

Larapinta Child and Family Integrated Services Annual Report

January 2020 to December 2020



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Acronyms	Full form
ABS	Australian Bureau Statistics
AEDC	Australian Early Development Census
ARACY	Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth
ASQ-TRAK	Ages and Stages Questionnaire -TRAK
ASTC	Alice Springs Town Council
CAAC	Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
CFC	Child and Family Centre
CYATS	Child Youth Assessment team
ECEC	Early Childhood Education and Care
FaFT	Families as First Teachers
NAIDOC	National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee
NAPCAN	National Association for Prevention of Child abuse and Neglect
NT	Northern Territory
RECIS	Remote Early Childhood and Integrated Services

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Background

The Northern Territory's Child and Family Centres (CFCs) are a focal point for the integration of services supporting children and their families within a community. Six purpose-built child and family centres (CFCs) are currently operating in the Northern Territory at Yuendumu, Maningrida, Ngukurr, Gunbalanya, Larapinta and Palmerston.

CFCs can and do provide services for young children and their families e.g. Families as First Teachers; child care; maternal and child health; etc. but are not 'one stop shops'. Rather they promote and facilitate a community wide 'no wrong door' approach to services for young children and their families.

CFCs foster

- shared understandings and model a collaborative and integrated mindset.
- shared practices that are evidence and outcomes-based, supporting service providers, families and community to reach agreements about aims and outcomes.
- an interdisciplinary teamwork model striving to provide universal core services to all families and children.
- leadership that is relational, effective, inspiring and supportive and able to work across traditional divides.
- co-design that is sensitive and responsive to diversity and to families' and communities' needs and priorities ensuring that families and communities are partners in planning and governance

The CFC Integrated Service paradigm represents authentic community co-design, joined up service provision, sustainable local employment pathways and most of all better education, health and social outcomes for young children.

Child and Family Integrated Services Vision

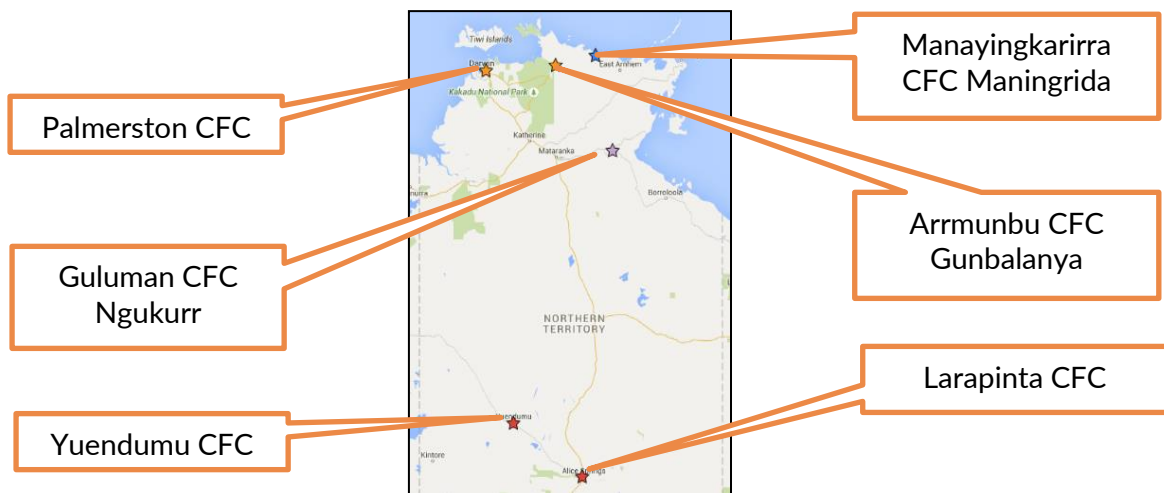
Families and communities support their children, pre-birth to five years of age, to have the best possible start in life and grow to be strong, healthy, safe, confident and capable learners.

Child and Family Integrated Services Mission

To establish a community led, integrated service system focussed on children pre-birth to five years of age and their families

Child and Family Integrated Services Principles:

- Services are centred on the child and family and integrated
- Services and programs understand and privilege the local cultural context
- Services are committed to a long term, evidence informed approach
- Services are committed to prevention and early intervention



Definitions

Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) is a nationwide data collection of early childhood development at the time children commence their first year of full-time school. The AEDC highlights what is working well and what needs to be improved or developed to support children and their families by providing evidence to support health, education and community policy and planning.

ASQ TRAK

The ASQ-TRAK is a developmental screening tool for observing and monitoring the developmental progress of Australian Aboriginal children at 2 months, 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, 24 months, 36 months and 48 months of age.

Child and Family Centre (CFC)

Child and Family Centres are a focal point for the integration of services focussing on children from before birth to 5 and their families within a community. They provide some services for young children and their families e.g. Families as First Teachers; child care; maternal and child health; etc. and connect families and children to other services in a community. CFCs foster:

- Shared understandings - Common principles in all program, policy and practice documents that are embedded in a common philosophy.
- Shared practices - Common evidence and outcomes-based practices across all services, with service providers and families reaching agreements about aims and outcomes characterised by a transdisciplinary teamwork model, universal core services to all families and children, and an inclusive and non-stigmatising approach to programming and planning.
- Leadership - Leaders that are well-trained and supported, effective in their roles, inspiring and supportive of all staff, and able to work across traditional divides.
- Co-design - Families and communities are partners in planning and governance. It is essential that any integrated centre is sensitive and responsive to diversity and to families' and communities' needs and priorities.

