

ACT CHILDREN'S WEEK INC

<http://www.actchildrensweek.org.au>



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

ACT CHILDREN'S WEEK IS GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY:



We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

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The Children's Week National Theme for 2025 was based on UNCRC Article 42:

Everyone should know about Children's Rights.

SUMMARY

This year the **2025 ACT Children's Week Grants Programme** provided 139 supporting grants – totalling more than \$29,620 - to 92 community-based individuals and organisations to hold their Children's Week-related events and activities. 139 Grant Acquittal / Event Reports have been received from 100% of Grant recipients, and participation data indicated engagement during the three-week period (before / during / after Children's Week) with more than 13,500 children and young people, and over 4,700 adults across the ACT. These data are valuable when presenting our case to existing and potential sponsors for funding and in demonstrating the reach of our programmes across the ACT community. Event Reports have been posted on our Facebook page – Children's Week ACT.

A strong emphasis in our annual Grants Programme has been on events and activities focussed on STEM, intergenerational engagement (involving seniors, grandparents / friends, and young people engaging with younger children), as well as other local-community engagement, and increasing understanding of and engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

This year, we expanded our categories to include Acquiring Children's Rights / Wellbeing-related Resources in our Grants programme to coincide with the annual theme: *Everyone should know about Children's Rights.*

* * * * *

The **ACT Children's Week Awards Programme** aims to acknowledge and recognise "quiet contributors" across the ACT community. This year we received 109 nominations in total – across the range of categories. An increase of 240% on 2024 nominations!

AWARD CATEGORIES:

- Exceptional Young Person
- Youth Commitment
- Community for Children
- Intergenerational Contribution, including Exceptional Senior
- Business Contribution
- Significant Support
- Exceptional STEM Volunteer / Contribution
- Contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children

All nominees received an Award in their nominated categories - either at our Launch and Awards Ceremony, or at in-house events. Our committee members were also able to share in some of the latter presentations.

Our Launch and Awards ceremony was attended by senior representatives of our major sponsors. Choral and instrumental entertainment was provided by students from Charles Weston Primary School. Photos from this event have been shared on our Facebook and LinkedIn pages as well as with award recipients and their nominees who attended.

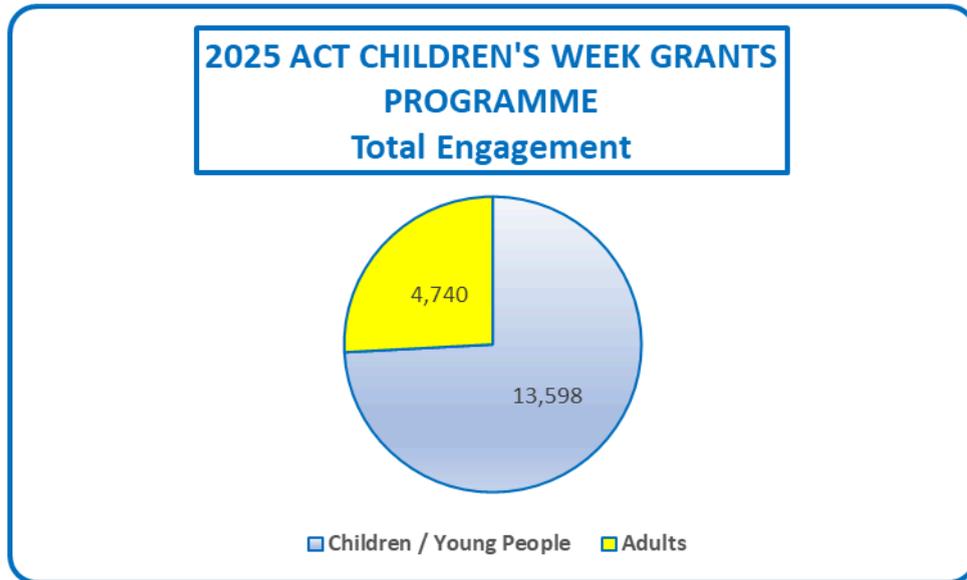
Summative engagement data are provided below. More complete data are provided in the full report.

