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Annual Report



ARDS
ABORIGINAL
CORPORATION

LANGUAGE CENTRE - YOLŃU RADIO - COMMUNITY CONTROL



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Chairperson Report

Hi all, Gawura Wanambi is my name, and I am a Marranju man from Raymanjirr. I am the chairperson of the ARDS Aboriginal Corporation. As the chairperson of the organisation, I also work on many projects. I am involved in language work, working in creating my own Marranju dictionary, CCT (Cultural Competency Training). I'm also a Senior Cultural Advisor and Facilitator.

Firstly, I would like to say a special thanks to long term ARDS board member Biritjalawuy (Betja) Gondarra, who joined the board in 2014 and finished with ARDS this year, for her enormous contribution to the organisation. I also want to welcome new board members: Stephen Malwarriwuy Dhamarrandji and Golung (Anita) Munyarryun, both from Galiwin'ku. Both are senior leaders of their bapurrul and have knowledge and experience in working for the community and the Yolngu people.

Our CEO, Ben Grimes, took some paternity leave this year to spend with his family, and I would like to thank Mr Dave Pugh for agreeing to look after ARDS for those three months. We are lucky to have good and talented friends like Dave Pugh who can help us out when necessary.

The djama (work) by ARDS' CEOs has once more lifted us up and we are in a good position as an organisation. Our financial situation is manyamak. The organisation is delivering more services and support to our Yolngu communities across Northeast Arnhem Land.

This year the board has considered and approved a new strategic plan, and also agreed to 13 Yolngu governance principles, for the way we want ARDS to operate, which have been translated into English. This year has been a very manyamak year for us all at ARDS.

We have good new staff, both Yolngu 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, Yolngu and Balanda, and thank them for their efforts.

I also would like to thank and acknowledge all my fellow board members for their commitment to ARDS and the wisdom they share with us. They are ARDS champions in our communities. Thank you to our Vice Chairperson, Dipililja Marika from Yirrkala, to Warmbirrirr Ganambarr from Milingimbi, Charlie Ramandjarri from Ramingining, Rita Gondarra from Yirrkala, Jennifer Wunungmurra from Gapuwiyak, Stephen Dhamarrandji and Golung Munyarryun from Galiwin'ku and Janet Staines from the Uniting Church. All of us working together is what makes ARDS strong. Thank you also to our Wamut Ben Grimes and Dave Pugh for everything and every way we work together to get us from where we were to where we are now.

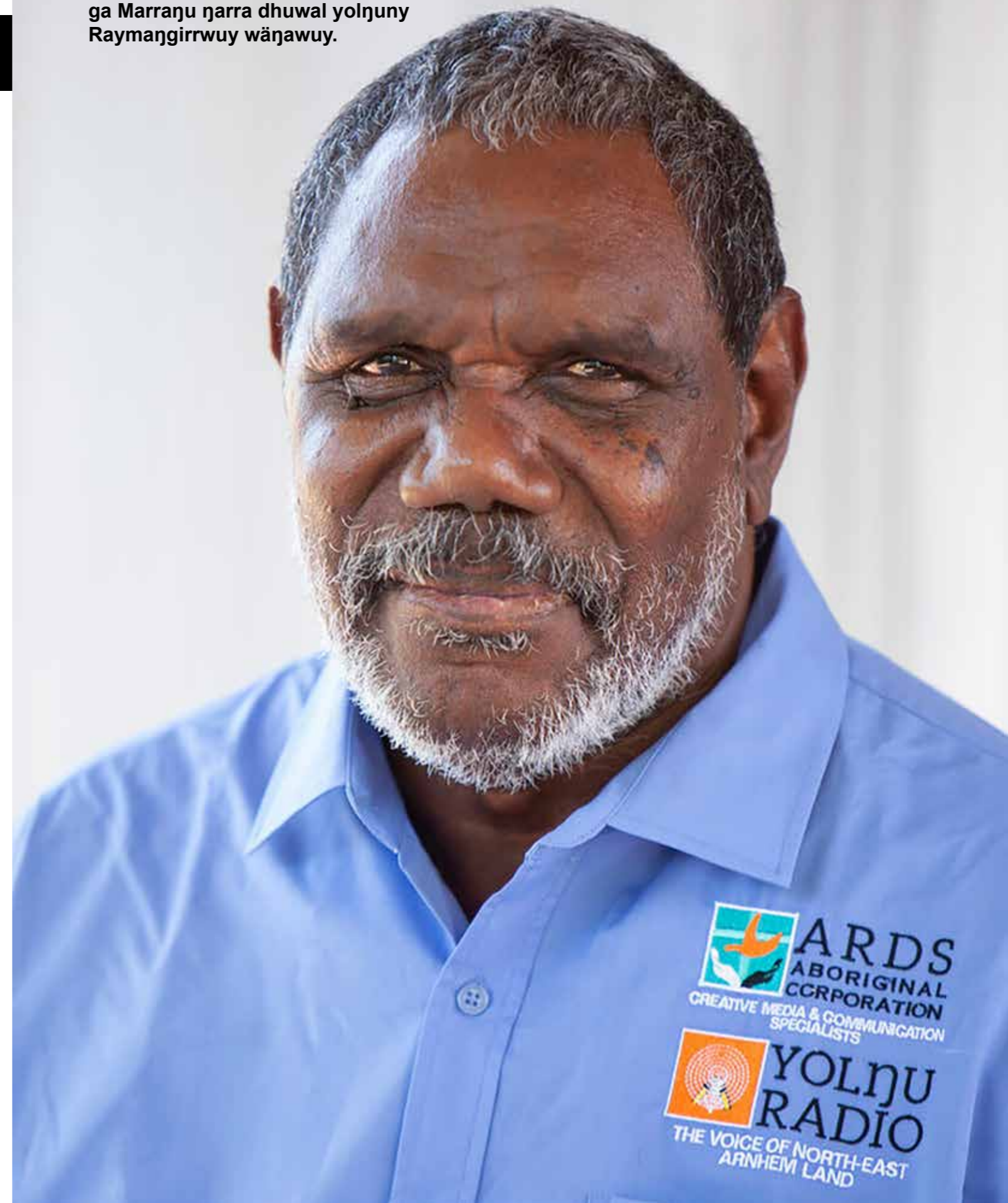
I am looking forward to the coming years with excitement as we look to progress many of our projects and take on new projects for the benefit of our people right across Northeast Arnhem Land.

In July 2025 our CEO, Ben Grimes, accepted an important new position as CEO of the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA). This means that after 5 years of great djama by Wamut Ben he will be leaving ARDS, and we will recruit a new CEO. I want to thank Ben for all he has done for ARDS and wish him manyamak success at NAAJA.

Ma', djutjtutjinha bukma!

Gawura Wanambi

Yow nhämirr nhuma bukma?
Darrany yäku Gawura Wanambi.
Mälktja narra dhuwal Gamarran'
ga Marranju narra dhuwal yolnguny
Raymanjirr wuy wänawuy.



CEO Report

This year has highlighted the depth of experience and commitment we have at ARDS. We have had farewells for a number of senior staff who have provided leadership over many years, but the transitions have shown that ARDS is in a healthy place with a depth of experience and talent across the organisation.

This year we said farewell (from a work point of view) to Joy Bulkanhawuy, Wayalwaja Marika and Howard Amery, all senior and long-term ARDS staff who are moving into retirement. Collectively, they have done around 75 years of ARDS work in Arnhem Land. At an organisational leadership level, we also farewelled Cathryn Moore (Community Development djägamirr), Emma Cook (Law and Justice djägamirr) and Melody Dale (Families and Healing djägamirr). We welcomed Rärriwuy Marika, Mayalil Yunupirju and Sam Muller as djägamirr for the Community Development team, and David Alexander as djägamirr for the Corporate Services team. I thank all the outgoing and incoming staff, who have worked diligently and cooperatively during the times of transition.