Child and Family Integrated Service

The CFC Integrated Service is model of authentic community co-design, joined up service provision, sustainable local employment pathways and most of all better education, health and social outcomes for young children. The CFC Integrated Service Model operates on the following principles:

- Services are centred on the child and family and integrated
- Services and programs understand and privilege the local cultural context
- Services are committed to prevention and early intervention
- Services are committed to a long term, evidence informed approach

Chronic Health Issues

The terms chronic disease, preventable chronic diseases, chronic conditions, long term disease/conditions are commonly used interchangeably. In this report the term 'chronic health issues' is used to refer to conditions that are influenced by the underlying social determinants of health that are largely preventable, and if addressed can minimise the onset of chronic conditions – please refer to the NTG [Chronic Conditions Prevention and Management Strategy 2010-2020](#)¹.

Collective Impact

CFCs have adopted a modern Collective Impact approach with the CFC being the 'Back bone & Container for Change' through which 'Continuous Communication & Community Engagement' supports the identification and articulation of a 'Common Agenda & Community Aspiration' and encourages 'Mutually reinforcing & High Leverage Activities' and 'Shared Measurement & Strategic Learning'² across all service providers.

- **Common Agenda & Community Aspiration**
 - A community led vision of a better future for children.
- **Back Bone & Container for Change**
 - A team or individuals that mobilise stakeholders, demonstrate leadership, cultivate trust and empathy, facilitate change and sustain the process.
- **Shared Measurement & Strategic Learning**
 - A learning and evaluation process that provides real time feedback and robust processes for sense making and decision making.
- **Continuous Communication & Community Engagement**
 - authentic and inclusive involvement of a broad spectrum of stakeholders, particularly those most affected.
- **Mutually Reinforcing & High Leverage Activities**
 - Both mutual and independent activities that are adaptable, enable innovation and provide opportunities for change.

Cultural Identity

Cultural identity refers to a feeling of belonging to a group. It is part of a person's self-conception and self-perception and is related to nationality, ethnicity, religion, social class, generation, locality or any kind of social group that has its own distinct culture. In this way, cultural identity is both characteristic of the individual but also of the group sharing the same cultural identity.

¹ <http://digitallibrary.health.nt.gov.au/prodjsui/handle/10137/535>

² Tamarack Institute https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/316071/Events/Multi-Day%20Events/Community%20Change%20Institute%20-%20CCI/2016%20CCI%20Toronto/CCI_Publications/Collective_Impact_3.0_FINAL_PDF.pdf

FaFT

Families as First Teachers program.

Formal Qualification

A qualification recognised under the Australian Qualification Framework for Education and Training.

Learning and Development Activities

Formal and informal activities that support the learning and development of children

Quality Formal Early Learning Programs

Quality Formal Early Learning Programs are planned and regular program delivered by qualified staff utilising recognized curriculum and evidence based practices.

Collaborative Change Cycle

CFC Integrated Services are using the [Collaborative Change Cycle](#) developed by Collaboration for Impact³ to monitor and inform progress toward service integration.

The Collaborative Change Cycle articulates five interlinked phases of work each providing guidance and resources - the readiness runway; building the foundations for change; creating a shared vision for change; scaling up for systems change; and achieving transformation.



Each phase incorporates four layers, each of which plays an important part in achieving and sustaining real progress. These are leadership, collaboration, community, measurement and innovation.

NT Child and Family Outcomes Framework

² Collaboration for Impact (CFI) is Australia's leading organisation for learning *how to* respond to complexity through effective collaboration. <http://www.collaborationforimpact.com>

The Northern Territory Child and Family Outcomes Framework identifies six outcomes to measure and understand the progress, and impacts of integrated service delivery across the Northern Territory. An outcomes based approach enables integrated services to understand their impact on children, families and communities, and the real value families receive from services and programs provided, including developing a better understanding of the vulnerabilities and strengths for children and their families in community.

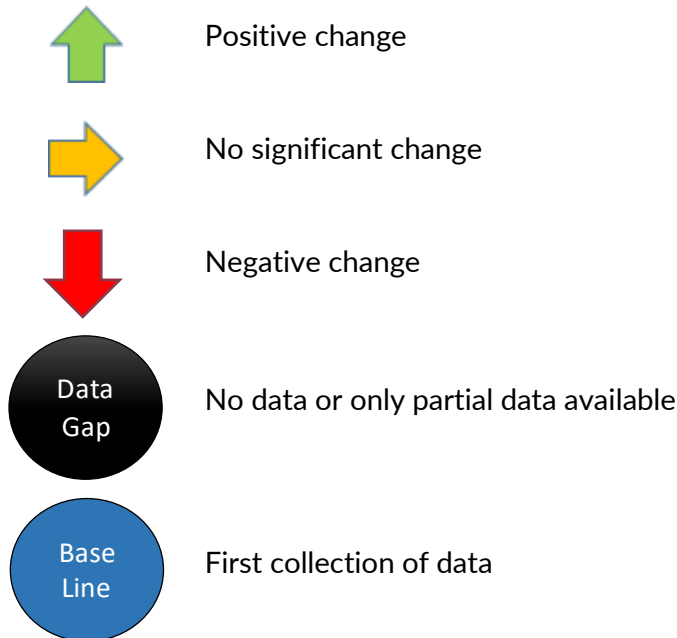
The NT Child and Family Outcomes Framework identifies objectives, strategies and actions under each outcome. It also describes the performance indicators which will enable communities and the system to determine whether the strategies and actions are improving outcomes for children and families in each of the key areas.