2025 ACT CHILDREN'S WEEK GRANTS PROGRAMME – SUMMARY

TOTAL ENGAGEMENT: 13,598+ Children / Young People

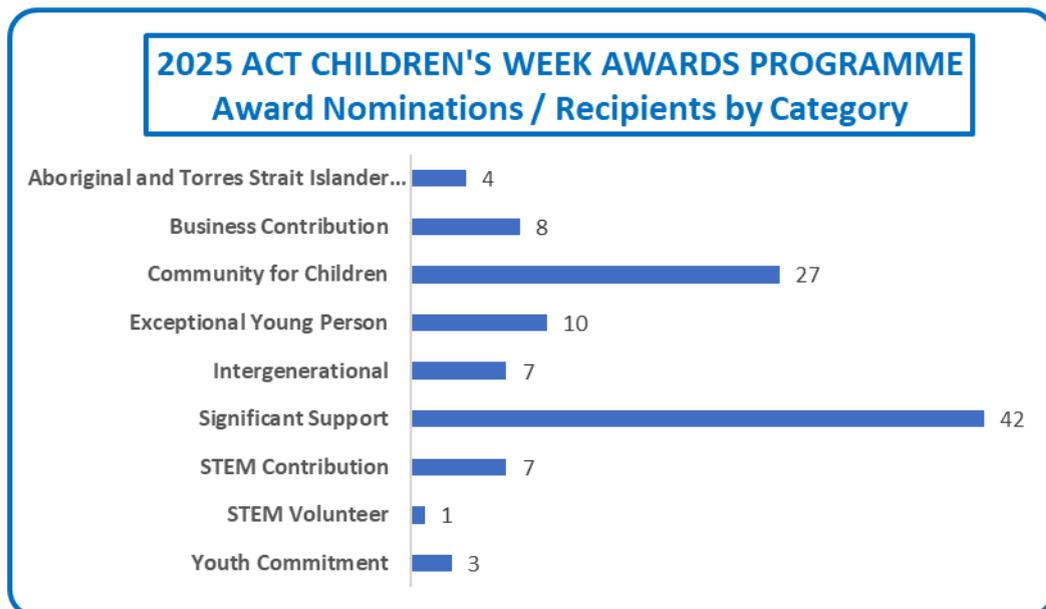
4,740+ Adults

92 Local Organisations



2025 ACT CHILDREN'S WEEK AWARDS PROGRAMME - SUMMARY

109 AWARD NOMINATIONS / RECIPIENTS



SOME EVENTS / ACTIVITIES HELD DURING CHILDREN'S WEEK 2025 IN THE ACT



Resources purchased by Abacus Early Childcare Centre

Reading Hour @ Ainslie School



Erindale College – Numeracy Excursion

Jamboree of the Air / Internet – South Belconnen Guides



Newsies Jnr production – Music Theatre Projects Ltd

Readers Cup – Children's Book Council of Australia (ACT Branch)



Presentation Night – Rebels Netball Club

Indigenous Book Launch – Reid Preschool



Grandfriends Morning @ St John Vianney Primary School

ACT Children & Young People Commissioner's Exceptional Young Person Award



ACT CW Launch & Awards Ceremony - Comperes



ACT Children's Week Committee

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

OVERVIEW – Who We Are / What We Do

2025 was another successful year for ACT Children’s Week.

The role of the ACT Children’s Week Committee is to promote involvement in Children’s Week by supporting community organisations, groups and individuals who work for the benefit of children and young people in the ACT region.

The committee consists entirely of volunteers – a list of members of the 2025 ACT Children’s Week Committee is provided in the 2025 Launch and Awards Ceremony Programme in Appendix 3. The role and active participation of all the committee members in promoting Children’s Week and supporting our programmes is crucial to achieving our outcomes.