This year Yolŋu Radio completed a high-quality business plan, outlining the needs and growth of ARDS radio and creative media services into the future. This was coupled with a comprehensive infrastructure review. There continues to be a strong focus on live broadcasts of significant events, and work occurring in homelands. The team has also successfully delivered on fortnightly music workshops at the Yirrkala school.

The Language Team continues to establish itself in the role of regional Language Centre and focus on activities that help to pass on clan languages from the older generation to the younger generation. There are a number of high-quality print publications from the team this year, and the archiving project is well underway. The archiving project takes 50 years of cultural and linguistic materials held by ARDS, ensures those materials are catalogued and digitised, and we will make those materials accessible to Yolŋu families for generations to come, following Yolŋu protocols for ownership of knowledge.



Ben at his farewell lunch

The Law and Justice team continues to grow in strength. We've seen the first community courts occur in Ramingirinj, and improved communication between elders and police, lawyers and the Court. ARDS peacemaking and mediation work is growing, with increasing numbers of cases being run completely by Yolŋu mediators and a notable number of referrals coming directly from Yolŋu families contacting ARDS. More than 500 Yolŋu were involved in ARDS peacemaking work this year. We've seen a particular increase in work happening in Galiwin'ku, and we anticipate an increase in youth diversion and restorative justice conferencing in the coming year.

Building on previous successful work, the Community Development team has embarked on a number of new significant projects. In Gapuwiyak, the team is supporting local leaders to increase community control in the Child Protection space. Our social well-being work continues to deepen, with focus on suicide prevention, young people and family violence and mental health and trauma-informed work. The uniquely Yolŋu ways of delivering this work are foundational to the success of these programs.

ARDS continues to average around 25-30 government funding agreements each year, with strong systems in place to track and manage those agreements. For the fifth year in a row, we achieved an organisational surplus. This was done through effective project management of our grants, together with the ongoing success of our fee-for-service work (in particular our cross-cultural competency training).

This year we passed a new comprehensive policy framework, written in both Yolŋu Matha and English. I believe this makes us the first organisation in Australia to have substantive organisational policy and governance documents written in a First Nations language. We also completed our 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, which solidifies our organisational purposes and work, our values and our growth targets. Lastly, we made significant progress on a new ARDS logo, and I look forward to seeing the new logo reflected across the organisation.

This will be my last CEO report at ARDS, as I transition to a new role. Again, I thank our Chairperson Gawura Wanambi for his exceptional leadership and support. I thank the entire board, the leadership team and each djägamirr for showing and living the ARDS values. My time at ARDS has reinforced the principle that in order to see meaningful and sustained outcomes, we must do our work in the right way. Yolŋu control and decision-making, together with Yolŋu languages and Rom (law), has been the foundation for our success so far, and will continue to be the foundation for success in the future.

Ben Grimes

New Logo

From September 2025, ARDS has a new logo, which was chosen to better reflect the Yolŋu nature or buyu' of ARDS, and reflect our renewed focus on being a Yolŋu controlled organisation, with Yolŋu leadership embedded at every level of ARDS. This significant decision happened after the end of the financial year, but we consider it important to discuss in this annual report, and share the story behind the new logo.

The original concept was drawn by long-term ARDS Board member Warmbirrirr Ganambarr of Miliŋinbi. The digital version of the logo was refined by long-term Nhulunbuy resident and artist Kris Keogh. The logo was approved by the ARDS Board on 4 September 2025. ARDS thanks Sylvia Nulpinditj and Will Porter, who led the staff and board consultation and design process.

Dhuwal yuŋa 2025 ARDS-ku miny'tji (logo) uniform ŋayi dhuŋi-dhāwumirr yurr māt ŋayi dhuwal wunŋuŋiny (designs/pictures), six yarraŋa ga beŋur marrtji ŋapungga'ŋur mātŋur.

Dhiyanji yarraŋay mala ga maŋutji-lakaram Gumurr-Gaŋjirrk, Gumurr-Marthakal, Gumurr-Miyarrka, Gumurr-Rawarraŋ ga Gumurr-Miwaŋj ga waŋganydja ga maypurraŋan Darwin-nha.

Ga dhā-manapanmirrdja ga dhuwal yarraŋany balan ŋapungga'lilnha, dhiyan yarraŋay ga rom-lakaram ŋunhi limurr dhuwal gurruŋumirr mala limurrunguwuy limurr rāli ga dhā-manapan limurruny.

Dhiyan buyu'yunawuy mātthu ga mayali' maŋutji-lakaram gakal, ŋunhi ARDS ŋayi dhuwal waka' limurruny ŋuli ga buku-luŋ'maram djāmaw malaŋuw, ga djāma rrambaŋi, ga buthuru-bitjunmirr ga dhāwu bala-rāali rom-lakaranhamirr.

Dhiyan yarraŋay ga maŋutji-lakaram ŋunhi limurr warrpam' goŋmirr. Ga bulu ŋayi ga maŋutji-lakaram gakal, ŋunhi dhiyal ARDS-ŋur limurr ŋuli ga rāl-manapanmirr ga djāma rrambaŋi, mārr-waŋgany (yaka liya-gāna) ga bitjan bili ŋapungga'wuyyirr yan ga djāmaŋur ga guŋga'yunmirr bitjan bili yan gurruŋukurr romgurr.

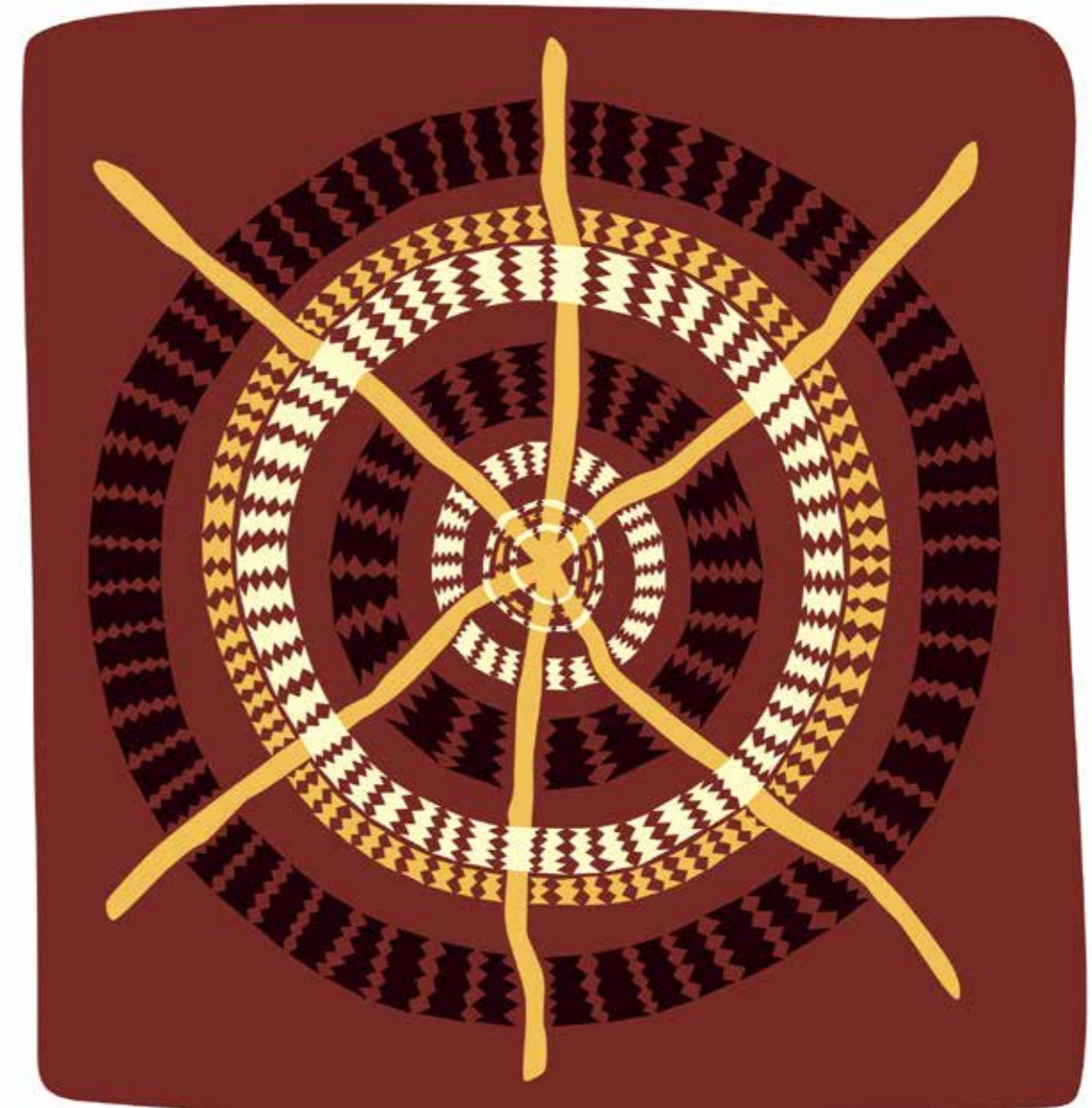
The 2025 ARDS logo is a traditional woven mat with six lines coming together in the centre of the mat.