Each site has developed a *place based outcomes framework* that aligns with the overarching NT Child and Family Outcomes Framework. These Place Based Outcomes Frameworks acknowledge that every community is unique and may have different needs. They can also be used to addresses fragmentation and duplication of services, in order to foster more efficient use of resources and build better connections in improving access to services for families.

The Place Based Outcomes Framework will assist integrated services to fulfil the vision, objectives and strategies that underpin integrated service delivery and will use both formal and informal measuring tools to collate both qualitative and quantitative data.

The outcomes data will be used to measure the impact of change, determine which services are most needed, identify what services and programs are directly making an impact and ensure, where possible, resources and funding are not being duplicated.

The individual child and family centre reports below use the following symbols to demonstrate the progress against the outcomes in each community/ integrated service.



CHILD AND FAMILY INTEGRATED SERVICE

LARAPINTA

Alice Springs Background

Larapinta Child and Family Centre (CFC) is situated in the suburb of Larapinta, within the diverse community of Alice Springs. This report captures data, case stories and narrative at two levels of 'community'.

The first level is the Larapinta Early Learning Community within the Larapinta suburb. Larapinta CFC is part of an early learning community including Larapinta Primary School, Larapinta Preschool and Larapinta Early Learning Centre. This level will provide a snapshot of the integrated service delivery and outcomes for families and children with direct contact with Larapinta CFC. However, it is important to note that some families who have contact with Larapinta CFC do not live in Larapinta, some data sources tell a story of the Larapinta suburb, and Larapinta CFC does not have direct contact with all families living in Larapinta.

The second level is the whole community of Alice Springs. Larapinta CFC is part of Child Friendly Alice which fosters the collaboration of services for a more cohesive and connected approach across Alice Springs. Child Friendly Alice strives for change at a systemic level to achieve long-term, sustained improvement in outcomes for children and families.

An important note: 2020 has been an extraordinary year. The COVID-19 global pandemic presented challenges we have not previously experienced. Larapinta CFC remained operational at all times, however our ability to function 'normally' was significantly compromised. From late March to early July, very few families visited our family centre and most of our partner services were not engaging in face-to-face contact with families and children. Much of our work is about bringing families, community and other services together to work in partnership and this was not possible for a large part of the year. Momentum was lost in significant areas of work that Larapinta CFC and Child Friendly Alice had identified as priorities for action.

Alice Springs Community Vision

Larapinta Child and Family Centre is committed to contributing to the enhanced wellbeing of all 0-5 children in Alice Springs by 2030.

Child Friendly Alice has a shared vision for every child in Alice Springs to have the best possible start in life, and to grow up happy, healthy and strong. Child Friendly Alice is a community collaboration; a place based approach to community action. Child Friendly Alice aspires for a whole of community commitment to population level change for children and families in Alice Springs. <https://childfriendlyalice.org.au/>

Alice Springs Community Population

The population of Alice Springs is 24,753 according to the 2016 ABS general census.

From April, 2020, under COVID-19 health advice and 'Return to Country' initiatives, it is likely population fluctuated throughout the remainder of 2020.

Number of children

There are 2185 children aged 0-5 years in Alice Springs (ABS, 2016)⁴. 492 of the 2185 children are Indigenous (ABS, 2016).

Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (CAAC)⁵ reports over 880 Indigenous children aged 0-5 year in Alice Springs. The accuracy of data sources is likely to be impacted primarily by the high mobility of families, making it difficult to set agreed baselines for population level change.

	0 - 1 (0)	1 - 2 (1)	2 - 3 (2)	3 - 4 (3)	4 - 5 (4)	5-6 (5)	Total ⁶
All	374	365	341	364	366	377	2185
Male	191	200	182	177	175	181	1110
Female	181	166	151	184	195	190	1066
Indigenous	82	86	75	80	76	91	492
Non Indigenous	244	251	229	244	255	253	1472
Indigenous status not stated	49	31	30	43	34	36	222

Alice Springs Collective Impact

Back Bone & Container for Change

- An increased number of Aboriginal people participated in both the Child Friendly Alice Backbone Group and the Advisory Group in 2020.
- Larapinta CFC Integrated Services Leader and Aboriginal Coordinator continue to take a strong role in the Child Friendly Alice Backbone, Advisory and a number of other working groups.

⁴ ABS, 2016: General Community Profile, Alice Springs (T) (LGA 70200)

⁵ Data provided to Connected Beginnings in June 2018 by Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (CAAC)

⁶ The data provided is from the ABS. The following note accompanied the data: Please note that there are small random adjustments made to all cell values to protect the confidentiality of data. These adjustments may cause the sum of rows or columns to differ by small amounts from table totals.

- A significant focus on the communications role within the Backbone Group has facilitated strong communication of collaborative effort by Child Friendly Alice partners, enabled wide sharing of Alice Springs community aspirations and data using the Community Profile, and promoted the common vision of Child Friendly Alice.
- New Working Groups have been established and now include: Transport, Food Security, Early Learning Services, Evaluation, Health and Preschool, Workforce Development, Aboriginal Employees Leadership and Parenting Support (and Early Intervention on the agenda for 2021). With ambitious agendas and targets, progress is slow, however leaders from the Advisory Group have demonstrated ongoing commitment to these as significant priority areas.
- Connected Beginnings have funded an early intervention role within Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (CAAC) to coordinate early intervention support across all agencies.