We provide small seeding grants to encourage and assist organisations to hold events during Children’s Week and we promote their work and activities by listing them on our Program of Events. This year we received Impact Statements (from 100% of grant recipients), indicating the benefit of the grants to each recipient organisation. The 2025 Programme of events and Impact Statements can be found at <https://www.actchildrensweek.org.au/apply-for-a-grant>. Impact Statements are also provided later in the report, at page 16.

We also provide the opportunity for organisations or individuals to nominate individuals, groups, organisations and children/young people for Children’s Week Awards. All those nominated receive an Award Certificate and congratulatory letter during Children’s Week. This is a simple, yet powerful way to acknowledge the special work of individuals, groups and organisations who work with and for the children and young people in our community, and to recognise outstanding young people themselves.

The complete list of 2025 ACT Children’s Week Awardees can be found at: <https://www.actchildrensweek.org.au/nominate-for-an-award>, and also at page 30 of this report.

A representative selection of award recipients is invited to receive their awards at our Launch and Awards Ceremony held on Universal Children’s Day (the last Wednesday in October) during Children’s Week.

PARTICIPATION

The characteristics of individuals/groups participating in Children’s Week are diverse:

- Children and young people, aged 0 – 18 years;
- Youth up to 25 years
- Intergenerational – including grandparents / grandfriends / seniors
- Families
- Cultural and linguistically diverse groups
- Schools and other community organisations involved with children and young people
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and groups.

Participants come from across the ACT.

SPONSORSHIPS

In 2025, ACT CHILDREN'S WEEK WAS GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY:



ACT
Government

- Health & Community Services Directorate
- Education Directorate



CATHOLIC EDUCATION
Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn



FUNDING SUPPORT / SPONSORSHIPS

ACT Children's Week very much appreciates the continued financial support of:

- the ACT Government (through the Education Directorate, and the Health and Community Services Directorate, including the Office for Seniors and Veterans),
 - the Catholic Education Office (Canberra-Goulburn Archdiocese), and
 - the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) ACT Section. IEEE encourages students to develop their capabilities in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education and we were delighted with the number of STEM related events held during Children's Week. As part of our partnership, we include an award category, Exceptional STEM Volunteer, which attracted several submissions.
- In 2025 we were also successful in applying for grants from the federal Department of Social Services (through the office of local federal Member for Bean, David Smith MP), and Gerald Slaven Motors.

In-kind sponsorship and support

The Catholic Education Office (Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn), and Canberra Southern Cross Club (CSCC) - through its *Community Contributions Programme* - have also provided in-kind sponsorship in the form of access to meeting and IT facilities for our monthly meetings, and catering for our annual Launch and Awards Ceremony (CSCC) held on International Children's Day.

This year we also participated in the Canberra Southern Cross Club's Community Family Fun Day, which provided an opportunity to engage with families and community members, and to share some ACT CW resources.

The ACT Health and Community Services Directorate also makes available the Theo Notaras

Multicultural Centre as the venue for our annual Launch and Awards Ceremony.

These sponsorships are acknowledged on our website, and in reports, publicity, letters / emails and other correspondence, and at our Launch and Awards Ceremony.

In an attempt to increase the total funding available to our Grants Program, and to help defray our annual operating costs, a funding application was also made (unsuccessfully) to a community-based philanthropic organisation.

The Living Street Association continues to support us by providing confident and competent comperes for our annual Launch and Awards Ceremony.

Additional support is also provided by our VIPs in the form of inspiring messages - including one from the National Patron of Children's Week, Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia. All these messages can be found on our website: <https://www.actchildrensweek.org.au/message-board>.

PARTNERSHIPS

ACT Children's Week Inc. is a member of the Children's Week Council of Australia which provides national governance and oversight of the state and territory Children's Week organisations. Jurisdictional representatives to the Council meet annually in Adelaide for the Annual Meeting and Annual General Meeting, and online several times during the year.