These lines represent the five traditional Yolŋu regions: Gaŋjirrk, Marthakal, Miyarrka, Rawarraŋ and Miwaŋj. The sixth line represents Darwin.

These lines flow into the middle, which is where ARDS' gurruŋu (kinship) meet to do their djāma.

The woven mat carries meaning, as it is a place for people to sit, listen & share stories.

The rāki belongs to everyone. And it reflects ARDS' values, as a meeting place to work together, remain neutral and find strength through family connection.



Yolŋu dhukarr ŋurruŋu Start With the Yolŋu Way First

Nhaku ŋalimurr ga djäma - Our purpose

- **Yolŋu languages**, including all clan languages, are strong and passed on from each generation to the next
- **Yolŋu rom** is strong, passed to the next generation, and respected by Balanda systems
- Celebrate and share stories of **Yolŋu strength and identity**
- Increase **Yolŋu control** of all aspects of Yolŋu life, through through equal and genuine access to information, resources and decision-making

Napurruŋ djäma - Our work

- **Community development & empowerment** – Under the guidance of local ŋalapal, we work across health, law, governance, healing and trauma and many other areas of life to build local capacity, confidence and control.
- **Yolŋu region language centre** – Our team supports local language custodians in keeping language strong. This includes through intergenerational language transmission activities, resource development, language documentation, translation, training and language advocacy.
- **Yolŋu Radio** – Broadcasts in Yolŋu communities and homelands. We create a range of creative media products and activities that celebrate Yolŋu identity and strength and provide access to crucial information and stories in people's first languages.

ARDS-ku buyu' Our Values and How We Work.

Gurruŋu, gurpanmirr & bunyunmirr

We are connected and we recognise and value each other because of our gurruŋu connections. We value healthy relationships.

Makmakthunhawuy rom

We respect each other. We respect ARDS as an organisation.

ŋalapalwal

We value and respect the authority of Yolŋu elders. We seek their guidance and authorisation, according to Yolŋu rom, and we work within the trust that we earn.

Bala-räli gungayunmirr

We work in reciprocal ways where everyone benefits and becomes strong. This includes both-ways learning – we are always learning from each other.

Napuŋgawuy / burapuy

We are neutral and in the middle. We do work that is good for all Yolŋu. We do not create division or tension between Yolŋu. We value neutrality and fairness.

Räl-manapanmirr, yaka liya-gäna

Yolŋu and Balanda work together as respected equals. We think and make decisions together as a group. We don't work in isolation.

Ralpa

We are reliable and committed to the work we do. We are observant and learning from what is happening around us.

Dharaŋanawuy rom

We recognise and accept people for who they are. We look for people's strengths.



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STRATEGIC PLAN 2025 -2029

Nhäliil ŋanapurrr ga mar'yun ga nha mala gämurru' nhäma Focus area and Goals

Extend the work ARDS does

- Grow our work in in health education, creative media, advocacy & service design.
- Increase training delivery, especially cultural competency training and training for Yolŋu staff in other organisations.
- Monitor and Measure the impact of ARDS work, so that we can demonstrate the benefits of working in good ways.
- Strengthen the Yolŋu Region Language Centre, including models of working with and supporting language custodians living on country.
- Establish a financially sustainable way for distributing ARDS products and resources, to both Yolŋu and Balanda audiences.

Support and develop ARDS staff

- Support and grow Yolŋu leadership within ARDS.
- Increase Yolŋu employment within ARDS at all levels of the organisation.
- Increase employment and work of community-based staff, especially for people living in homelands.
- Develop and improve our people development processes, ensuring processes are accessible and suitable for Yolŋu staff and staff living in remote areas.
- Embed internal training in Yolŋu languages, Yolŋu Rom and ARDS methodology.
- Grow the ability of all staff in project and resource management.

Grow ARDS Governance, Systems, Processes and Finances

- Ensure strong governance and increase the ability of the ARDS Board to engage in strategic planning and advocacy work.
- Strengthen financial management and internal systems.
- Engage young people in the work and governance of ARDS.
- Implement a comprehensive policy framework that incorporates risk management practices.
- Develop and implement a marketing and branding plan for both Yolŋu and Balanda audiences.
- Increase multi-year funding agreements covering core areas of ARDS work.
- Increase ARDS' fee-for-service income.

Social change priorities

- Support the growth and development of Yolŋu leadership and decision-making, including leadership in homelands.
- Support Yolŋu homelands and the ability of Yolŋu to live and work on homelands.
- Advocate for and support the integration and recognition of Yolŋu rom, authority and decision-making in service delivery across Northeast Arnhem Land.
- Develop employment models and pathways that are responsive to Yolŋu ways of life and strengths, whilst also providing strong opportunities for professional learning and career development.

Djalkiri - Foundations

1

We recognise Yolŋu rom and Balanda law as equal systems and we are committed to working in both worlds

2

We are committed to Aboriginal self-determination

3

We are informed by the faith and spiritual authority of our ŋalapal and acknowledge our gurruŋu connection to the Uniting Church

Community Development

A Message from Rärriwuy Marika, Mayalil Marika and Samantha Muller, Community Development Team Djägamirr

We are honoured to have taken the roles of co-djägamirr (co-managers) for the Community Development team since February 2025. We are proud to be working with an organisation that has been a caretaker for keeping our language, songs and our culture strong for over 50 years. We are not doing this for ourselves but for the whole Yolŋu nation, embracing all the work that we do.

We have had some big staff turnovers this year. We were sad to farewell Cathryn Moore, who was djägamirr for the Community Development team until February 2025. We also said goodbye to Emma Cook and Jack Lumsden from our mediation team. Since we came on as djägamirr in February we have also split the Community Development team to have a new and separate Law and Justice team, although we still work together with all the people from both teams.

Our main focus since we started has been to develop strong teams in all the locations we work at. We are really proud to be building strong teams in Galiwin'ku, Gapuwiyak and Nhulunbuy with strong Yolŋu leaders and elders as well as yuŋa Yolŋu (young people) from our communities and great Balanda support staff. The communication and interactions between us continue to be great. We work together as a strong team which brings great knowledge, wisdom, growth and development for younger team members. We have been sharing our expertise with each other and with others in ARDS, working together, ensuring Yolŋu community control and a strength-based framework in all that we do. All of our work is first and foremost based on Yolŋu ways of knowing, being and doing. We develop our ways of working together and get consensus for how we move forward together. Over this last year we have had lots of sadness in our communities, but through it all we have had some great achievements.

You will read in this report about some of the great work that our team has been doing in the community development space in the last year. Our Health Education team has taken on new and exciting work, doing things in new ways. We continue to support the Local Decision Making (LDM) processes in Gapuwiyak, finding ways to continue their aspirations for community control over child protection, while being aware of changing government policies relating to LDM. We have had many successful Respectful Relationships workshops using our new *Gumurr-Däl* resources, working with young people in our communities. Our work supporting families and healing continues to bring about life-changing care for vulnerable members of our communities.