Common Agenda & Community Aspiration

- A Child Friendly Alice 'Plan on a Page' was delivered to Advisory Group capturing aligned work under the ARACY Nest Framework Areas of Wellbeing confirming this as the common framework to describe our collective effort.
- Child Friendly Alice is recognised as a place of advocacy and a representative group with expertise and diversity that warrants consultation about key issues affecting children and families in Alice Springs.
- Despite COVID-19 restrictions the momentum of Advisory Group meetings were maintained with a clear foci on highlighting the shared vision of Child Friendly Alice, the population level data, community aspirations (from the Community Profile) that drive our collective focus, and what we are currently doing together to improve things for children and families in Alice Springs. This common agenda was further reinforced by the Place Based Evaluation workshop in November.
- The Child Friendly Alice Workforce Development Working Group brought key stakeholders together to review the data, identify key issues and confirm a shared vision for what needed to change (in terms of increasing Aboriginal employment and leadership in the child and family sector in Alice Springs). Ambitious goals were confirmed that were not possible to achieve with business as usual. The current reality is recognised as challenging and complex making next steps difficult to define. The group has recognised the need for higher level leadership.

Shared Measurement & Strategic Learning

- All Working Group reports, sharing of collaborative effort and communications are aligned to the ARACY Nest Framework Areas of Wellbeing and reference data, and community aspirations from the Community Profile.
- Specific data around preschool enrolment and participation of Aboriginal children in Alice Springs is increasingly shared with Aboriginal Controlled Organisations, Department of Education and other non-Government agencies working together to increase the participation of Aboriginal children in preschool.
- Using Community Profile data to regularly reflect to all stakeholders a more holistic community level data rather than programmatic data or outputs data.
- Child Friendly Alice partners participated in a one day Place Based Evaluation workshop (see Measurement pg. 11 for more information).

















Continuous Communication & Community Engagement

- Larapinta CFC continued consultation in the Lyndavale Park redevelopment process with extensive engagement and participation with families and community members. Due to ongoing interruptions with COVID-19 restrictions, and with the lengthy processes required by the Alice Springs Town Council, works did not commence and the park redevelopment will be completed in 2021.
- The Child Friendly Alice website has been revamped and improved to be a communications hub for agencies and the community (<https://childfriendlyalice.org.au/>). A monthly e-bulletin also keeps services and the wider community informed of events, training, information, research and the collaborative effort to support children and families in Alice Springs.
- The Aboriginal Employees Leadership Group was formed by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal people to amplify the voices of Aboriginal people working in children and family services in Alice Springs.

Mutually Reinforcing Activities & High Leverage Activities

- Eight Working Groups ensure diverse stakeholders and key agencies share data, information, strategies and work together on problem solving the core priority areas of focus for Child Friendly Alice.
- In Workforce Development, Akeyulerre and Larapinta CFC Young Fathers collaborated on supporting young men, Children's Ground trialled Certificate in Family Wellbeing and Larapinta CFC engaged an Arrernte trainer for an uncertified Work and Life Study Group.
- The Early Learning Service Working Group brings together an extensive cross sectorial group of agencies involved in the delivery of early learning services and has developed a strategy with seven core priorities.
- Child Friendly Alice coordinated events for Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Children's Day and Children's Week to ensure a strategic purpose.
- The Transport Working Group worked together to resolve a problem of access by sourcing funding for a preschool bus service.

Alice Springs Collaborative Change Cycle Progress

	LEADERSHIP	COLLABORATION	COMMUNITY	MEASUREMENT	INNOVATION*
Achieving transformation					
Scaling up					
Creating a shared vision	 	 		 	
Building the Foundations			 		
Readiness Runway					

2018



2019



2020



Leadership

The Chair of the Child Friendly Alice Advisory Group is a Tangentyere Council (Aboriginal Controlled Organisation) Manager. With over 22 organisations (Aboriginal Controlled Organisations, non-Government and Government) and an increasing representation of Aboriginal voices, members of Child Friendly Alice Advisory Group have built trust and respect, are aligned around a common purpose, have a greater understanding of the perspectives of other stakeholders and are committed to the aspirations and potential of Child Friendly Alice and achieving better outcomes together for children and families in Alice Springs.

Leaders from Larapinta Early Learning community meet eight times a year. This year, three priority areas have been identified for growth and development; transitioning, cultural competency and inclusion.

Collaboration

There is increasing agreement across Child Friendly Alice partners that collaboration is required and there is an ongoing willingness to come together. The Child Friendly Alice 'Plan on a Page' and the Place Based Evaluation workshop provided opportunities for more detail on the scope, focus and common goals of Child Friendly Alice. The Child Friendly Alice Backbone Group continues to take a comprehensive coordination role, in conjunction with the leadership group(s) and working groups.

Larapinta CFCs ongoing partnership with Tangentyere Corporation has strengthened with a further two year funding partnership, with a focus on Early Learning, as well as a partnership with the Tangentyere Women's Safety Group on collaborating in the development of the 'Girls Can Boys Can' Project (a second phase after a successful Mums Can Dads Can Project targeting gender equity and family violence). Examples of strong collaboration have been more visible for Child Friendly Alice partners, including the collaborative, cross agency community response to address COVID-19.

