



2023-2025 STRATEGY SUMMARY

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BACKGROUND



The Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) is a Community led organisation and works to ensure equity of access to culturally appropriate literacy materials to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in remote Indigenous Communities across Australia. The ILF supports Community to create and publish their stories in languages of their choice. The ILF is the Australian book industry charity of choice.

ILF works to provide equity of opportunity for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to ensure they have future choice in education, health and general wellbeing.

ILF works to:

- consistently build strong, ongoing relationships with local Community organisations.
- empower local Communities to be their children's first teachers.
- collaborate with Communities in their work to preserve language and culture by publishing books in First Languages.
- foster partnerships and work with publishers, booksellers, authors as well as our ambassadors to nurture young Indigenous writers and illustrators.
- collaborate with the Australian book industry to provide the best possible literacy resources at cost-effective prices.
- advocate to and engage with the broader Australian community regarding the importance of Indigenous stories, cultures, languages and literacy.

VALUE PROPOSITION



ILF is a trusted partner with a proven track record over two decades, focused on deep and respectful relationships within Communities. Our long term partnership with the book industry means that ILF's impact is multi-generational, creating pathways and broader social outcomes through the power of literacy. With a strengths-based approach, ILF is committed to investing in long-term employment in remote communities and is focused on the positive, building trust through consistency and presence.

ILF's evidence-based programs capture the multi-generational impact that influences broader social outcomes, with a focus on First Nations Languages, literacy, and knowledge systems. Programs like *Book Supply* create an exclusive selection of culturally relevant books, engaging entire communities in fulfilling their aspirations around literacy.

ILF's critical operation of creating physical products in First Language centres the two-way definition of Indigenous Literacy as positive and celebrates the rich diversity of communities, culture, languages, country, and people.

ILF's community-led approach is reflected in policies ensuring independent, ethical, and sustainable funding unencumbered by changes in government policy.

We invest time to build deep relationships with Communities, the book industry, donors, and other key stakeholders, ensuring reliable and sustainable growth of ILF operations in Australia and the global market.

We believe that literacy skills are the entry point to education, health, culture, and country. With a commitment to the rights of self-determination and freedom of Community, ILF is driven by First Nations People for First Nations People.

AMBITION & VISION

To provide remote Indigenous Communities the literacy resources they want to support their aspirations for Community and Culture. *We believe that reading opens doors to future opportunities and choices*

PURPOSE

Our purpose is to invest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander remote Communities to provide the tools and resources they request to shape the direction of their children's literacy futures.

Through collaborative investment in Community and meaningful strategic partnerships, the ILF supports sustainable and positive change in Indigenous literacy through the supply of books and a focus on the publication of First Nations content.

We aim to advocate and build awareness among the wider Australian population of the strengths, knowledges and wisdoms held within remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.

VALUES

Our focus is on building and maintaining relationships with remote Communities. Our Foundation's values are:

DIVERSITY
RESPECT
TRUST
EQUITY

These values underpin how we operate in every aspect of our work.

BOOK SUPPLY



Increasing access to books starts at a Community level with Book Supply.

Access to books in remote Communities is challenging, as there are often no libraries or bookstores. ILF's *Book Supply* program provides new, culturally relevant books to remote Communities across Australia. Schools, community health, and women's centres working in remote Communities, can also order books to distribute to children and families.

Book packs are carefully selected for different age groups:

- TODDLERS 0-3
- KIDS 4-7
- BIG KIDS 8-12, AND
- COMMUNITY 13+

Over 50% of books in the packs feature Indigenous authors and illustrators. This is important as it allows kids to see themselves and their culture reflected in the stories, helping to build a sense of connection, belonging and pride. *Book Supply* is distributed biannually, through our partnerships with UBD and Australia Post, ensuring Communities secure access to resources at the most appropriate times. Distributing 120,000 books per year makes *Book Supply* the largest curated list targeted to the specific needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.

BOOK BUZZ



Our *Book Buzz* program aims to develop familiarity and engagement with books for children under five through a daily dedicated *Story Time* session, so children can develop critical pre-literacy skills. Our team also provides the funding for many remote Communities to translate popular books into First Languages, allowing children to start their literacy journey with books in languages spoken in their homes.

Book Buzz supports remote playgroups and collaborates with organisations such as Families as First Teachers (FaFT) in the Northern Territory and KindiLink in Western Australia. The program provides board books, picture books, and touch and feel books and others printed in a First Language.