Rärriwuy Marika



Mayalil Marika



Samantha Muller



Respectful Relationships workshop at Murrunga



Maljumba speaking to students at the Galiwin'ku Careers Fair

Galiwin'ku Careers Expo 2024

ARDS staff Roslyn Maljumba and Jack Lumsden attended the 2024 Galiwin'ku Careers Expo, for senior secondary students at Sheperdson College. ARDS had a table at the Expo along with other stakeholders such as Yalu Aboriginal Corporation, Galiwin'ku Women's Space and Miwatj Health Corporation.

There were lots of students eager to learn more about the work ARDS does across all of its teams.

Maljumba and Jack spoke to students about how ARDS' Yolŋu and non-Yolŋu staff work together to make sure that Yolŋu voices are heard and that Yolŋu communities are supported to increase control and understanding of mainstream services and systems.

The Careers Expo provided an invaluable opportunity for ARDS staff to engage with the next generation of Yolŋu leaders, offering them insight into career possibilities at ARDS and empowering them to take the next steps toward shaping their futures within their communities.

Maljumba said the following about the Careers Expo:

It was really manyak (good) for helping the djamarrkuji (students) to understand, because some djamarrkuji, when they're coming out from the school, they struggle to find a real job. It was good for them to learn about manyak options for djäma. I was enjoying speaking to every djamarrkuji, from dharrwa clans. I was feeling really happy to speak to djamarrkuji about learning for the next step in their lives.

Jack reflected:

It was heartening to speak to so many young people interested in the work that ARDS does. There are so many opportunities for Yolŋu at ARDS no matter where their interests lie. Who knows, we may have met a future Chairperson or Board Member, or even the next voice of Yolŋu Radio. My gäthu had the students hanging off her every word!



Learning on Country camp at Gaminydja



Workshop in response to viewing Gumurr-Däl



Yolŋu Radio team at the Gaminydja camp



Discussion about language mixing while on the Learning on Country camp



Respectful Relationships Workshops

This year, we completed many successful workshops for our project 'Respectful Relationships Workshops and Resources for Yuŋa Yolŋu'. This project draws from the expertise of all ARDS teams, as we develop engaging resources in Yolŋu languages.

Gaminydja Trip

Over the January–June 2025 period ARDS completed seven workshops during a week-long trip to Gaminydja for the Miliŋinbi School Learning on Country camp, where the team collaborated with Learning on Country, the Crocodile Island Rangers and the Miliŋinbi senior class teachers. During this trip, ARDS rolled out the use of our specially created resource targeting young men – the *Gumurr Däl* short film, which you can read more about in the **Yolŋu Radio & Creative Media** section. After viewing *Gumurr-Däl*, the young men did a workshop with the ARDS team, delving into deep conversations about topics that arose in the movie.

Following this trip, senior Yolŋu requested ARDS to undertake another remote trip at Yilan with young people from Miliŋinbi. This request shows us that our workshops are positively received by Yolŋu, as well as reinforcing the importance of running our workshops on country.



Tashi and Wutpurrunju at the Gapuwiyak women's night workshop



Gapuwiyak Workshops

For the first time this year, we began delivering workshops for young fathers in Gapuwiyak. These workshops were led by the Gapuwiyak team, and supported by Law and Justice and Language team members and funding.

Young fathers have been identified by community leaders as a group who need more support. The aim of the workshops is to engage with young fathers via a series of workshops that support young men and their children to grow up strong, following Yolŋu Rom pathways towards healthy family and parenting dynamics.

Families and Healing Project Team Lead Minay Wunungmurra, who initiated much of the planning and undertaking of the workshops, emphasises the importance of having programs which directly support young fathers:

“If these young ones want to stand on their two feet, then when the next generation comes, maybe they can be strong for the kids. They can feel that their fathers are there in their lives every day. When they grow up, they can take that ownership. The men want to be there for their children ... they need a little bit of encouragement, need support with those activities, help them build their own strength.”



As well as the workshops for young fathers, we also ran a women's night in Gapuwiyak, in collaboration with the Galiwin'ku Women's Centre.

In addition to collaborating with key stakeholders in the region, ARDS' ongoing positive relationships with wāŋa-waŋaŋu (traditional owners) is key to our workshops' success. One of the reasons we have these strong relationships is because we ensure our workshops are founded in gurruṯu (kinship) and guided by Yolŋu Rom (Yolŋu law and culture).

Training Opportunities: I-ASIST

In March 2025, ARDS coordinated with the Anglicare NT team to deliver I-ASIST (Indigenous Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) in Gapuwiyak. Participants included ARDS Yolŋu and non-Yolŋu staff, CDP team, rangers, and East Arnhem Regional Council staff. This training enabled capacity building for the Families and Healing team, and for the wider community, to respond to suicidal risk and support families with healing. A total of 14 participants from ARDS and other organisations completed the two-day training.

Health & Wellbeing Education

We have been proud to partner with Miwatj to develop some resources about Rheumatic Heart Disease. Miwatj Yolŋu public health workers collaborated with ARDS staff to co-develop resources in Yolŋu languages, ensuring ownership and confidence to share these resources broadly. In doing this work, we held workshops with Miwatj Public Health teams to explore: How can Yolŋu health workers increase their confidence and skills to explain complex biomedical stories in ways that are relevant, powerful, and grounded in culture and language?

Our health team have also been developing exciting resources and animations about the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and how to make sure that the scheme is meeting the needs of Yolŋu participants in our region.



Gapuwiyak and Nhulunbuy teams with Josh Ingrams (Barrister and Mediator) after a training day on Balanda rom and mediation



The Law & Justice work at ARDS is strong and flourishing. We know this because of a few key reasons:

- Most importantly, Yolŋu who use the service tell us that the work is helpful and the way we do work is Yolŋu-led
- Direct referrals from Yolŋu remain high, demonstrating that this is work that is important to Yolŋu and is sought out by the community
- The data we collect provides insight into the breadth and strength of our service, helping us see the full impact from a broader perspective
- Stakeholders value their partnership with ARDS and recognise the benefit our service brings to their work and how it assists their clients
- Even as staff transition – whether moving away, retiring or taking leave – the work continues and doesn't falter or feel unstable. This is because of the strong grounding that has been developed and because the work is held by Yolŋu, for Yolŋu.

The Law & Justice work at ARDS spans a variety of projects such as mediation, restorative conferencing (including youth conferencing), family dispute resolution, Law & Justice Groups, and processes and systems advocacy. However, these terms don't always capture the full picture. I like to describe the work as walking alongside people—helping them communicate, re-connect, and find solutions when there's been conflict or harm, and also supporting them to navigate the justice system, which can often be confusing, overwhelming and containing unfair barriers.

The work is done with gurruṯu always at the centre. Kinship, connection and relationships is the foundation for resolving disputes and repairing harm, and Yolŋu are experts at this work.

It's a privilege to serve as djägamirr for the Law & Justice work at ARDS. 'Djägamirr' means 'caretaker', and it's this concept that guides every aspect of our work. Unlike traditional managerial roles often found in Balanda organisations, my position is embedded deeply within the work and alongside the staff. We walk beside each other, create space for deep listening, foster connection and provide support. We hold problems, ideas and concerns with care, advocate for change and collaborate to find solutions. Throughout all of this, we remain grounded in the vision and direction set by the Board, ensuring that our work aligns with their guidance and the needs of the community.



Georgia Hagias

Law & Justice

**A message from Georgia Hagias,
Law & Justice Team Djägamirr**



Welcome Noelene!

Noelene Guḡili Marika joined our team as a mediation and dispute resolution worker in the Law and Justice team in 2024. She shares some of her reflections on her work and hopes for the future:

What's important about Yolḡu peacemaking and mediation?

It's important to educate one another. Even if we are fighting, we are educating through gurruṯu. We are learning about family, the background, or the roots of the family tree. Sometimes we see two people who are fighting, and they think they don't know one other. It's through educating one another and reminding about gurruṯu that people can realise they are actually close family. This is the start of their healing journey.

