



Moriarty Foundation 2020-21 Pre-Budget submission.

Key Recommendations

- That the Federal Government partner with the Moriarty Foundation to provide funding of \$6.5 million over three years for the expansion of the Indi Kindi Programme from July 2020 into four new remote/regional Indigenous communities to meet the community expectations and address the ongoing need for early education and health programmes for Aboriginal children (especially under five).

Executive Summary

The Indi Kindi Programme is a successful Aboriginal and locally-led early education and health programme in the Northern Territory that encourages school attendance, supports early childhood development and can break the cycle of entrenched intergenerational disadvantage in remote and regional communities. The Borroloola and Robinson River pilot program has had a 78 per cent attendance of under 5s in nine years of operation.

Further 100 per cent of families whose children attending the Indi Kindi Programme believe it has improved their child's language skills, social skills, confidence and their health and learning.

The Moriarty Foundation seeks to partner with the Federal Government and requests a funding injection to ensure the Indi Kindi Programme can continue to support Aboriginal children into the future by continuing and expanding into four Indigenous communities - Borroloola, Robinson River and Tennant Creek, NT as well as Kuranda, QLD.

As an Indigenous established for-purpose organisation, the Moriarty Foundation works to enable families and communities to unlock their own children's potential through its locally-led programs Indi Kindi and John Moriarty Football. By embracing the Aboriginal worldview, the programs have a proven track-record of radically shifting intergenerational disadvantage.

The child care demand in Tennant Creek appears to be met with a combination of care types as is the experience in most areas. Those with extended family or community networks within the town do have a choice in organising their child care arrangements both formal and informal. New residents probably have less choice in the type of care they can arrange. The remote nature of the town results in a less extensive extended family network close by. This inhibits the options available for child care.

There is no doubt the costs to deliver services in very remote locations of Australia cost significantly more to deliver due to the geographic location of where they are.

What is the Indi Kindi Programme?

Indi Kindi is an early education and health programme for Aboriginal children, specifically targeting children under 5 years of age in remote Australian communities. Indi Kindi integrates health, wellbeing, education and development to give children the best start in life and improve the global readiness of Aboriginal children entering school.

Indi Kindi's three keys to unlock Aboriginal children's potential are:

1. Health and wellbeing;
2. Education & development; and



3. Culture & community.

Indi Kindi is now into its ninth year of continuous delivery and has successfully met all performance and financial reporting requirements under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy agreement.

Guided by feedback from families and local Community Advisory Group, Indi Kindi expanded its delivery model to include supporting the under 5s to improve early years health and wellbeing outcomes. Indi Kindi is currently funded until 30 June 2020 through the Department of Health's Indigenous Australians' Health Program.

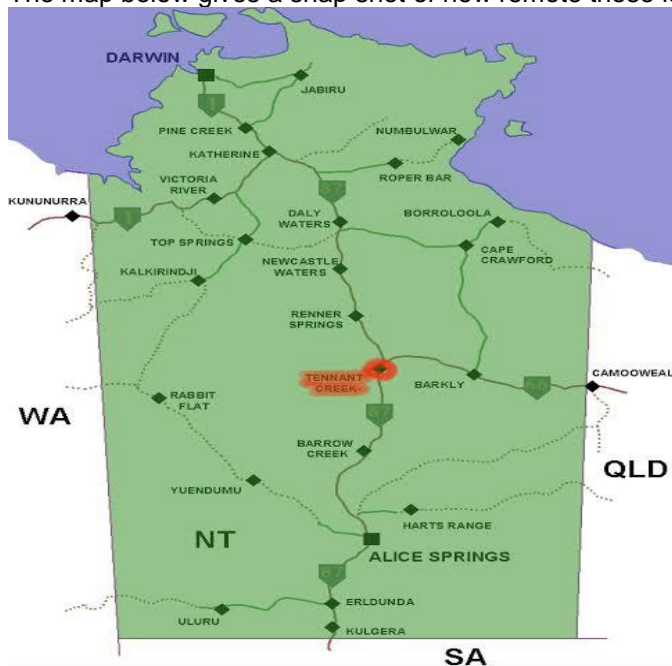
The Community Advisory Group noted "Indi Kindi delivering the sessions at the clinic (is) good for the mums, providing transport (encourages) attendance. Growing the health and wellbeing focus is important and also to continue to build the professional development of the staff"