Book Buzz also provides learning kits with additional resources such as puppets and puzzles to support early literacy development. Through the *Book Buzz* program, children learn to navigate books; how to hold them, how to move from the start to the end following the story, and to think about what might happen next. It is a vital learning stage in preparing children for school.

COMMUNITY PUBLISHING (INC CREATE & PAMELA LOFTS)

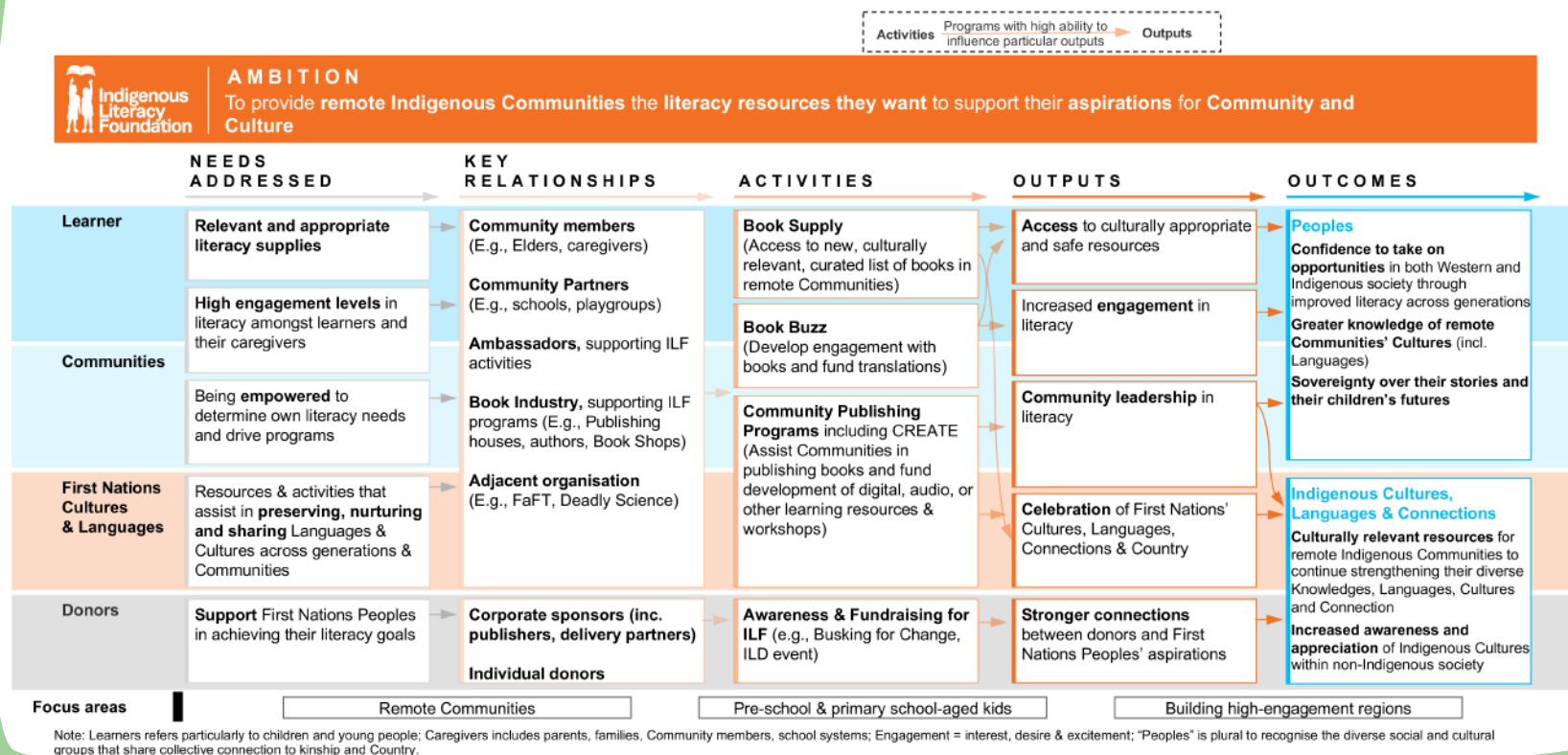


Our *Community Publishing Projects* (CPPs) support communities to write and illustrate their own stories in languages of their choice. These stories are created by adults and children in a Community and published by our Foundation. The books are then gifted back to the Community to share with children and families. These books are highly desired because they often share a local story that a Community is familiar with and in a language they speak at home.