Sometimes fighting and hardships in life can feel like a really thick fog clouding the road to peace in community. People are blinded by that fog. But once that fog clears up, they realise their connection, they can move forward. Educating about gurruṯu is what clears that fog.

We always have to make sure our work is done the Yolḡu way, including when it comes to 'right time'. Sometimes Balanda say, "it's time now, it's time now". But that's not Yolḡu time, it's Balanda time. Yolḡu need to have the right people involved and available, and until that happens it's not the right time. Sometimes if people are far away but they have to be at meetings, we have to wait. Some-times people get busy with bāpurru, so things have to go on hold and wait until everyone has calmed down and is ready. Then we can move forward. In the Balanda world, things happen even when there is grieving. Yolḡu wait until times are less heavy. If we rushed things in the Balanda way, Yolḡu would get tired and say I don't want to do this, or if they don't feel ready they won't talk at all. If we do wait for the right time and place, it opens up people's minds and hearts for healing.

Who inspires you to do peacemaking djāma?

Working with the team of lawyers and mediators inspires me, especially older people like my (djāgamirr) Rāriwuy. My grandma also taught me about being independent and strong. She sacrificed a lot and made a lot of big changes in her life to raise me. She was a dancer, she was a midwife, she was a teacher.

How does being a Yolḡu mediator make you feel?

I feel proud of myself, and we've helped that family heal. It makes me happy.

What do you wish for the future when it comes to peacemaking?

I wish for peacemaking to be strong and keep going. Sometimes peacemaking can feel like a rocky road and sometimes it isn't easy. I don't want that string to tangle – we want it to be nice and straight.



Noelene Guḡili Marika



Law & Justice team and Ramingining BDM discussing mediation work on the region



ARDS peacemakers after attending the National Mediation Conference in Sydney, Sept. 2025



Law & Justice Team Training

In June, Law & Justice staff from Darwin, Galiwin'ku, Gapuwiyak, Nhulunbuy and Yirrkala came together for a four-day internal training — the largest team gathering we've had to date.

For some, it was their first time meeting colleagues from other locations, so we took the opportunity to connect meaningfully from the outset. We began with a gurrutu (kinship) game on the first morning. Everyone stood in a circle and took turns throwing a ball of yarn, naming the gurrutu relationship between each other. As we shared our bapurru (clan), wana (homeland) and last names, the yarn wove a visual expression of our shared relationships — a powerful symbol of the team's unity and connection.

This training covered key areas including mediation, dispute resolution, the criminal justice system and strength-based approaches grounded in gurrutu.

We explored DFSV (Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence) prevention through kinship, and how to recognise the right time to act in order to support safety and healing for families.

Our Gapuwiyak team shared their expertise in mental health support, including identifying signs of distress and supporting gurrutumirr at risk of suicide. We also examined how effective prevention work is deeply rooted in gurrutu, connection to place and relationships within the community.

Bringing the full team together highlighted the incredible breadth of experience within ARDS, and reinforced the strength of ARDS' collaborative, culturally grounded approach to law and justice work.

What is Restorative Conferencing?

Restorative conferencing is a guided process where the person who caused harm (often called the offender) and those affected (the victims) come together in a safe and respectful environment to openly discuss the incident, impact of the harm, and how to repair the damage and move forward.

Balanda and Yolŋu approaches to restorative conferencing align closely, both focusing on healing, accountability and repairing relationships within the community. This shared foundation allows restorative conferences to be a culturally respectful way to bring people together, making the referrals we receive effective across both legal systems.

Sometimes, at the conclusion of a restorative conference, the Law & Justice team is asked to prepare a report for the judge of the NT Local Court. This report provides vital Yolŋu perspectives on law, healing and culture — insights the judge would not otherwise have access to — which are crucial in guiding more culturally informed decisions by the judiciary, and breaking down the barriers created by the dominant (Balanda) legal system.

Just like all of our dispute resolution work, our restorative conferencing processes are led by Yolŋu peace-makers, conducted in Yolŋu Matha, and employ the key concepts of right person, right place, right time to ensure meaningful outcomes for everyone involved.

ARDS Law & Justice staff members from Galiwin'ku, Darwin, Yirrkala, Ramingining and Galiwin'ku came together in October 2025 to share stories of peacemaking and restorative conferencing work. We were joined by skilled trainer Kerrie Sellen of Restorative Journeys who shared about national and global learnings in this space and the impact the practice is having on changing behaviour, healing victims, bringing families together, reducing re-offending, and keeping people out of prison. The team feels very strong in this work and is proud to see the impact it's having on strengthening and empowering Yolŋu in our community.



BDM members L to R: Trevor Djaarakaykay, Justine Gawinygawiny, Fabian Garrawirrtja Ngarrpitjiwuy, Lizzie Durrurrnga, Rosita Gaykamangu, Keith Yilkarri, Peter Djumbu, Judy Gaykamangu, Tommy Gaykamangu, Norman Daymirringu, David Warraya, Gilbert Walkuli, Jennifer Banaka, with Judge Geary, Community Court, Ramingining, April 2025

Ramingining Binipilingmirriḡ Djagagiḡ Mala Law and Justice Elders Group (BDM)

This year ARDS worked closely with the Ramingining Binipilingmirriḡ Djagagiḡ Mala Law and Justice Elders group (BDM).

The Ramingining BDM Law and Justice Group is a cultural authority group that represents the 18 clans living in Ramingining and surrounding homelands.

In July 2024, the BDM signed a Local Decision Making Agreement with the NT Government. ARDS facilitated the conversation between the BDM and NT Government so they could sign this agreement. One of the outcomes of the Agreement was to set up Community Court in Ramingining.

A highlight this year was supporting BDM's leadership and participation in Community Court, a modified sentencing process in the NT Local Court where BDM Law and Justice Group members give advice to the judge on the appropriate sentence for offenders.

In Community Court, appointed BDM Law and Justice Group members sit with the judge and give advice on the right sentence. They bring cultural and contextual perspectives, like knowing what upcoming ceremonies an offender might attend as part of their rehabilitation. Before court, BDM members talk to the offender, the victim (if willing) and any other relevant person (like a relative) about the offender's current situation, feelings about the offence, impact of the crime on the victim and the community, and rehabilitation options. This information is captured in a report that is sent to the judge, and discussed at Community Court.

Beyond Community Court, BDM also does work in conflict prevention, mediation, cultural education, and community advocacy — using gurruḡu to guide its work.

Over the next 12 months, ARDS will continue to support BDM with its important work.



“This is the story about the maḡal’ (woomera), gara (spear) and bathi (dillybag) on the BDM logo.

The maḡal’ is a peace symbol. It is what our old people used. They pointed it towards people fighting. They held it up, saying “stop there and go in peace”. It meant that people were brought back together as a family and stopped fighting. With the maḡal’, everyone becomes one family again, sitting together, sharing together. There is also another type of woomera, a big woomera with a very special painting. Our ancestors were using it. Our ancestors were peacemaking with that big woomera. We still have that story from a long time ago and pass it on.

The gara represents the man going out hunting for guya (fish). The spear is bringing the offender back to the community. It is used to put their story into the bathi and to bring them back safely to the community.

The bathi is the place where we put all the information and the stories and bring them safely to the community.”

—
BDM members

ARDS Language Centre

A message from Dikul Baker and Salome Harris, ARDS Language Centre Djägamirr

This has been a good year for the ARDS Language team. As a Language Centre, we were able to provide support for the following languages: Wägilak, Yan-nhañu, Dhañu, Dhay'yi, Dhuwal and Dhuwala. We want to support and acknowledge all the languages of the region. This is a huge task given the linguistic diversity of Northeast Arnhem Land, and the vast geographic area we cover. This year, the Language Team visited many places, including: Mapuru, Miliñinbi, Gaminydja Homeland (Cape Stewart), Dìpirri Homeland, Gapuwiyak, Darwin, Nhulunbuy and Galiwin'ku. We thank all the clans for their patience and want them to know we are seeking to grow our team so that we can carry out more work.