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2025 ACT CHILDREN'S WEEK GRANTS PROGRAMME

In 2025 the ACT Children's Week Committee offered small seeding Grants (between \$200 - \$300) to assist in organising Children's Week-related events and activities.

The eligible period for events in 2025 was the week prior to Children's Week through to the week after: Monday 14 October – Sunday 3 November.

Criteria for Grant Applications (from our website:

<https://www.actchildrensweek.org.au/apply-for-a-grant/>.

- Grants were only available to organisations based in the ACT.
- Activities were held within the eligible time period: 14 October – 3 November.
- Activities assisted in increasing awareness of the needs, interests, rights and achievements of children and/or young people.
- Activities promoted community involvement and cooperation.
- Activities were not intended to promote commercial interests.
- Events / activities possibly fitted in to more than one of the themes indicated below, or had a different focus.
- Submitting an Acquittal / Event Report was a requirement of a grant.

ENGAGEMENT

- ✓ 139 Grant applications approved, with 100% Grant Acquittal / Event Reports received
- ✓ Total grants allocation: \$28,035
- ✓ Total engagement (as indicated in Event Reports):

☒ 13,598+ children / young people

☒ 4,740+ adults

Detailed data - as indicated in Event Activity Reports – relating to applications, engagement / participation levels, and funding - are provided in table and graph form in Appendix 1, including:

- Numbers of applications, by main theme / focus
- Number of grants, by identified sector
- Total engagement of children and young people, and adults, in supported Children’s Week events / activities. (A small number of organisations held more than one event / activity to celebrate Children’s Week, so total engagement numbers may reflect participation by the same children / young people / community members in more than one event);
- Engagement by theme – number of events. (Event Reports indicated that many events / activities covered more than one specified theme);
- Engagement by theme – number of participants
- Funding support for each specified theme.

THEME-BASED ENGAGEMENT

ACT Children’s Week-supported activities and facilitated considerable community engagement across and within many sectors of our community, resulting in increased connections and social capital in times of complexity in the community, and when there is a need for communities to come together.

While sponsor funding generally supports our overall programmes and operations, specific themes (e.g. STEM) are supported by particular sponsors (e.g. IEEE).

Themes which formed the focus of Children’s Week events and activities in 2025 included:

- **2025 Children’s Week Theme: *Everyone should know about Children’s Rights*** (Based on UNCRC, Article 27);

- **Intergenerational Activities and Events**

ACT Children’s Week encourages applications with a focus on grandparent and intergenerational activities (such as seniors or family members helping with school activities, younger children visiting local aged care homes, etc).

This theme is particularly supported by the ACT Health and Community Services Directorate Office of Seniors and Veterans.

- **STEM-related Activities and Events**

ACT Children’s Week is partnered with the **Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) ACT Section**.

IEEE is an international organisation whose purpose is to promote and support the development of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) among children from a very young age. The ACT Section runs professional development programs, seminars, activities and events for students, young professionals, women in engineering, life members and professionals throughout the year. Their STEM outreach arm promotes STEM in schools and especially among girls.

IEEE provided funding to sponsor Children’s Week community- or school-based activities or events which focus on STEM.

- **Indigenous-themed Activities and Events**

ACT Children's Week supports activities and events which support and promote Cultural Integrity in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, people, and understanding.

- **Building Social Capital / Community Wellbeing-themed Activities and Events**

This theme, introduced in 2025 following generous sponsorship from the Hands Across Canberra Foundation, aligns with the ACT Government's 2022-25 strategic priorities in relation to Canberra being "a city of people", and "a connected city".

Grant Acquittals

Flexibility was provided in relation to events where circumstances prevented events occurring in the planned format, or within the required period.

This year we were pleased to achieve 100% return of Grant Acquittals / Event Reports. Detailed data from these reports are provided in Appendix 1.

2025 ACT CHILDREN'S WEEK AWARDS

In 2025, 109 nominations were received across the range of Award categories.

