content

A range of short videos in Yolngu languages was produced




### What is Community Quarantine?

An overview of the Rapid Response Team

Duration: 6 minutes

WATCH




### Getting a COVID-19 test

Demonstration of COVID-19 swab test, screening and PPE by Dr Ruth Derkenne

Duration: 10 minutes

WATCH

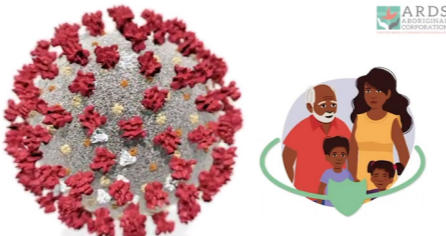


### COVID-19 Vaccine Story

An explanation about the vaccine in Yolngu Matha, on Sylvia Njulpinditj's Dhāwu Dhāwu Show .

Duration: 20 minutes

LISTEN



### COVID-19 Vaccine Consent Form – Djambarrpuyŋu translation

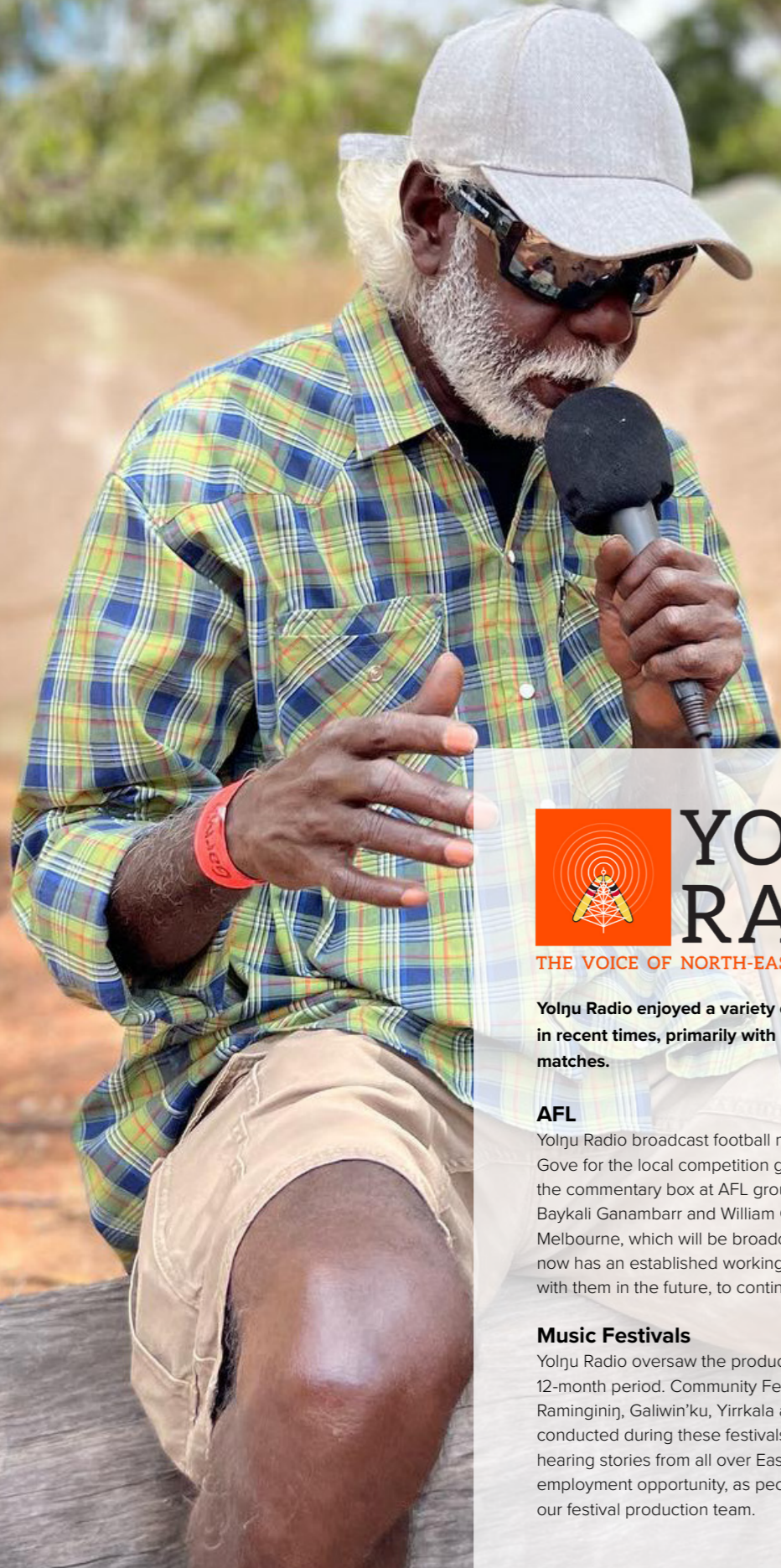
An animated explanation of the vaccine consent form, spoken in Djambarrpuyŋu.