Our ethos is to work together with language communities to design and carry out our projects. All of our work is aligned with the Board's direction, and our work is watched and guided by ñalapaḷ (elders) to make sure cultural protocols are met. One example of this is the lengthy permissions process for the Warraga (Cycad Bread) project in November 2024. We had to get the necessary permissions to carry out the project, and then take the results back as a report in the form of cycad bread to all the different groups. This project brought an awareness of *wetj*. *Wetj* has layers of meaning, but one of these is *reciprocity*. We thank the Wangurri clan for giving ARDS permission to do this project.

The Language Centre's work is varied. As well as language maintenance, revitalisation, advocacy and resource production, we also offer fee-for-service translation work and provide language support for other teams at ARDS. Support for other teams this year included translation for film productions, language content in educational resources and staff language

learning. We support language learning for all of ARDS' staff, so that non-Yolŋu staff can work in and through Yolŋu Matha and Yolŋu staff can continue to learn and grow in their own clan languages. The language-teaching skills learned through these classes help our teachers develop skills that help with teaching their languages in other contexts.

Professional development for the Language team has been a major focus. Professional development for the Language team this year has included translation training, Yolŋu language literacy, learning linguistic software and management mentoring.

We are thankful for the federal government's Indigenous Languages and Arts (ILA) Program which funds the archive project and provides our operational funding, and the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) which funds our *Strong Language Strong Gurrutu* project, which aims to strengthen intergenerational language transmission in the Miwatj region. This project allows us to have a stronger supportive presence in the Miwatj region, across communities, towns and homelands.



Salome Harris and Dikul Baker



Weekly Darwin office language lessons



Teaching and learning in the office



Language team meeting at East Point



Maywaga recording some Ganalbiru dhäwu



Language team work trip to Mäpuru



Mäpuru language work trip - hunting trip to Gäriyak



Collecting cycad nuts

Warraga (Cycad Bread) Project

In late 2024, we gathered a group of elders and young people together, and were taught by Roslyn Maljumba and Priscilla Balanḡurr how to make cycad bread in the traditional way. We gathered the nuts, pounded them and soaked them for several days in running water to leach them of poison. After this, we learned how to grind the nuts, wrap them in paperbark and cook them on the fire. Through this process, gathering elders and young people together, we got to learn the process of breadmaking. The process is very specific and must be done with supervision of elders to make sure the nuts are properly leached of poison. After the parcels of bread were cooked it was carefully divided up and sent out so that the right people were acknowledged. As Maljumba described it, “Mulkakum dhu nḡaḡu dhiyaḡ ḡathay. Bitjan walal dhu waḡa, ‘Marrkapmirr - nhā dhuwal, guyaḡa ga gurruḡu?’” (The bread will give comfort. They will say ‘Beloved [bread] - my relatives are thinking of me?’).



Cycad nut bread parcels

Community Access Archive Project

ARDS holds large collections of Yolḡu language and cultural material, including many recordings and publications. Over time, as technology, staff and storage practices have changed, the material has been housed in numerous places, making it difficult to locate. With funding from the federal government’s ILA program, the ARDS Archive is now in development. The archive will bring materials into one place where they will be kept safe. Most importantly, the archive will ensure Yolḡu communities can access their materials. Decisions around how access will work and how the archive will function are being made in consultation with Yolḡu clan representatives and ARDS staff. The archive aims to meet the needs of Yolḡu users and reflect the protocols of Yolḡu Rom.

ARDS is working in partnership with Language Data Commons of Australia who provide tools and support for the safe keeping of language collections across the country. ARDS is building on relationships with other NT organisations, such as Djalkiri Keeping Place. There is a growing focus amongst our organisations on strong archiving practices. We have received lots of positive feedback about the project. Yolḡu continue to express the importance of having access to the knowledge and voices of their ancestors, and knowing these materials will be secure for generations to come.



Rärriwuy Marika and her book Bala Yalaḡbarali



Launch of Gurraḡay matha book in Galiwin’ku

New Resources

We continue to create resources in and about Yolḡu languages. This includes adding to our popular and growing series of ‘Learning Yolḡu Matha’ posters: this year, we released a poster for learning Wāgilak. Also this year Joy Bulkanhawuy published her book *Gurraḡay wo nininyḡu matha Djambarrpuḡu*, a picture dictionary of twenty important words for young people to know.

We also supported Rärriwuy Marika to translate and publish her book *Bala Yalaḡbarali* in Dhaḡu. *Bala Yalaḡbarali* is a funny and heartwarming story about a trip Rärriwuy’s homeland Yalaḡbara with illustrations by Merrkiyawuy Ganambarr-Stubbs. The book is published by Indigenous Literacy Foundation in both English and Dhaḡu versions.

We also help other teams at ARDS create resources. Recent publications include *Dunha wāḡa dilḡijḡur* – a therapeutic tool for children who have experienced trauma, developed with the Families & Healing/Community Development Team and a film in Dhuwal language about Faetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder developed with the health team.

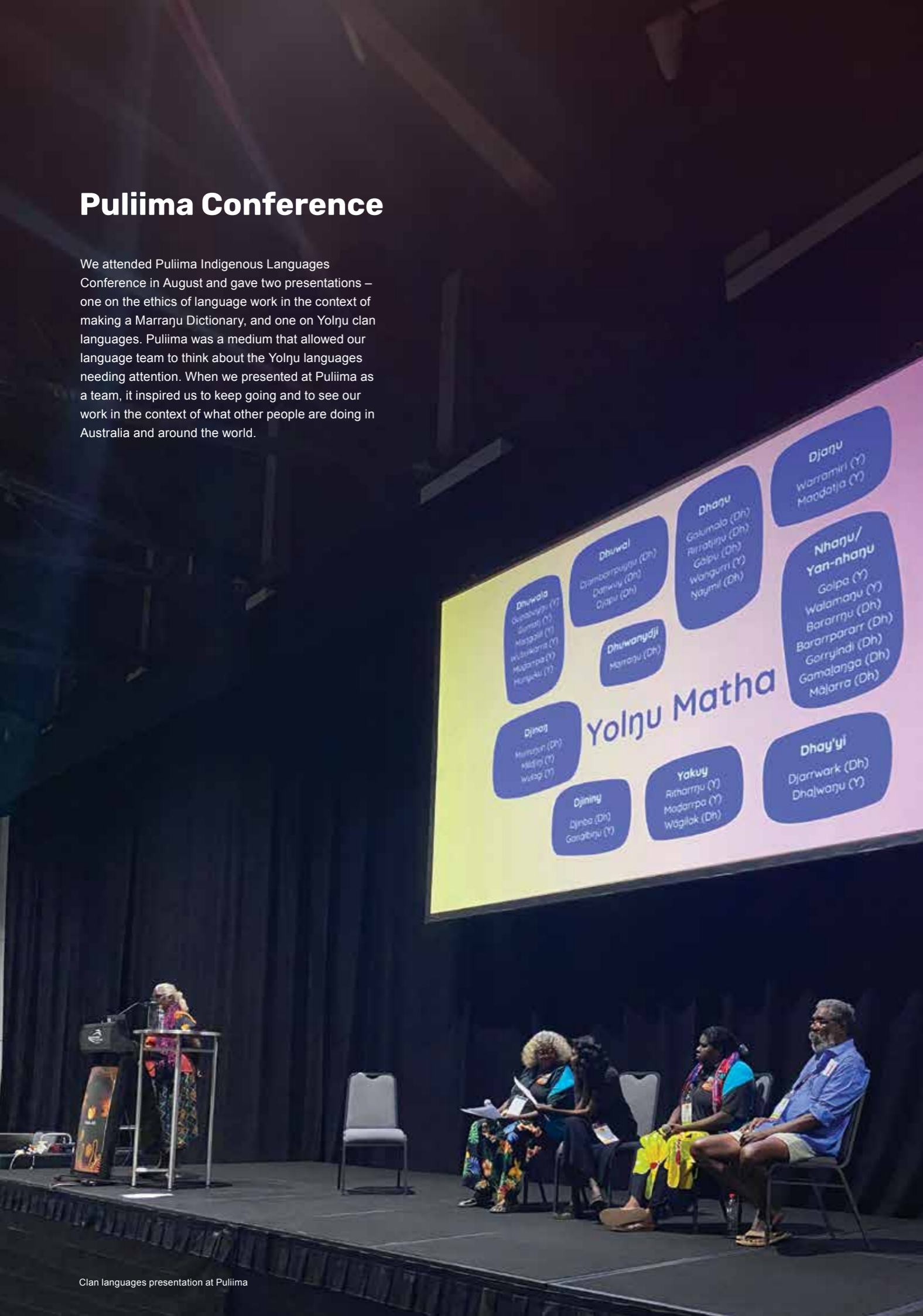
Many of our resources can be purchased from our website, with several resources also available for free download.



