

Ningana Trust Annual Report 2025-2026

Chair's Welcome

At Ningana Trust we have the right people involved who share a common goal, working together to make a difference. As you will read, we make worthwhile choices, with collaboration being the key to our success.

It is with pleasure that I share our annual distribution increased in FY26 to \$200,000. This was possible due to a generous donation from a Board member in FY25. This is a great boost to the Ningana Trust corpus and makes it possible to increase the size of grants available.



We supported many worthy organisations in FY26, and in this report, I'd like to mention Torres Strait Kaziw Meta, the first certified Indigenous boarding facility on Thursday Island. The boarding school is open to all Torres Strait Islander students from Years 7-12. The students are taught to be proud, confident, and to be prepared for their future. The distance and remoteness of the islands make schooling to Year 12 difficult and we see Kaziw Meta as a great resource for advancing education locally.

This report also provides a spotlight on the Longreach School of Distance Education Musical. This 'paddock to the stage' experience for isolated children and families is an initiative we are pleased to support.

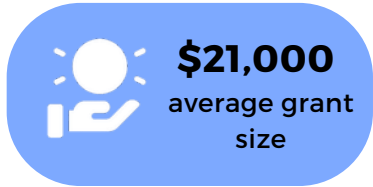
We always enjoy site visits to experience where Ningana Trust funding is expended and meeting the people involved. We thank the many partners that hosted us over the last year.

I must thank Katie Norman, the Senior Program Manager, who does an excellent job bringing many diverse organisations and people to the table, with the possibility for Ningana Trust to support. I'd also like to thank Sahala Stone for her administrative support, which is always very helpful. Importantly, we have the TFFF CEO, Neal Harvey supporting and guiding us with our work.

Lastly, I am very grateful to Tim and our four girls (Sarah O'Brien, Lucy Coulson, Fiona Poschelk, and Prue Pateras) for their ongoing involvement and advice.

Gina Fairfax AC
Chair

HIGHLIGHTS



SPOTLIGHT:

Longreach School of Distance Education Parents and Citizens' Association



Longreach School of Distance Education (LSODE) is situated in Central Queensland and provides education for some of Queensland's most isolated children and families living on remote properties and in small rural towns. Since 2012, the school, with the support of its P&C, has produced full scale musicals. This unique endeavour involves independent and online rehearsals for the cast, and a belief from school staff that it will all come together just in time for the performance at the Longreach Civic Centre.

LSODE families are delighted that the 2026 musical will be performed on the Playhouse Theatre stage in Brisbane with the generous support of the Queensland Performing Arts Centre. Students will perform an original Craig Hawes musical - *Grossbusters*. As Craig notes,

"Presenting a production of this calibre in a professional metropolitan theatre not only recognises the hard work and talent of the students but also celebrates the strength and creativity of rural and remote communities."

From the Paddock to the Stage in 2026, LSODE staff and students will again be supported by Director Sean Denahy. An Australian icon, Sean has been on the journey with LSODE since 2012. In Sean's words, "[LSODE's musical] is proof that geography doesn't define potential."

LSODE families will travel up to 2,000km to participate in this year's musical, which will also be the last for Deputy Principal, Rachelle Moore. The musical has been Rachelle's passion project over the course of her 32 years at LSODE.

GRANTS AWARDED: 2025-2026

THE FAMILY PLACE

Outdoor Learning & Play Fort - \$42,000

The Family Place is a vital child and family hub in Woodridge, serving families through playgroups, various social activities, and therapeutic services and health clinics that support strong early childhood development. Ningana Trust funding supported a purposefully designed play fort as part of a full refurbishment project. The fort is built to stimulate children's imaginations, encourage peer interactions, promote risk-taking, and enhance cognitive and motor skills.



GIRLS FROM OZ



Hope Vale Pilot Program - \$25,000

Girls from Oz delivers high-quality performing arts education to girls in remote communities. Founded in 2007, it aims to improve wellbeing, boost confidence, and enhance education and employment pathways for girls through dance and singing.

Ningana Trust funding will support a pilot g-oz program in Hope Vale, delivering four weeklong performing arts intensives.

QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION WEEK

40th Anniversary Book Project - \$25,000

Child Protection Week commenced in Queensland in 1986 to prevent child abuse and raise awareness of the rights of children to protection, education, healthcare, and development. Queensland Child Protection Week will commemorate its 40th anniversary by developing a children's book that focuses on every child's right to safety. Supported by Ningana Trust, the book will be distributed to community organisations alongside art project kits.



LET'S YARN ABOUT SLEEP



First Nations Sleep Framework - \$20,000

Let's Yarn About Sleep began in 2018 when Professor Fatima Yaqoot spent three years learning from Elders in and around Mount Isa about Indigenous sleep health. Since that time, Let's Yarn has secured major research grants to expand its program across Qld, SA, and the NT, and is now located at The Thompson Institute (UniSC). Ningana Trust funding will support work with eight First Nations communities across Qld to co-design a culturally grounded sleep health framework and advocacy plan.