Duration: 16 minutes

WATCH

**Nhulunbuy Local District Pandemic Plan:** 2 x 12min animated films – one in Yolngu Matha, and one in Plain English – explaining the plans for managing an outbreak in the Miwatj region.






# YOLŃU RADIO

THE VOICE OF NORTH-EAST ARNHAM LAND

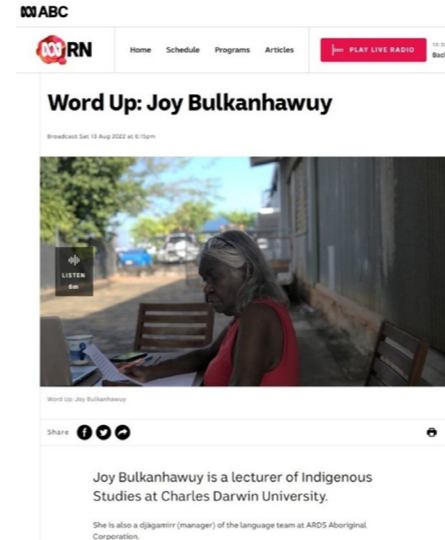
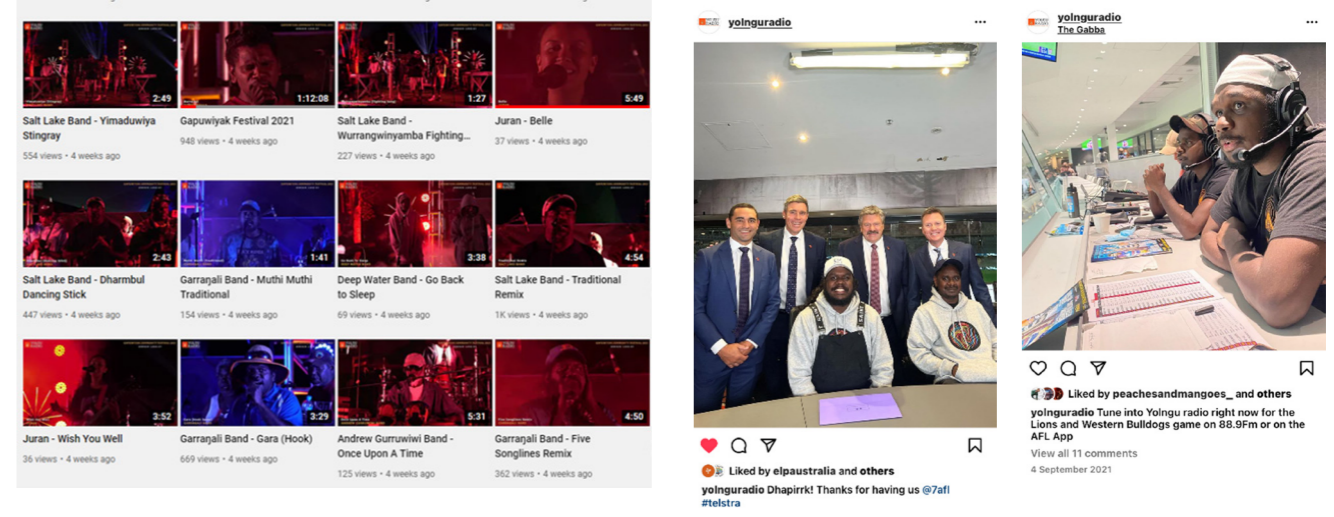
Yolngu Radio enjoyed a variety of successful projects outside of the studio in recent times, primarily with broadcasting community festivals and AFL matches.