Maywaḡa’s illustrations for stories in Ganalbiḡu and Ritharrḡu

Puliima Conference

We attended Puliima Indigenous Languages Conference in August and gave two presentations – one on the ethics of language work in the context of making a Marranju Dictionary, and one on Yolŋu clan languages. Puliima was a medium that allowed our language team to think about the Yolŋu languages needing attention. When we presented at Puliima as a team, it inspired us to keep going and to see our work in the context of what other people are doing in Australia and around the world.



Clan languages presentation at Puliima



Melissan and Maljumba at Puliima



Sylvia Dulpindij, Gawura Waŋambi and Sharon Wuṯpurruṅgu presented on the Marranju Dictionary Project at Puliima



Maljumba and Wuṯpurruṅgu at Puliima

Creative Media & Yolŋu Radio



Photo credit: Free Roam Chicks



Gawukawu Gurruwiwi for the music workshops



William Gumbula in the studio

A Message from Sylvia Nulpinditj and Will Porter, Creative Media & Yolŋu Radio Team Djägamirr

The past year for the Yolŋu Radio and Creative Media team has been one of new pathways and internal growth. For over 20 years Yolŋu Radio has been the voice of Northeast Arnhem Land. We'd like to acknowledge our elders who helped forged this path, and our remaining ŋaḷapaḷ who keep this story alive.

This period welcomed new staff and new creative ventures. In particular we'd like to welcome Adrian Schmidt-Mumm & Gawukawu Gurruwiwi. They have both become pivotal members of our team, forging strong connections within the organisation and making fantastic contributions to some of our biggest projects.

One such project has been the Two-Ways Learning Music Program at Yirrkala School. Throughout the entire 2025 school year, our team has run weekly music workshops at Yirrkala Bilingual School. This program has been huge success. Teaching Yolŋu kids the fundamentals of music, songwriting & encouraging language preservation through manikay. Our team is blessed with many talented artists, so it has been wonderful to see our team embolden the next generation of musicians.

Perhaps our biggest project over the last year was the creation of a resource aimed at capturing the hearts and minds of young Yolŋu men. The resource came in the form of a short-film, titled *Gumurr-Däl*. Using puppets and unashamedly targeted humour, this film highlights the strengths of self-identity and gurruṯu overcoming the hardships and trauma that too many young people face today. This project was done as a part of the Respectful Relationships project, and required significant input from the Community Development and Language teams. This project

was a microcosm of what makes ARDS unique, highlighting that despite how different our work can be, it is these different skill sets that make us strong as an organisation. The film was shot entirely in our Nhulunbuy studios, and premiered at the Darwin International Film Festival. Hopefully this is the first of many more high-quality film productions to come from this team.

Our work as a community broadcaster continues to grow. This past year was incredibly busy, with many trips to homelands for engagement and maintenance work. As always, our team ran live broadcasts of some of the region's biggest events. These included the Barunga Festival, Darwin Festival, Garma, the opening of the Gapuwiyak Art Centre and East Arnhem Live. Our team has begun to experiment in livestreaming these events on Facebook whilst simultaneously broadcasting live on radio. This work helps reach a broader Yolŋu audience by connecting with people through multiple platforms. It is a credit to the professionalism and expertise that our team has as broadcasters.

Finally, we would like to thank all our supporters at Yolŋu Radio, both internally and externally. Our work as the creative department in the organisation is to reflect and inform our communities and outstations. We treat this purpose with the upmost respect, and will keep telling our stories; by Yolŋu, for Yolŋu.



Sylvia Nulpinditj



Will Porter



The cast of Gumurr-Däl

Gumurr-Däl

This year we released our short film *Gumurr-Däl*. The short film, approximately 15 minutes long, was designed as a resource for young men who are struggling with undiagnosed trauma. *Gumurr-Däl* (meaning 'hard times') uses puppetry and humour to normalise very serious issues. The film is entirely in Yolŋu Matha, with English subtitles. It tells the story of a young man whose brother is incarcerated, opening discussions around trauma, healing, loneliness, violence, gambling and suicidal ideation in an age-appropriate manner.

Gumurr-Däl was first launched for ARDS' Respectful Relationships project, during a week-long trip to Gaminydja for the Milinjibi School Learning on Country camp. The film will continue to be a useful resource across ARDS' work.

Gumurr-Däl was selected to premiere at the Darwin International Film Festival in September 2025.



Photo credit: Free Roam Chicks



Adrian Schmidt Mumm editing



Gawukawu Gurruwiwi on site

Music workshops with Yirrkala Bilingual School

This financial year, Yolŋu Radio has been running weekly music and dance workshops at the Yirrkala Bilingual School. Every week, the team spends a whole school day teaching different classes. The workshops have a both-ways learning approach: students learn music skills and fundamentals from Yolŋu manikay, and from Balanda music. Each school term focuses on a different aspect of music performance and creation: students have learned about songwriting, instrumentation, recording techniques, live performance and dance. A highlight of these workshops has been supporting the school's Lucky Band, which has already performed at Yarrapay Festival, Garma Festival and East Arnhem Live 2025.

Welcome New Staff!

This year Yolŋu Radio has seen its core staff grow, hiring Adrian Schmidt-Mumm and Gawukawu Gurruwiwi, who are both well-known musicians from the Wild Honey band. They have made a terrific contribution to the operation of the radio station, and have been heavily involved in the delivery of the music workshop program, bringing their own music expertise. ARDS & Yolŋu Radio have been proud to support Wild Honey this year. Wild Honey's debut single "Common Ground" was recorded at Yolŋu Radio's studio, marking the first time in several years the studio has been used to record a full-band project. ARDS also supported the creation of the official music video for "Common Ground", which was filmed at Garma Festival 2025.

Gawukawu: "I like [the music workshops], working with the young ones. Working with Lucky Band, and with Yirrkala School. And also Old Man Andrew Gurruwiwi. Working with the people I look up to, like Andrew. Also the kids – first when we went there, everyone was shy. A couple of months later, when we came there every Thursday, then they got confident – everyone was joining in and enjoying music live."

Corporate Services

A message from David Alexander, Corporate Services Djägamirr

In 2024/2025, the Corporate Services team have continued to support our project teams as they work for Yolŋu communities throughout Northeast Arnhem Land. Our role is to make sure ARDS is equipped with the right people, systems and resources to carry out the organisation's purpose reliably and with care, now and into the future.

This year we've welcomed into the Corporate Services team Nikki Cooper, Nhulunbuy Office Co-ordinator, and Hnin Wai, HR Payroll Officer, who have both been great additions and helped us implement more efficient processes, support project delivery teams and ensure ARDS is a place where staff feel supported and respected. This year the ARDS staff team has continued to grow with new Yolŋu and Balanda joining across all our offices.

On a property front, we are really pleased to have secured an office in Ramingiŋiŋ and a house in Miliŋinbi, extending our physical presence and ensuring our teams in these communities have dedicated spaces from which to work. Alongside this, we have expanded our fleet of vehicles to ensure staff in Nhulunbuy, Darwin, Galiwin'ku, Ramingiŋiŋ and Miliŋinbi have access to vehicles in community. We continue to make sure our teams in all communities have the tools and resources they need to deliver services effectively.