Award Categories

- **EXCEPTIONAL YOUNG PERSON** for a person under 25 years for having shown courage, perseverance and generosity, **OR** for a person under 25 years who makes extraordinary contributions to other children and/or young people through voluntary work, advocacy or being a role model.
- **YOUTH COMMITMENT** for groups of children and/or young people who see a need in their community and work together to create a solution.
- **COMMUNITY FOR CHILDREN** for individuals, groups, or volunteers, who have made an outstanding contribution to children and/or young people in the community (may include programs, events, equipment, promotion or management)
- **INTERGENERATIONAL CONTRIBUTION** for older people who have made an outstanding contribution to the wellbeing of children and/or young people **OR** for children and/or young people who have enhanced the lives of older people, including:
 - **EXCEPTIONAL SENIOR** for a senior who has shown outstanding commitment and generosity to the development of children and/or young people
- **BUSINESS CONTRIBUTION** for businesses who have made extraordinary contributions to children and/or young people.
- **SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT** for individuals, groups, organisations whose contributions significantly improve opportunities for children and/or young people to learn and grow, including:
 - **EXCEPTIONAL STEM VOLUNTEER AWARD** – for an individual/organisation who has made a significant contribution to enriching the skills of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in children and young people.
- **CONTRIBUTION TO ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN AWARD** for individuals, groups, or organisations who have worked to improve outcomes for Indigenous children and young people, or who have worked to improve understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups within the community.

In addition, the Children and Young People Commissioner, ACT Human Rights Commission,

chose a nominee to receive an Exceptional Young Person Award, and the ACT Office for Seniors and Veterans chose a nominee to receive an Exceptional Seniors Award.

HISTORICAL AWARDS DATA

Award Category	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Exceptional Young Person	10	8	6	3	9	5
Youth Commitment	3	NA	NA	10	0	5
Community For Children	27	19	10	7	21	13
Intergenerational Contribution / Exceptional Senior	7	3	4	3	5	3
Business Contribution	8	2	1	2	0	2
Significant Support	42	17	16	16	29	36
Exceptional STEM Volunteer	8	1	3	2	N/A	N/A
Contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children	4	3	3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Totals:	109	53	43	46	68	67

Full details of the 2025 Award Programme are provided in Appendix 2.

2025 LAUNCH AND AWARDS CEREMONY

Our Launch and Awards Ceremony was again held in the Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre and was attended by approximately 110 adults and children - award recipients, their nominators, family and friends, plus representatives of sponsor government departments and organisations, official guests and ACT Children's Week Committee members.

At our 2025 ceremony, we welcomed the following special guests to participate in this inspirational occasion:

- Ngunnawal Elder, Aunty Violet Sheridan,
- ACT Children's Week Patron, the Hon. Margaret Reid AM,
- ACT Education Directorate Deputy Director-General, Angela Spence,
- ACT Health and Community Services Directorate, Deputy Director-General, Kirsty Windeyer
- Catholic Education Office (Archdiocese of Canberra-Goulburn) representative, Liliana Russell,
- Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), ACT Section Chairperson, Fouad Kourata,
- Children and Young People Commissioner, ACT Human Rights Commission, Jodie Griffiths-Cook, and
- Canberra Southern Cross Club Chief Executive, Matt Walshe
- David Smith MP, Federal Member for Bean.

A generous Welcome to Country was provided by Aunty Violet, and a warm welcome video message was provided by the National Patron of Children's Week, Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Our ACT Children's Week Ambassador, Jackie French AM was unable to attend in person and

generously provided a video message which was warmly received by ceremony attendees.

The Ceremony was very effectively and confidently hosted by Sryia Arco and Nicole Jennings - ACT Children's Week Youth Ambassadors and members of the Living Streets Association Youth Team.

Musical entertainment was provided by the Charles Weston Primary School choir.

Following the ceremony a light lunch, generously provided by Canberra Southern Cross Club, was enjoyed by attendees.