Community

Community aspirations, including the voice of children, has been strongly represented in the work of Child Friendly Alice this year by referencing the Community Profile in all collaborative work. Aboriginal Controlled Organisations, Children's Ground, Larapinta CFC and other Child Friendly Alice partners have evidence of strong, authentic engagement with Aboriginal families and community members 'on the ground' at the program delivery level. There has also been an increased number of Aboriginal people on the Backbone and the Advisory Groups, and the Aboriginal Employees Leadership Group (by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal people in child and family services in Alice Springs) has been initiated.

Nevertheless, the involvement of family and community members in working groups and in leading action and change is limited mostly to Aboriginal employees within the system. The ambition to work in partnership with community members to co-create an Early Childhood movement has not yet eventuated. COVID-19 restrictions and related community nervousness made face-to-face gatherings impossible for four to six months of the year. Ongoing community participation and leadership remains a priority for 2021 with a collective recognition of the importance of partnering with people from across the community in setting priorities for change.

Measurement

All working group updates, Advisory Group meetings and broader communications and marketing have used the ARACY Nest Framework Areas of Wellbeing, along with the baseline population level data and community voice from the Child Friendly Alice Community Profile (available for download on the Child Friendly Alice website <https://childfriendlyalice.org.au/resources/>). Using qualitative and quantitative local data in this way is steadily building an evidence based culture, a shared narrative about the state of outcomes for children in Alice Springs and a focus on the agreed priority areas for action.

Data and resources were shared across Aboriginal Controlled Organisations and NT Government Departments to focus on resolving a transport issue preventing a number of Aboriginal children from accessing Preschool. A Transport Working Group was established and the outcome was the establishment of a Preschool Transport service.

Child Friendly Alice partners joined together for a one day Place Based Evaluation workshop (led by a local Clear Horizons consultant and assisted by a cross sector design team). Services, projects and programs from all Child Friendly Alice partners were mapped against the ARACY Nest Framework Areas of Wellbeing and common principles of practice drafted. The beginnings of a detailed Theory of Change was developed and Child Friendly Alice Partners have committed to ongoing work to develop a Child Friendly Alice Place Based Evaluation Framework in 2021, with a newly formed Evaluation Working Group to progress this with the view for a second workshop to be held in June 2021.

Innovation

Amongst service deliverers and community members, there is a sense that things are not working as well as they should be. There is also an awareness of the complexity of the challenges and a commitment to work together to improve the system.

The Child Friendly Alice Backbone Group developed a reporting structure for the working groups that ensured the Advisory Group received detailed information about the specific areas of work, the relevant data (including community aspirations) and the challenges, as well as successful actions partner agencies were undertaking and advice for next steps. This process activated the leadership of the Advisory Group members to develop a deeper awareness of the complexities and what is being done, as well as invite their expertise and advice in developing future action and resolving issues.

The Child Friendly Alice E-bulletin shares successes, information and highlights collaborative, partnered work across the child and family service system in Alice Springs. The monthly communication is framed with the ARACY Nest Framework Areas of Wellbeing and includes relevant data (including community aspirations) from the Community Profile. This regular sharing of effort across Alice Springs reinforces our common areas of focus and the vision and values that we share for children and families in Alice Springs.

Australian Early Development Census 2018 Profile



1 in 6 children vulnerable in 2 or more domains



Proportion of children who were developmentally vulnerable by domain







Domain	2018	Domain icon	Description
Physical health and wellbeing	12.3%		Children's physical readiness for the school day, physical independence and gross and fine motor skills.
Social competence	8%		Children's overall social competence, responsibility and respect, approach to learning and readiness to explore new things.
Emotional maturity	9.7%		Children's pro-social and helping behaviours and absence of anxious and fearful behaviour, aggressive behaviour and hyperactivity and inattention.
Language and cognitive skills (school-based)	11.7%		Children's basic literacy, interest in literacy, numeracy and memory, advanced literacy and basic numeracy.
Communication skills and general knowledge	9.7%		Children's communication skills and general knowledge based on broad developmental competencies and skills measured in the school context.

Community trend of vulnerability on two or more domains

	2009	2012	2015	2018
Larapinta	N.A.	13.7%	22.8%	9.1%
Alice Springs	38.5%	14%	12.5%	14.9%

Over a quarter of Alice Springs children commence school vulnerable in one or more domain (AEDC, 2018).

Larapinta Child and Family Integrated Service Outcomes Progress

Measurable Change	OUTCOME 1: All children are strong, healthy, confident and capable learners and reach their full potential
 CFC & Alice Springs	% of children 0-5 are diagnosed with anaemia
 CFC	40% - 60% of children 0-5 have participated in all standard health screening
 Alice Springs	% of children 0-5 have participated in all standard health screening
 CFC & Alice Springs	% of children 0-5 display faltering growth
 CFC	40% - 60% of children are developmentally on track in the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (TRAK) domains: of Communication, Gross Motor, Fine motor, Problem solving and Personal-social
 Alice Springs	% of children are developmentally on track in the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (TRAK) domains: of Communication, Gross Motor, Fine motor, Problem solving and Personal-social

Outcome 1: Community Narrative

There has been an increase in collaboration across services supporting the early intervention and transitioning of Aboriginal children and children requiring additional support in Alice Springs.