The outcomes of these combined efforts are reflected in another positive year, both operationally and financially. ARDS has recorded an encouraging financial result in 2024/2025, which speaks to the great work staff are doing, the ongoing meaningful partnerships with communities and funders, and the care with which resources have been managed. This result gives us confidence as we continue to plan for growth and resilience in the years ahead.

We'd like to express our thanks to Open Road Accounting and EmergelT who respectively provide excellent accounting and IT service provision. Their responsiveness, flexibility and care are a great support to our staff and integral to us being able to deliver our projects and ensure sound financial management.

The Corporate Services team exists to enable the whole of ARDS to find and support ways of working which equip Yolŋu and Balanda staff to carry out the work entrusted to them, and to strengthen our commitment to being a Yolŋu-led organisation in all our work. We look forward to another year of this to come!



David Alexander



Cultural Competency Training

The 2024–25 financial year was a highly productive and engaging period for the Cultural Competency Training (CCT) team. Building on the strong foundations and developments introduced last year, we had the opportunity to work with inspiring participants from a wide range of organisations—each bringing curiosity, open minds and a genuine eagerness to learn.

Over the year, the team delivered a total of 13 tailored workshops, with 11 delivered in person across Nhulunbuy and Darwin, and two online. We continued to shape our content to suit different audiences. For example, when working with hospital staff, we would explore Yolŋu concepts of health and healing. In contrast, in a shorter session with a housing provider, we focused on real-life scenarios relevant to the housing context—ensuring every session was meaningful and relevant.

We also successfully ran two full eight-week terms of our online CCT course, first launched last year. This format features weekly webinars with Yolŋu and Balanda facilitators, along with engaging activities and readings, and has made our trainings more accessible for participants in remote locations or with limited availability for in-person sessions.

This year, there were 553 enrolments in the self-paced eLearn training modules. The eLearn platform contains 10 online modules featuring interviews with Yolŋu leaders on a range of topics, interactive learning activities and practical skills for engagement.

There was continued demand for Plain English workshops, with increasing interest from legal and health organisations. These standalone seminars give

us a vital opportunity to support clear communication while sharing the importance of language, history and cultural nuance.

One particularly exciting development was growing interest from individuals who are not part of an organisation able to host tailored workshops, but who still want to participate in the two-day CCT experience. We are now preparing to launch an open-enrolment workshop in the new financial year, allowing individuals to access the same high-quality training that organisations receive.

What sets ARDS' CCT program apart is our focus on Yolŋu strengths—on Yolŋu Rom (law), language and kinship—and how these systems can enrich workplaces and service delivery. Unlike other cross-cultural training that often focuses on heavy or deficit-based narratives, our approach highlights the resilience and ongoing vibrancy of Yolŋu culture. While we do explore the challenges Yolŋu communities face, these discussions emerge through stories and subtle insights, grounded in Yolŋu perspectives.

Throughout 2024–25, we've remained committed to tailoring our training to each context, strengthening relationships with Yolŋu and other First Nations contributors, and sharing the message that Yolŋu language and Rom are not just surviving—they are thriving and actively shaping life in the region today.

As demand for CCT continues to grow, we look forward to expanding our dedicated training team and deepening our impact in the year ahead.

Outback Spirit Tours

ARDS works with Gälpu clan members around Nhulunbuy and Yirrkala to provide cultural events for tourists travelling with Outback Spirit Tours. Clan members deliver Welcome to Country ceremonies and Women's Healing and Bush Medicine presentations during the 2025 dry season, from May through to September.

The ARDS Outback Spirit Tours team is made up of over 58 Yolŋu from the Gälpu clan, including lead songmen, Yiḱaki players, dancers, and healers. These events occur approximately every two days, delivering culturally strong welcoming ceremonies and healing presentations. The events are a unique Yolŋu experience, inclusive of children and Elders. Yolŋu knowledge, dances, bush medicine and songlines are passed on to the next generation with pride, purpose, passion, connection and commitment. The events leave the visitors an impression of a culture rich and powerful and alive.



The joint work of Traditional Owners, ARDS and Outback Spirit Tours provides a special exchange and celebration of Yolŋu culture.

Financial Statements

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for The Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Trading Income			
Sale of goods	2A	2,630	6,057
Cost of goods sold	3A	11,590	-
Gross (loss) / Profit		(8,960)	6,057
Revenue from grants and contributions	2B	4,617,062	4,404,855
Interest	2C	42,402	35,474
Other income	2D	1,196,504	730,245
Total other revenue		5,855,968	5,170,574
Total income		5,847,008	5,176,631
Expenses			
Employee benefit expense	3B	3,824,119	3,242,601
Depreciation and amortisation	3C	100,530	168,980
Other expenses	3D	1,752,766	1,676,585
Total expenses		5,677,415	5,088,166
Surplus from operations		169,593	88,465
Other comprehensive income / (loss)		-	(860,976)
Total comprehensive income / (deficit) for the year		169,593	(722,511)

During FY24 ARDS did a thorough review of all its leases, properties and buildings. Following this review, ARDS discussed with our auditors whether the current accounting treatment of Buildings and Leasehold Improvements met the requirements of AASB16 Leases. Both parties agreed that this was no longer the case, and that ARDS should therefore write off the carrying values of all Buildings and Leasehold Improvements on the properties that ARDS holds the leases on at Nhulunbuy, Winnellie and Galiwin'ku.

Statement of Financial Position As at 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	4,706,325	2,211,124
Trade and other receivables	5	470,750	883,057
Other current assets	6	47,848	52,324
Total current assets		5,224,923	3,146,505
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	7	492,128	592,658
Total non-current assets		492,128	592,658
Total Assets		5,717,051	3,739,163
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	8	583,942	439,959
Income in advance	9	2,283,101	617,945
Provisions	10	167,725	104,876
Total current liabilities		3,034,768	1,162,780
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	10	20,510	84,203
Total non-current liabilities		20,510	84,203
Total Liabilities		3,055,278	1,246,983
Net Assets		2,661,773	2,492,180
Accumulated Funds			
Retained earnings		2,661,773	2,492,180
Total Accumulated Funds		2,661,773	2,492,180

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 2025, 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 material accounting policy information 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 2025 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 Directors 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.

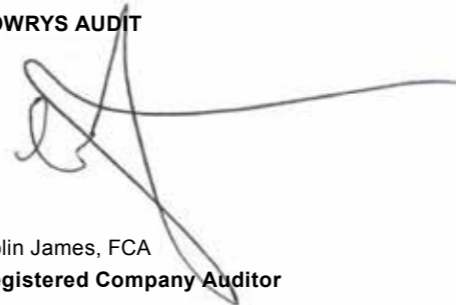
Directors are also responsible for overseeing the Corporation's financial reporting process.

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: http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

LOWRYS AUDIT



Colin James, FCA
Registered Company Auditor

Darwin
Dated: 6 October 2025

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 2024-2025, including:

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anglicare-nt.org.au

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alpa.asn.au

Australia Council for the Arts
creative.gov.au

Australian Government Attorney-General's Department
ag.gov.au

Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications and the Arts; Indigenous Languages and Arts
arts.gov.au

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dss.gov.au

Charles Darwin University
www.cdu.edu.au

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cbf.org.au

Community Justice Centre NT
nt.gov.au/law/processes/mediation/contact-the-community-justice-centre

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eare.com.au

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gongdal.com.au

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livinglanguages.org.au

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National Australia Bank Foundation
nab.com.au

National Disability Insurance Scheme Quality and Safeguards Commission
ndiscommission.gov.au

National Indigenous Australians Agency
niaa.gov.au

Northern Land Council
nlc.org.au

Northern Synod, Uniting Church in Australia
ns.uca.org.au

Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation
aboriginalinvestment.org.au

Northern Territory Attorney General's Department
agd.nt.gov.au

Northern Territory Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet
ccm.nt.gov.au

Northern Territory Department of Children and Families
families.nt.gov.au

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corrections.nt.gov.au

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education.nt.gov.au

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health.nt.gov.au

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ntphn.org.au

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