2025 Launch and Awards Ceremony Programme – see Appendix 3.

PROMOTION

Throughout the year we have maintained an active presence on social media platforms Facebook (*Children's Week ACT*) and LinkedIn (*Mike Payne / ACT Children's Week*) and Instagram (*actchildrensweek*).

Our Grants and Awards programmes were promoted through social media, our website, printed material, and school and community organisation networks.

Children's Week was also promoted through press releases, social media, our website, radio interviews and newspaper coverage. Committee members also attended various Children's Week events to present awards.

ASPIRATIONS

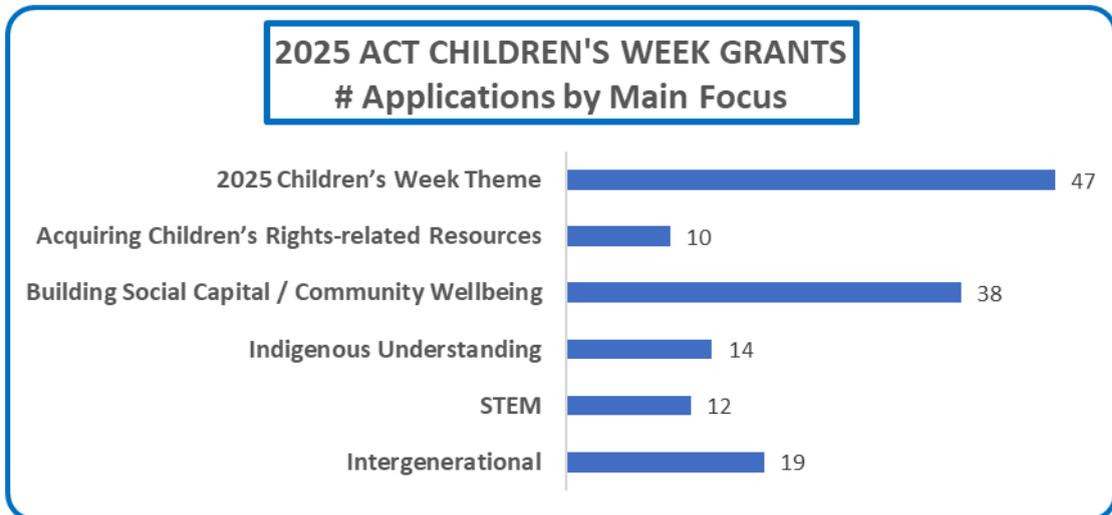
In 2026 the ACT Children's Week Committee aims to:

- ② Develop an organisational Strategic Plan
- ② Continue to promote and support its aims and objectives across the ACT community;
- ② Continue to explore funding and partnership possibilities;
- ② Increase reach and engagement across the ACT community, especially in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander contribution, and STEM categories;
- ② Expand Grant categories to include obtaining resources relating to Children's Rights in general and the current Children's Week theme more specifically;
- ② Expand data collection (via Grant Acquittals / Event Reports) to enable more thorough analysis of engagement levels
- ② Share data - including specific impacts the grants had on recipients' events and activities - with funding and sponsorship partners to demonstrate the effectiveness of their funding across the ACT community.
- ② Continue to gather data through Event Reports on specific impacts the grants had on recipients' events and activities;
- ② Liaise with local community organisations in relation to their community events being held during Children's Week;
- ② Liaise with Government House in relation to hosting a celebration of selected ACT Children's Week Award recipients.