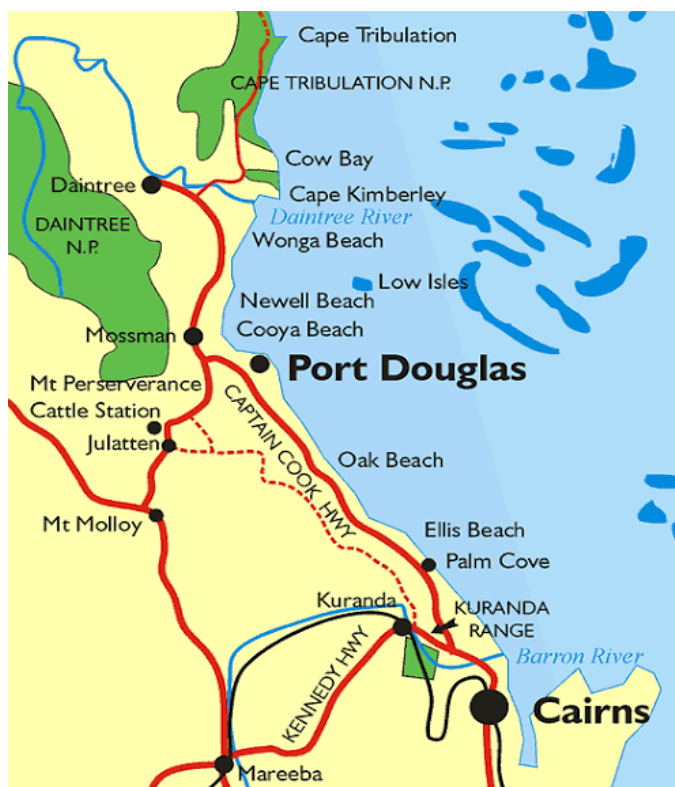
Indi Kindi instigator and elder Jemima Miller Wuwarlu said "I like see them, my grandchildren, go along school every day and learn about white man things, you know. I like see my grandchildren go to university to learn more, so they can help their own people. I telling my grandchildren, go every day along school, so you can learn to read and write."

Local Advisory Group Member Rachel McDiunny said in 2019 "Indi Kindi has to be supported to keep going. We've never had anything like this before in Borrooloola. We don't get anything good like this. All the kids and parents, it's the best thing for them. My little grandson has been there since he was a baby, and he's nearly 3, and he knows the songs, and always sings that barramundi song he learnt at Indi Kindi. And all the kids get excited when they see the Indi Kindi bus. It's good for them, it has to keep going."

The Moriarty Foundation seeks to expand the impacts of the Indi Kindi Programme by continuing to deliver to the children and families in Borrooloola and Robinson River. We also seek to commence new deliveries in the communities of Tennant Creek, NT and Kuranda, QLD. This will dovetail with our sister program, John Moriarty Football (JMF), to target the whole life cycle of the child from 0-16 years. The dual program delivery model of Indi Kindi and JMF has proven its scalability in expanding from the pilot site in Borrooloola to Robinson River.

The map below gives a snap shot of how remote these locations are from any major capital city.