GRANTS AWARDED: 2025-2026

LONGREACH SCHOOL OF DISTANCE EDUCATION P&C

From the Paddock to the Stage: QPAC 2026 - \$20,000

The Longreach School of Distance Education provides education for students across 403,000 square kilometres of outback Queensland. Since 2012, the school has produced biennial full-scale musicals.

In December 2026, students have the opportunity to travel to Brisbane and perform *Grossbusters - The Monster Musical* on the Playhouse Theatre stage at QPAC. Ningana Trust funding will cover production costs and costumes, to make this musical truly come to life on the big stage.



NEEYUM CONSULTING AND EDUCATION



Ngamp Aak Pathamp Puk Manyant (Singing for our Children) - \$15,000

Baressa Fraser is a Wik woman from Aurukun and an Aboriginal educator with 20 years experience in teaching and executive positions. Baressa has started her own business, Neeyum Consulting and Education.

Ningana Trust funding will support the intergenerational transfer of language and knowledge, including recording Wik nursery rhymes in language and the design of play-based resources to support culturally-focused interactions between child and carer in the early years.

TORRES STRAIT KAZIW META INC

Infrastructure Improvement for Boarders - \$15,000

Torres Strait Kaziw Meta is a boarding school in Thursday Island for students in Years 7-12 that attend Tagai State College. Kaziw Meta aims to create a 'home away from home' and to develop culturally-connected Torres Strait Islander future leaders.

Kaziw Meta is upgrading its boarding facilities to improve the daily life of Torres Strait Islander boarders, and Ningana Trust funds will be directed towards purchasing new furniture, recreational items, and kitchen appliances.



GRANTS AWARDED: 2025-2026

WESTERN QLD PRIMARY HEALTH NETWORK

Healthy Outback Kids - \$15,000

Primary Health Networks (PHNs) act as independent organisations that coordinate primary health care in their region. The Western Qld PHN responds to one of the most geographically dispersed populations in Australia, covering more than half of Queensland. It has identified the need for developmental and health assessments for children aged 0-8 years in Boulia and Cunnamulla.

Ningana Trust funding will support assessments conducted by a paediatrician, who will refer children to additional support where needed.



MICAH PROJECTS



Wellspring Hawthorne Child and Family Hub - \$13,000

Micah Projects is a Brisbane-based not-for-profit organisation that provides a range of tailored, integrated support and advocacy services. The Child and Family Hub in Hawthorne provides play-based opportunities to children who attend with their caregivers for a range of support needs, including social and emotional wellbeing, child and maternal health, and supported playgroups. Ningana Trust funding will upgrade the Hub's playground to include a children's bike track and equipment, supporting gross motor development and children's knowledge of road safety.

ONGOING: ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND

State Council Delegations and Educational Advocacy for Rural and Remote Queensland - \$10,000 (\$30,000 over 3 years)

With 45 branches in Queensland, the Isolated Children's Parent's Association (ICPA) Qld strives for equity of access to education for all students who live in rural and remote Queensland. ICPA Qld's policies are formed through motions brought to the state conference each year by branches from across the state ensuring extensive representation. Ningana Trust funding enables State Council Members to participate in delegations with state government and peak body representatives, and advocate for rural and remote students' educational needs.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 2025-2026

Ningana Trust enjoys opportunities to learn from and listen to the communities we support. Five community engagement activities occurred in FY26, through which Directors, Advisors, and Staff were able to directly connect with the work funded in FY25 and FY26.



She Gives: September 2025

Ningana Trust hosted a She Gives boardroom lunch at its Brisbane office.

Undercover Artist Festival: September 2025

Ningana Trust Administration Coordinator Sahala Stone and TFFF Program Manager Hannah Barr attended 6 Degrees at Undercover Artist Festival in South Brisbane.



The Family Place: April 2026

Ningana Trust Chair Gina Fairfax AC, Director Tim Fairfax AC, Advisor Lucy Coulson, CEO Neal Harvey, and Senior Program Manager Katie Norman attended the reopening of The Family Place in Woodridge.

Ngukuthati Children and Family Centre/Sentis Education: May 2026

Ningana Trust Chair Gina Fairfax AC met with Ngukuthati and Education Precinct staff in Mount Isa.



ICPA Qld State Conference: June 2026

Ningana Trust Senior Program Manager Katie Norman attended the 2026 ICPA Qld State Conference in Atherton.

NINGANA TRUST BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF



Prue Pateras, Sarah O'Brien, Gina Fairfax AC, Tim Fairfax AC, Lucy Coulson, and Fiona Poschelk

Directors:

Gina Fairfax AC (Chair)
Tim Fairfax AC

Advisors:

Sarah O'Brien
Lucy Coulson
Fiona Poschelk
Prue Pateras

Secretary:

Jenny Wheatley

CEO:

Neal Harvey

Senior Program Manager:

Katie Norman



\$2.476M
distributed since
inception



\$3.86M
total corpus



88
orgs supported
since 2002

Click on the map to see where Ningana Trust funded in 2025-2026