To date CPP has published 109 books in 31 Indigenous languages and paid over \$43,000 in royalties to Community creators should they choose to make books available for sale through bookshops. Books written in language assist in maintaining and preserving these languages for generations to come.

THEORY OF CHANGE

THEORY OF CHANGE ILF programs and activities will enable us to achieve desired outcomes for Peoples and Indigenous Cultures, Languages and Connections








The ILF invests in all stakeholders of the Communities, from the youth to parents and guardians, Elders and support services. Through our three key programs *Book Supply*, *Book Buzz* and *Community Publishing* we work at different levels of engagement to ensure Community have access to culturally relevant resources, are engaged and leading the direction and scope of the programs. With our donors and key stakeholders we ensure their resources are focussed on Community strength and respect, ensuring people have the confidence to take on opportunities, knowledge of Cultures, languages, people and place to remain in control of their stories and children's futures.

COMMUNITY ARCHETYPES

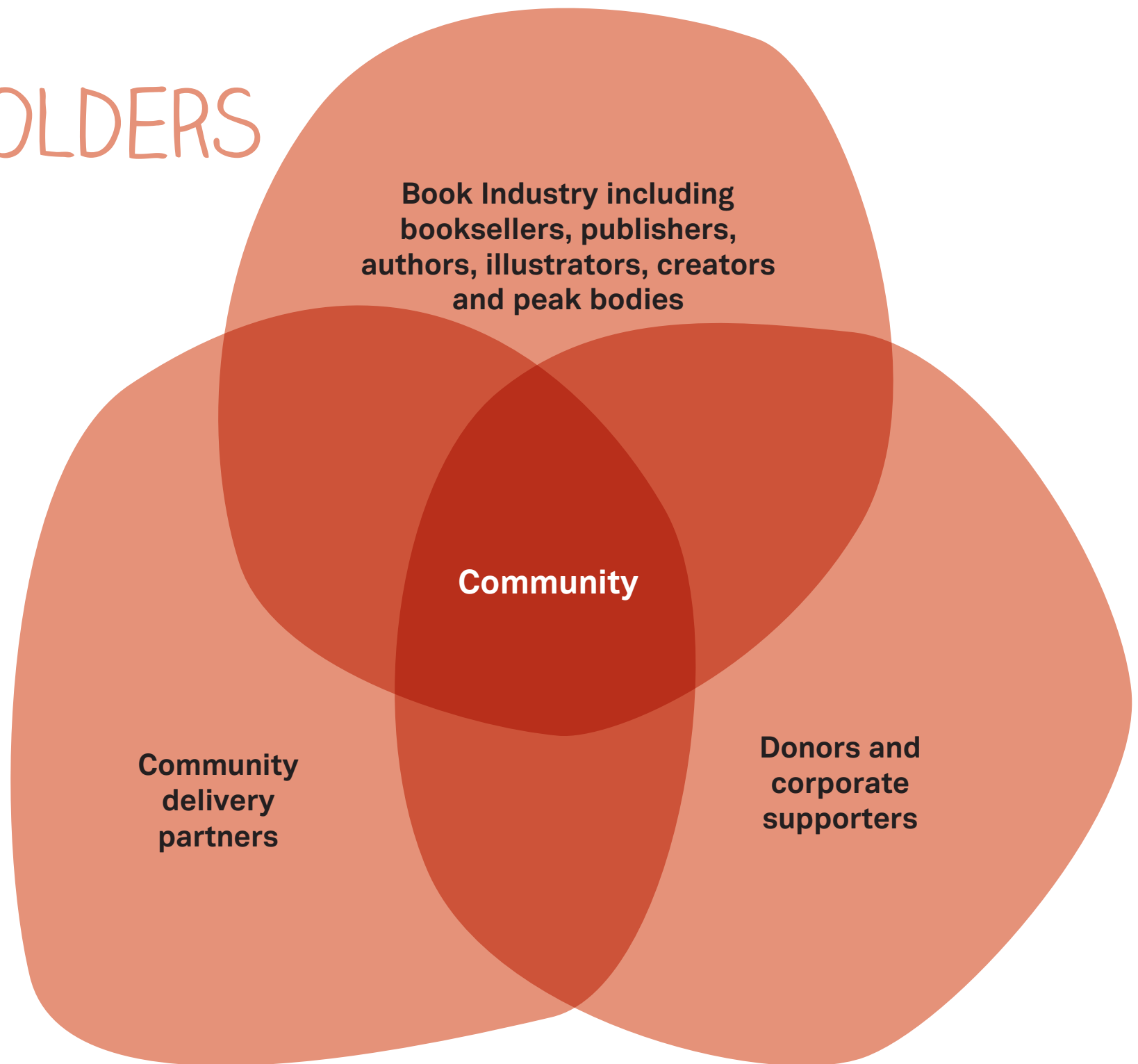
ILF has several models of engaging Communities depending on their needs and requests. The Community Archetypes demonstrates the types of engagement ranging from light touch to deeper relationships. It is important as a Community led organisation that the ILF engages how, where and when Communities desire.