Larapinta Early Learning Community (Larapinta Primary School, Preschool, Family Centre and Early Learning Centre) staff meet regularly and work together to ensure a number of children and families receive the support they need to transition from home to FaFT, to Preschool, the Early Learning Centre and to Primary School. Staff and families collaborate to ensure children with additional needs receive assessments, therapeutic intervention and support planning. The collaborative effort includes additional

services such as Child Development Team (Health Department), Child Youth Assessment team (CYATS) and Preschool Readiness Program, NT Hearing, Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (CAAC) and the Department of Education Student Support Team.

As part of the Child Friendly Alice Health and Preschool Working Group, Connected Beginnings and CAAC have worked very closely with Department of Education personnel to increase the communication, information sharing and processes to identify and track preschool age children to increase enrolments and participation. This led to the development of a cross-sectorial Transport Working Group which organised a transport service for preschool age children.



The Early Learning Services Working Group (Child Friendly Alice) includes Tangentyere Aboriginal Council, CAAC, Children's Ground, Larapinta Child and Family Centre, Connected Beginnings Learning with Families (DoE) and Stay Play Learn (DoE) has a seven priority strategy focused on improving the early learning services, increasing Aboriginal children and families' enrolment, and participation in early learning.



A range of Government, non-Government and Aboriginal Controlled services are collaborating to enhance transitioning for young children in Alice Springs.

Congress, Connected Beginnings and other services formed a Transport Working Group and sourced funding to create a Preschool Bus service to increase access for a number of children.



Measurable Change	OUTCOME 2: All children have a strong cultural identity (measured by community survey)
 CFC	Greater than 80% of families indicate that their 0-5 children have a strong cultural identity
 Alice Springs	% of families indicate that their 0-5 children have a strong cultural identity

Outcome 2: Community Narrative

Larapinta CFC has placed temporary signs to acknowledge the traditional owners and Arrernte Country on all entrance and exit gates. After feedback from families visiting the CFC, permanent signs for all gates will be fitted in 2021. In consultation with families we have co-created plans to develop the CFC front entrance and garden with visible signage in the Arrernte language, and a bush food and medicine garden that identifies plants and their cultural significance. The works will be completed in 2021 in collaboration with Aboriginal families and local Aboriginal Organisations.

Larapinta CFC acknowledged and celebrated Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week by inviting Aboriginal families and organisations for a number of activities and events. The Early Learning Centre children provided an Acknowledgement of Country, banners were co-created, cultural food was cooked and shared and painting sessions were held. Aboriginal families have shared with CFC staff that they feel their language and culture is respected at Larapinta CFC.

Child Friendly Alice collaborated with over 20 agencies to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Day. Take home packs were co-designed and packed by a number of services and many fun activities were organised for children. The focus was on sharing and celebrating the language and culture of Aboriginal children and their families. Feedback from the event was overwhelmingly positive and there are plans to make this an annual event in order to promote and celebrate positive, strength based stories of local Aboriginal children's culture and language. Three videos of the event were created and shared throughout the community (one of the videos can be viewed here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKRfUgiLa6U&feature=youtu.be>)








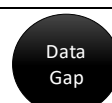
During 2020 there has been an ongoing conversation at many levels about cultural competency. Larapinta Early Learning Community (Preschool, School, Family Centre and Early Learning Centre) identified cultural competency as one of three priority areas and are committed to enhancing the cultural competency of our services. The Child Friendly Alice Early Learning Services Group has developed a strategy with seven core priorities, one of which is improving the cultural competency of early learning services in Alice Springs. In 2021, there is commitment from a number of agencies to pursue cultural competency professional learning and working in partnership with local Aboriginal people and organisations to develop ongoing resources and processes to ensure cultural safety, address racism and increase the cultural competency of child and family services in Alice Springs.





Organisations across Alice Springs collaborated to host a family day for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day.



Larapinta Child and Family Centre celebrate important cultural events such as NAIDOC and Reconciliation Week with family events and activities to celebrate the language and culture of Aboriginal people.

Measurable Change	OUTCOME 3: All families are strong and empowered as partners in their children's learning and development
 CFC	Greater than 80% of families implement learning and development activities (inclusive of all non-formal environments)
 Alice Springs	% of families implement learning and development activities (inclusive of all non-formal environments)
 CFC	Greater than 80% of families would seek assistance if they needed it
 Alice Springs	% of families would seek assistance if they needed it
 CFC	Greater than 80% of families indicate that they understand their children's learning and development needs
 Alice Springs	% of families indicate that they understand their children's learning and development needs
 CFC	Relevant staff indicate that 40% - 60% of parents understand their children's learning and development needs
 Alice Springs	Relevant staff indicate that % of parents understand their children's learning and development needs

 CFC	60% - 80% of families report an increased capacity to understand and manage the needs of their family
 Alice Springs	% of families report an increased capacity to understand and manage the needs of their family

Outcome 3: Community Narrative

Larapinta CFC has connected with over 150 families in 2020. A significant number of these families (approximately 65) have attended the Families as First Teachers (FaFT) program. At the end of 2020, 41 children are enrolled in the FaFT program with 14 additional children who attend preschool, continuing to access the FaFT program (and other CFC) support. The FaFT program ensures a daily, visible focus on child development in multiple and varied ways. All CFC staff focus conversations with families on the developmental needs of their children. FaFT staff work with families to understand the developmental milestones and all activities, events, communications (verbal, written and digital, including photos) are narrated and annotated with reference to child development.