Indi Kindi proposed target and budget

Targets	Borroloola and Robinson River, NT	Tennant Creek, NT	Kuranda, QLD
Number of children attending per year	100	85	120
Number of Indi Kindi sessions per week	5	5	5
Number of locally employed staff	8	7	7

Indi Kindi Program Budget*

	Year 1 (1/7/20-30/6/21)	Year 2 (1/7/21-30/6/22)	Year 3 (1/7/22-30/6/23)	Total
Borroloola & Robinson River, NT	\$800,565	\$800,565	\$800,565	\$2,401,695
NT Expansion – Tennant Creek	\$754,184	\$769,317	\$791,981	\$2,315,483
QLD Expansion - Kuranda	\$754,184	\$769,317	\$791,981	\$2,315,483
Total Program Budget	\$2,308,934	\$2,339,200	\$2,384,528	\$7,032,661
Average donations	(\$150,000)	(\$150,000)	(\$150,000)	(\$450,000)
Funding required	\$2,158,934	\$2,189,200	\$2,234,528	\$6,582,661

² <https://www.google.com/search?q=map+kuranda+queensland&rlz>



Why is the Indi Kindi Programme important?

Indi Kindi is a trusted and proven program, which addresses the 'whole child', tackling social issues and sustainably driving positive outcomes. This is achieved through engaging with the local community and local elders who have a deep understanding of Aboriginal culture.

The Program has been operating since 2012 in the second most remote community in Australia. The community of Borroloola, Northern Territory, is 850kms south east of Darwin. The community of Borroloola has a population of about 1000 people and has experienced some devastating social challenges, consistent with other remote communities. Severe disadvantage and lifelong poverty come from extremely low standards of education, health, housing and employment.

The program is also delivered in Robinson River, 150kms south east of Borroloola, with a population of 300 people.

Indi Kindi has proven its local sustainability through building the personal and professional capacity of local staff to drive the program content and delivery. The model developed by the Moriarty Foundation enables families and the community to take the lead in strengthening the future prospects of their own children.

In 2019, JMF was awarded funding under Indigenous Advancement Strategy and IAHP to expand delivery to a further 16 communities over 3 years. After extensive community consultations with Indigenous Australian organisations and stakeholders - Tennant Creek and Kuranda communities were identified as high need for the Moriarty Foundation's programs.

Since July 2019, JMF has successfully launched in these additional communities. Ongoing consultation with local stakeholders has shown there is demand in these communities for Indi Kindi to deliver a holistic early year's education and health program providing employment and training for local staff.

Bringing together two established and highly successful programs of Indi Kindi and JMF provides a strong framework to deliver aligned and multiple benefits to Aboriginal communities.

Indi Kindi actively supports school attendance through:

- Our attendance policy for enrolled children to attend school/ pre-school as soon as age-eligible;
- Collaborating with pre-school to actively support children and families to attend transition to school programs;
- Further assisting transition of children entering pre-school and school through setting them up for learning success via our unique early learning program with targeted learning objectives in all areas of development;
- Supports local staff in career progression through workplace training and study; and
- Supports youth engagement and school retention providing work experience for senior school students

Benefits of the Indi Kindi Programme

A recent report conducted by PwC on the economic analysis of early childhood education in Australia highlighted that there is increasingly strong evidence base that demonstrates the impact of the early years on outcomes later in life.³

The report also confirms that for every dollar invested into quality early childhood education, \$2.00 is returned over a child's lifetime.⁴

³ https://www.thefrontproject.org.au/images/downloads/ECO_ANALYSIS_Full_Report.pdf

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When the Prime Minister delivered his Closing the Gap address in February 2019, he confirmed that the target to have 95 per cent of Indigenous children in early childhood education by 2025 is on track. He then went on to say that “*the attendance rates for Indigenous children were lower in remote areas – particularly very remote areas – up to 16 percentage points lower than the rates for Indigenous children in other areas. So there is still work to do*”.⁵

Indi Kindi has improved outcomes in all learning areas of development for under 5s and has enabled these children to be school ready:

- Indi Kindi had a 78 per cent attendance of under 5s in Borrooloola and Robinson River communities;
- 100 per cent staff training in Certificate 3 in Early Childhood Education and Care in collaboration with Batchelor Institute as well as supplementary training across first aid, safe food handling, lifesaving accreditation;
- Indi Kindi is delivered 4-5 times per week for over 7 years since 2012;
- Indi Kindi programme applies best practise teaching methodologies that are culturally appropriate;
- The Programme is delivered in a safe and secure environment for children to learn and grow;
- Indi Kindi applies an innovative approach with a focus on an outdoor teaching model designed for young Aboriginal learners which enables movement, freedom and creative expression that is culturally relevant.