COMMUNITY ARCHETYPES

Communities served by ILF today can be categorised broadly under 5 archetypes

	Book Supply only	Additional Book Buzz	Ambassador-led	On the ground ILF presence	
				Katherine region	Tiwi Islands region
Examples	• Various	• Various	• Fitzroy Crossing, Torres Strait, Barunga	• Specific region example	• Specific region example
Programs	• Book Supply	• Book Supply • Book Buzz	• Book Supply • Book Buzz and/or Community Publishing Projects (CPP), incl. Pamela Loft	• Book Supply • Book Buzz • CPPs, incl. Pamela Loft	• Book Supply • Book Buzz • CPPs, incl. Pamela Loft • CREATE program
Age groups (excl. book supply)	• n/a	• Pre-school	• Pre-school, primary & some secondary CPP*	• Pre-school & primary • Some secondary & adults through CPP*	• Pre-school, primary & secondary school • Adults through CPP*
Community engagement approaches	• Remote engagement with delivery partners	• Remote engagement with delivery partners, closer engagement through Book Buzz • Some ambassador visits	• Remote engagement with delivery partners • Ambassador & Board member visits/connections • Ad hoc ILF CPP support	• Remote engagement with delivery partners • Ambassador visits • Ad hoc ILF CPP support • Local ILF staff liaise with partner organisations and adults in region	• Remote engagement with delivery partners • Ambassador visits & ad hoc ILF CPP support • Local ILF staff embedded in the Communities
ILF presence	No staff members in region	No staff members in region	No staff members in region	0.6 FTE in region	1.5 FTE
# Communities	~250 Communities	~55 Communities	~5 Communities	10 Communities	4 Communities
Level of impact					

STAKEHOLDERS



WHERE WE WORK

**The ILF works
in over
400
Communities
around Australia
and have
published over
100
titles in
31
Indigenous
languages.**



PAMELA LOFTS BEQUEST, CREATE INITIATIVE & THE TRANSLATION PROJECT

Key creative programs like *Pamela Lofts* and the *Create Initiative* will be looking to expand in 2023 and beyond. The experience, knowledge and skills taught in these programs is key to creating more opportunities in the broader book industry as well as embedding additional skills to support Community aspirations.

The Translation Project has been a long standing project translating key books selected by Community into First Languages. Books like *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *The Very Cranky Bear* and *Where is the Green Sheep* are some of the titles translated into several languages. The ILF will be looking to expand the project to work with more Communities to translate the current set of books and also identify new titles to translate giving the opportunities to more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to enjoy books in their First Language.



IMPACT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

STRATEGY ON A PAGE

We have defined a comprehensive set of measures for ILF

Legend

(2022 baseline | 2025 target)



In 2023, the ILF will look to identify new Communities to partner with, increasing the reach of our CPPs by expanding the Create Initiative and relaunching the Pamela Lofts Bequest. We will seek to establish relationships and to access new work with languages groups in Cape York, Torres Strait Islands, Western Australia and South Australia. The ILF will be working with key partner organisations and Ambassadors to ensure authentic Community engagement from the outset. The ILF is also capturing new impact metrics to better evaluate our impact on Community.

KEY FUNDRAISING EVENTS

The ILF is 100% free from Government funding and to ensure the sustainability of our business model beyond donations we run key fundraising events each year to reach our targets

- Great Book Swap
- Busking For Change
- Indigenous Literacy Day
- ILF Sydney Trivia
- ILF Melbourne Trivia
- End of Financial year Campaign