As a result of COVID-19 restrictions, CFC staff increased outreach to families significantly. Extensive home visits and the delivery of take-home packs (including books, learning games, hygiene packs and stationary) took place. CFC staff also supported families with ensuring food security and ongoing access to mental health and wellbeing support via phone calls and home visits. Larapinta staff implemented the Seesaw App across the Larapinta Early Learning precinct. This is a two way communication app allowing parents and staff to communicate learning tasks and provide each other with feedback and information about the children's development. The CFC Facebook page was also used to communicate health and hygiene messages as well as regular ideas and support around children's growth and development.

Families engaging with Larapinta CFC report that they feel better connected to services, their children have shown developmental gains, they do things at home to support their children's development and growth and that they have a good understanding of their children's learning and developmental needs. Approximately 65% of families visiting Larapinta CFC are Aboriginal, and approximately 90% of all families experience multiple life challenges (such as poverty, housing and food insecurity, physical and mental health issues, domestic violence, and/or substance misuse issues).

The Young Fathers and Young Mothers programs have enrolled a total of 15 young parents in 2020 with informal contact with many more young parents. The Young Parents program has offered an 18 week 'Work and Life Study Group' (delivered by a local Arrernte trainer), a three day First Aid for Children and Babies, a Centre of Technology short course, assistance in obtaining Driver's Licenses and participation in the 'Girls Can Boys Can' Project with Tangentyere Aboriginal Council. The local Aboriginal radio station, CAAMA radio, captured the Young Fathers Coordinator discussing the intent of the program:

<https://caama.com.au/news/2020/young-fathers-and-mothers-group>

The Parent Support Working Group (first convened by Child Friendly Alice in late 2019) is a group of services and agencies responsible for multiple parenting support programs in Alice Springs. The group met early in 2020 and coordinated 'Reframing Parenting Messages' professional learning for service providers. The research and the professional learning assisted service providers to improve messaging and communication with families by placing the emphasis on child development. As a result of the workshop,

many services developed stronger communication materials for their programs. Member organisations also participated in this year's NAPCAN Child Protection Week event with Tangentyere Aboriginal Corporation and Larapinta CFC sharing how they are working together with community members to co-create messages about gender equity and reducing family violence.



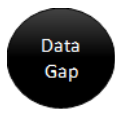




Families are supported by Larapinta CFC staff to learn about their children's developmental growth and needs.



Young Fathers and Young Mothers engage in a weekly 'Work and Life Study Group'.

Young Father's Program participants prepare their lunch for an Automotive Course.



Measurable Change	OUTCOME 4: All families have a voice and are active partners in the integrated services
 CFC & Alice Springs	% of families not currently engaged are represented in engagement activities
 CFC	60% - 80% of families are active partners in programs and services
 Alice Springs	% of families are active partners in programs and services
 CFC	20% - 40% of families believe that they contribute to decision making
 Alice Springs	% of families believe that they contribute to decision making

Outcome 4: Community Narrative

In 2020, Larapinta CFC has continued to collaborate with local Aboriginal Larapinta residents to finalise plans for the re-development of Lyndavale Park. The park is located close to the Larapinta CFC and we have hosted over 40 activities including many Playgroups in the Park and family events over the past two and a half years. This year we held a number of community meetings and events at the park, and door knocked and letter box dropped the local area to ensure extensive community involvement. A final plan for the park was confirmed by the many families who have been closely involved for 18 months, in consultation with a local Landscape Architect and in partnership with Alice Springs Town Council (ASTC). Due to delays with COVID-19 restrictions (making activities, events, gatherings and consultation difficult during the most optimal weather between April and August) and the time constraints with ASTC procedures, we expect final approval and works to commence in 2021.

Families directly involved with Larapinta CFC overwhelmingly reported feeling safe, comfortable and respected at the CFC and believe they are active partners in the Centre. One Aboriginal family member

offered to paint a small family sign and took it home. It was returned the next day and is displayed as a symbol of the inclusivity and respect our Centre is renowned for.

Larapinta CFC's work with Tangentyere Aboriginal Council with a focus on Early Learning has strengthened with a partnership agreement confirming a further two years funding via the CFC Family and Children Fund. Tangentyere Early Learning team have been working alongside families to create regular family-led playgroups onsite in Alice Springs Town Camps. Larapinta CFC staff have assisted in this where directed by families and Tangentyere staff. Tangentyere Council have also undertaken a comprehensive survey of many families living in Town Camps. This is broader than an early years focus and began during the initial COVID-19 lockdowns in April. The data and information gathered will continue to inform Tangentyere's efforts to support families living in Town Camps and Tangentyere have committed to sharing this information with partner organisations they work alongside.





Larapinta CFC staff and local Larapinta residents work together to develop plans for Lyndavale Park development.



A family member offered to paint the family sign.



Larapinta CFC staff work in partnership with Tangentyere Early Learning Team to host playgroups for families living in Town Camps.

Measurable Change	OUTCOME 5: Community voice informs service provision in the integrated service (broader community e.g. Aboriginal organisations, employees with lived experience in that community, respected community members, local government)
 CFC & Alice Springs	% of the community think their community is child friendly
 CFC & Alice Springs	Level of decision making input/ governance for local groups, organisations and/or local community members

Outcome 5: Community Narrative

A proposal from Aboriginal staff from Connected Beginnings and Larapinta Child and Family Centre to form the Aboriginal Employees Leadership Group was endorsed by the Child Friendly Alice Advisory Group in late 2019. The concept was strongly supported, particularly by local Aboriginal Controlled Organisations. The group is being coordinated by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal people who are currently employed in the Child and Family services in Alice Springs. The intent is to ensure the voice of Aboriginal people in finding solutions for Alice Springs Aboriginal families and their children. The group has met a number of times late this year and the leaders of the group have also met with a range of agency leaders to gain ongoing support.