## AFL

Yolngu Radio broadcast football matches in five different locations: Galiwin'ku and Gove for the local competition grand finals, and Darwin, Brisbane, and Melbourne in the commentary box at AFL grounds. A small documentary has been made, starring Baykali Ganambarr and William Gumbula, following the team from Galiwin'ku to Melbourne, which will be broadcast on Yolngu Radio and AFL channels. Yolngu Radio now has an established working relationship with the AFL, and we hope to work with them in the future, to continue to broadcast both professional and local games.

## Music Festivals

Yolngu Radio oversaw the production and live broadcast of 10 festivals over a 12-month period. Community Festivals were held in Gapuwiyak, Millingimbi, Raminginj, Galiwin'ku, Yirrkala and Gunyarara. 150 local interviews were conducted during these festivals. This project work is our best opportunity for hearing stories from all over East Arnhem Land. It has also provided a great employment opportunity, as people either join the Yolngu Radio broadcast team or our festival production team.



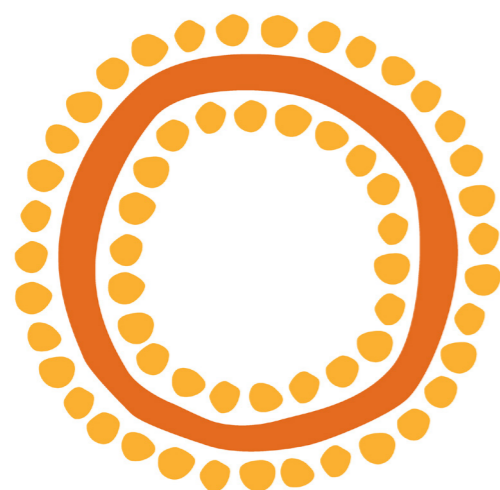


# Corporate Services

This year has seen change to our corporate support, with new accountants and auditors coming on board. We want to particularly thank our new accounting team from ALPA for their excellent work.

## Outback Spirit Tours

ARDS continued its work in supporting the Gälpu clan and senior women in Yirrkala to highlight and promote Yolju ceremony and knowledge. Welcome to Country bungul and Women's Healing experiences were highlighted to Outback Spirit Tours visitors. The last half of 2021 was reduced due to COVID, but 2022 was a huge success! The season saw 64 out of the 65 bunguls take place with local Yolju. However, the Women's Healing missed a few due to staff members contracting COVID. There were 31 Yolju employed throughout.





# Financial statements

## Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

for The Year Ended 30 June 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Income</b>			
Sale of goods	2A	3,975	193,298
Revenue from grants and contributions	2B	3,153,073	2,671,277
Interest	2C	435	4,005
Other revenue	2D	1,407,318	248,872
Total other revenue		4,560,826	2,924,154
<b>Total income</b>		<b>4,564,801</b>	<b>3,117,452</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Employee benefit expense	3A	1,995,280	1,628,804
Depreciation and amortisation	3B	134,184	104,964
Finance charges		-	1,117
Other expenses	3C	1,106,729	1,291,502
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>3,236,193</b>	<b>3,026,387</b>
<b>Surplus from operations</b>		<b>1,328,608</b>	<b>91,065</b>
<b>Total surplus for the year</b>		1,328,608	91,065
		* this includes an amount of \$857,729 for grant income for work due to be completed in FY22-23.	
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>			
Other comprehensive income		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>		<b>1,328,608</b>	<b>91,065</b>

The Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Statement of Financial Position

for The Year Ended 30 June 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Currents assets</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4	1,754,647	416,032
Trade and Other Receivables	5	886,812	728,465
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>2,641,459</b>	<b>1,144,797</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, Plant and Equipment	6	1,262,906	1,329,338
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>1,262,906</b>	<b>1,329,338</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>3,904,365</b>	<b>2,473,835</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and Other Payables	7	281,453	200,967
Contract liabilities	8	599,037	615,486
Provisions	9	94,447	80,948
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>974,937</b>	<b>897,401</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Provisions	9	35,966	11,580
<b>Total Non-current availabilities</b>		<b>35,966</b>	<b>11,580</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>1,010,903</b>	<b>908,981</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>2,893,462</b>	<b>1,564,854</b>
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>			
Retained Earnings		2,893,462	1,564,854
<b>Total Accumulated Funds</b>		<b>2,893,462</b>	<b>1,564,854</b>

The Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



# Independent Auditor's Report

## Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Aboriginal Resource and Development Services Aboriginal Corporation (the Corporation), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Corporation has been prepared in accordance with the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (the Acts), including:

(i) giving a true and fair view of the Corporation's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and

(ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Regulations 2017* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2013*.

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Corporation in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Responsibilities of the Director for the Financial Report

The Directors of the Corporation are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal controls as the Directors determine are necessary to enable the preparation of the financial

report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Corporation or to cease operation, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Directors are also responsible for overseeing the Corporation's financial reporting process.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website (<http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>) at: [https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf).

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

LOWRYS ACCOUNTANTS  


Colin James, FCA  
Registered Company Auditor

Darwin  
Dated: 2 December 2022

# Supporters, donors and sponsors

ARDS would not be able to do our work without the support and contributions from many individuals, organisations and agencies. We thank everyone who supported and contributed to our work in 2021-2022, including:

Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA) [alpa.asn.au](http://alpa.asn.au)

Australian Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications; Indigenous Languages and Arts program [arts.gov.au](http://arts.gov.au)

Australian Football League [afl.com.au](http://afl.com.au)

Buku-larrnggay Mulka Art Centre [yirkala.com/buku-larrnggay-mulka](http://yirkala.com/buku-larrnggay-mulka)

Community Broadcasting Foundation [cbf.org.au](http://cbf.org.au)

Community Child Care Fund [education.gov.au/childcarefund](http://education.gov.au/childcarefund)

Community Legal Centres Queensland [communitylegalqld.org.au](http://communitylegalqld.org.au)

Developing East Arnhem Limited (DEAL) [developingeastarnhem.com.au](http://developingeastarnhem.com.au)

East Arnhem Regional Council [eastarnhem.nt.gov.au](http://eastarnhem.nt.gov.au)

First Nations Media [firstnationsmedia.org.au](http://firstnationsmedia.org.au)

Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation [laynhapuy.com.au](http://laynhapuy.com.au)

NT Department of Education [education.nt.gov.au](http://education.nt.gov.au)

National Indigenous Australians Agency [niaa.gov.au](http://niaa.gov.au)

NT Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet [dcm.nt.gov.au](http://dcm.nt.gov.au)

NT Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities [tfhc.nt.gov.au](http://tfhc.nt.gov.au)

NTG Community Justice Centre [nt.gov.au/law/processes/mediation/contact-the-community-justice-centre](http://nt.gov.au/law/processes/mediation/contact-the-community-justice-centre)

Northern Synod, Uniting Church in Australia [ns.uca.org.au](http://ns.uca.org.au)

National Indigenous Television (NITV) [sbs.com.au/nitv](http://sbs.com.au/nitv)

NT Primary Health Network (NT PHN) [ntphn.org.au](http://ntphn.org.au)

Miwatj Health [miwatj.com.au](http://miwatj.com.au)

Outback Spirit Tours [outbackspirittours.com.au](http://outbackspirittours.com.au)

Telstra [telstra.com.au](http://telstra.com.au)



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