In addition, Indi Kindi has delivered health benefits to under 5s including their families via:

- **3000** fresh, home cooked meals served annually, designed by a specialised dietician to cater to the nutritional needs of Indigenous under 5s;
- **Monthly** Indi Kindi sessions located at Borrooloola Health Clinic, coordinated to coincide with key health practitioner visits;
- **Partnership** with Menzies School of Health Research, U5 HealthLAB to co-design the program with community to measure biomedical risk factors for chronic diseases, promote health awareness and practices, and improve the health outlook of the very young;
- **Quarterly** nutrition, health and wellbeing workshops for parents, expectant mothers and community, held in conjunction with Indi kindi sessions;
- **100%** of staff trained across nutrition, safe food handling in collaboration with NT Health;
- **Consultation** with community utilising surveys and public meetings, to highlight four health priorities where Indi Kindi focuses its support for young mothers – how to feed babies, healthy eating for children, how to keep teeth strong and how to control weight;
- **Bi-annual** wellbeing camps for mothers and children; and
- **Increased** physical activity via the development and delivery of Indi Footi in partnership with John Moriarty Football

Risks if the Programme is not continued

Indi Kindi is a community led programme with self determination as its foundation, driving sustainable and independent communities to thrive.

The Indi Kindi programme currently employs local aboriginal women with over 60 per cent reaching 3-5 years of employment.

Without the continued funding to support this programme Aboriginal children and their families will lose out. What this actually means is the local Aboriginal women employed by the Moriarty Foundation who deliver the Indi Kindi Programme will no longer have jobs. This is the only truly community-driven early childhood service in these remote communities that is achieving breakthrough attendance and staff retention, so without Indi Kindi there is no viable alternative.

⁵ <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/statement-house-representatives-closing-gap-2019>



As the Prime Minister rightly said in his Closing the Gap address in 2019, *“I want Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to have the same opportunities as all other children growing up in Australia. But this is not true for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Australia today. It’s never been true. And I don’t know when it will be true. And that is the truth we must confront again today”*.⁶

If Indi Kindi does not secure this support from the Federal Government, we will miss another demonstrably successful opportunity to break the cycle of disadvantage amongst our First Australians and we risk condemning more Aboriginal children in remote communities to a life of poverty.

About the Moriarty Foundation

The Moriarty Foundation was co-founded by Yanyuwa man John Moriarty AM and Ros Moriarty in 2011. The establishment of the Foundation was in direct response to requests from Senior Law Women to improve life outcomes for their grandchildren.

As an Indigenous established for-purpose organisation, the Moriarty Foundation works to enable families and communities to unlock their own children’s potential through its locally-led programs such as Indi Kindi and John Moriarty Football. By embracing the Aboriginal worldview, the programs have a proven track-record of radically shifting intergenerational disadvantage.

Indi Kindi is now into its ninth year of continuous delivery and has successfully met all performance and financial reporting requirements under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy agreement.

The ongoing challenge for the Indi Kindi Programme has not been about the Programme and the delivery of outcomes, but which Government Department is best placed to support the continuation of the Programme – ongoing discussion about this continues with Departments and Ministers Offices.

Contacts

Ros Moriarty
Managing Director and Co-Chair
Moriarty Foundation
Phone: 02 9908 2416
Mobile: 0407 227 873
Email: ros.moriarty@moriartyfoundation.org.au

Fiona Hekking
Director, Indi Kindi
Moriarty Foundation
Phone: 02 9908 2416
Mobile: 0413 310 173
Email: Fiona.hekking@moriartyfoundation.org.au

⁶ <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/statement-house-representatives-closing-gap-2019>