Larapinta Child and Family Centre were invited by Tangentyere Women's Safety group to collaborate on the second phase of their primary prevention work in Family Violence. The 'Girls Can Boys Can' Project is working with community to challenge gender stereotypes that can contribute to family violence. Led by Tangentyere Aboriginal Council and also in partnership with the Equity Institute, we have assisted with over 45 surveys of local Aboriginal community members and a number of two way learning workshops with Aboriginal families and their children. We are collaborating with Aboriginal families to co-create messages and early childhood resources that will be shared with the community in 2021.

Child Friendly Alice is committed to Building an Early Childhood movement and has shared and drafted plans for this with a range of community members and agencies. Tangentyere Aboriginal Corporation and Larapinta Child and Family Centre are leading this work together. The intent is to have a three phased approach to building awareness and understanding across the Alice Springs community about the importance of the early years and work with community members to co-create messages.

The first phase will develop and share positive, strength based messages about family life, babies and children in Alice Springs. A number of Aboriginal employees from a range of organisations have met and developed conversation frameworks and in 2021 will host conversations with families from across town to gather stories that will then be shaped into multi-media messages and shared across a range of platforms. An early example of this work can be found on the new Child Friendly Alice website <https://childfriendlyalice.org.au/little-children-are-future-leaders/>

The second phase will be families and communities coming together with early childhood professionals to share knowledge about child development, brain science, the first thousand days, trauma and healing, and work together to co-create messages to share with the broader community.

Finally, community members and early learning service providers will share information about the benefits of early learning and co-create messages for the broader community about the services, programs available for children and families in Alice Springs.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions earlier in the year, this project was difficult to commence due to the need to bring people together who are in high risk health categories. Efforts will resume in 2021.



ABORIGINAL EMPLOYEES LEADERSHIP GROUP

**ARE YOU MOTIVATED FOR CHANGE?
DO YOU WANT TO WORK TOGETHER TO
IMPROVE SERVICES FOR YOUNG
PEOPLE IN ALICE SPRINGS?**

Working together we will share advice, news, stories, resources, and concerns. We will support each other's work, and celebrate the achievements of our fellow Aboriginal employees in Alice Springs.






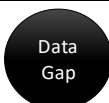
We are working towards a strong, proud Aboriginal workforce, with the ultimate aim of improving the well-being of local children and families. The group will value add to your everyday working life.

Our meetings will be monthly. We hope to bring together people who have a desire for change and action. Over time we will strengthen our relationships and the group will grow.

Please get in touch if this is of interest to you or anyone you know.



Contact: Marly Wells 8958 5185 / marly.wells1@ntschoools.net
or Becky Mack 0448 163 664 / becky.mack@ntschoools.net

Measurable Change	OUTCOME 6 : A strong Aboriginal workforce enables sustainable local communities
 CFC	20% - 40% of employees across all service providers are Aboriginal
 Alice Springs	% of employees across all service providers are Aboriginal
 CFC	40% - 60% of Aboriginal employees have formal qualifications
 Alice Springs	% of Aboriginal employees have formal qualifications
 CFC	0 - 20% of Aboriginal employees are actively working towards a relevant formal qualification
 Alice Springs	% of Aboriginal employees are actively working towards a relevant formal qualification

Outcome 6: Community Narrative

The Workforce Development Working Group formed early in 2020 after endorsement from the Child Friendly Alice Advisory Group in late 2019. The aim of the group is to increase the employment and leadership of Aboriginal people in the children and families service sector in Alice Springs. Representatives from a range of agencies (including Aboriginal Controlled Organisations, non-Government and Government) met a number of times and contributed to a comprehensive situational analysis and plan using a 'program logic' approach. It is also anticipated that the newly formed Aboriginal Employees Leadership Group will take a lead role in informing the direction of the Workforce Development Working Group in 2021.

Akeyulerre, Lutheran Community Care, Children's Ground and Larapinta Child and Family Centre continued to meet to explore training options for Aboriginal staff and community members' accessing their programs. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, training options were further limited in Alice Springs throughout 2020. Children's Ground contracted Batchelor to deliver the Family Wellbeing Certificate II training (the other organisations were unable to commit to the five week delivery period). The Young Mothers Program at Larapinta Child and Family Centre are in discussions with Batchelor to explore a more flexible delivery mode for this course in 2020. Larapinta Child and Family Centre's Young Mothers and Young Fathers Programs contracted a local Arrernte trainer (Desert Oak) to deliver an 18 week 'Work and Life Study Group' for young parents. Akeyulerre and the Young Fathers program collaborated with two Akeyulerre trainees also participating in the Young Fathers Program at Larapinta Child and Family Centre. Lutheran Community Care and Larapinta Child and Family Centre have met to collaborate on co-planning and delivering Parent Support programs in 2021.

All Larapinta Child and Family Centre staff participated in the Yarning Mat Training (an Aboriginal designed, culturally appropriate family support approach). In 2021 two Aboriginal staff from Larapinta Child and Family Centre will undertake the Aboriginal Employment Development Program in 2021.