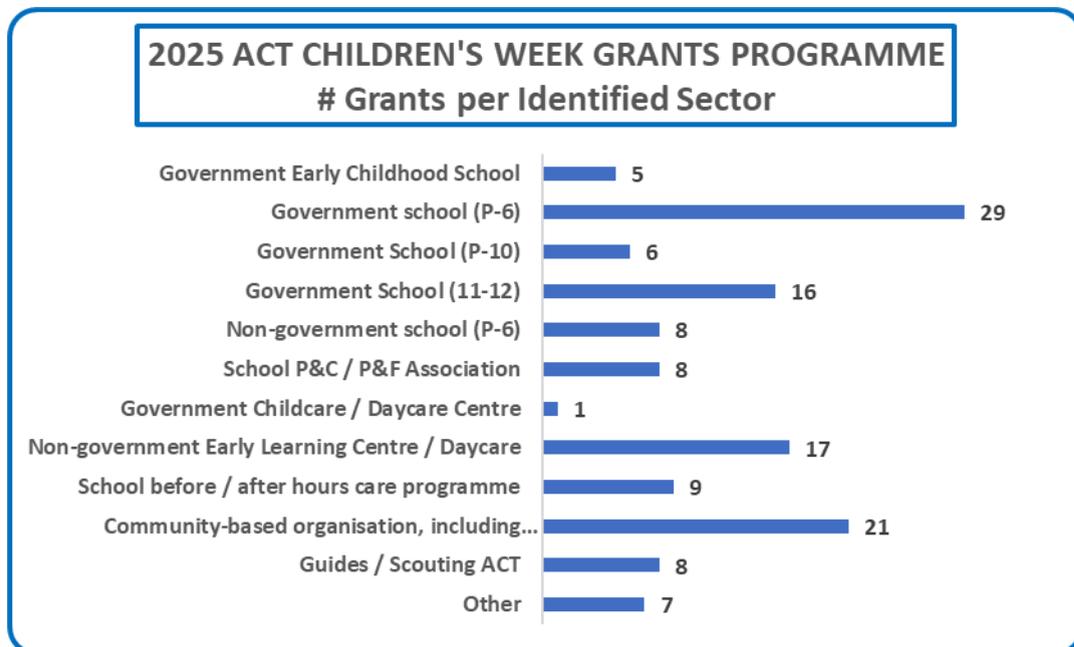
APPENDIX 1 - ACT CHILDREN'S WEEK 2025 GRANTS PROGRAMME

APPLICATION / ENGAGEMENT / FUNDING DATA

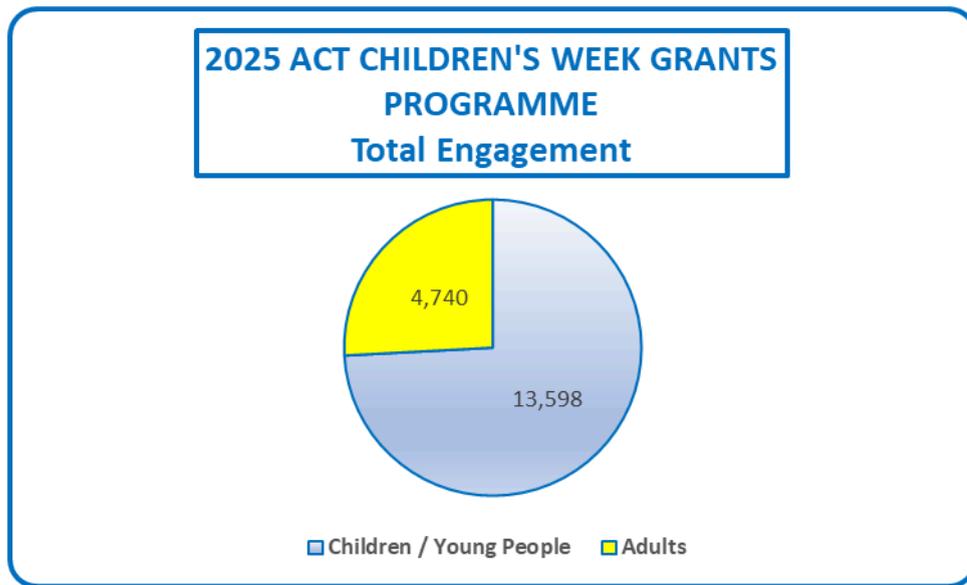
- **# Applications by Main Focus:** Data indicate the main theme indicated by applicants in their initial application.



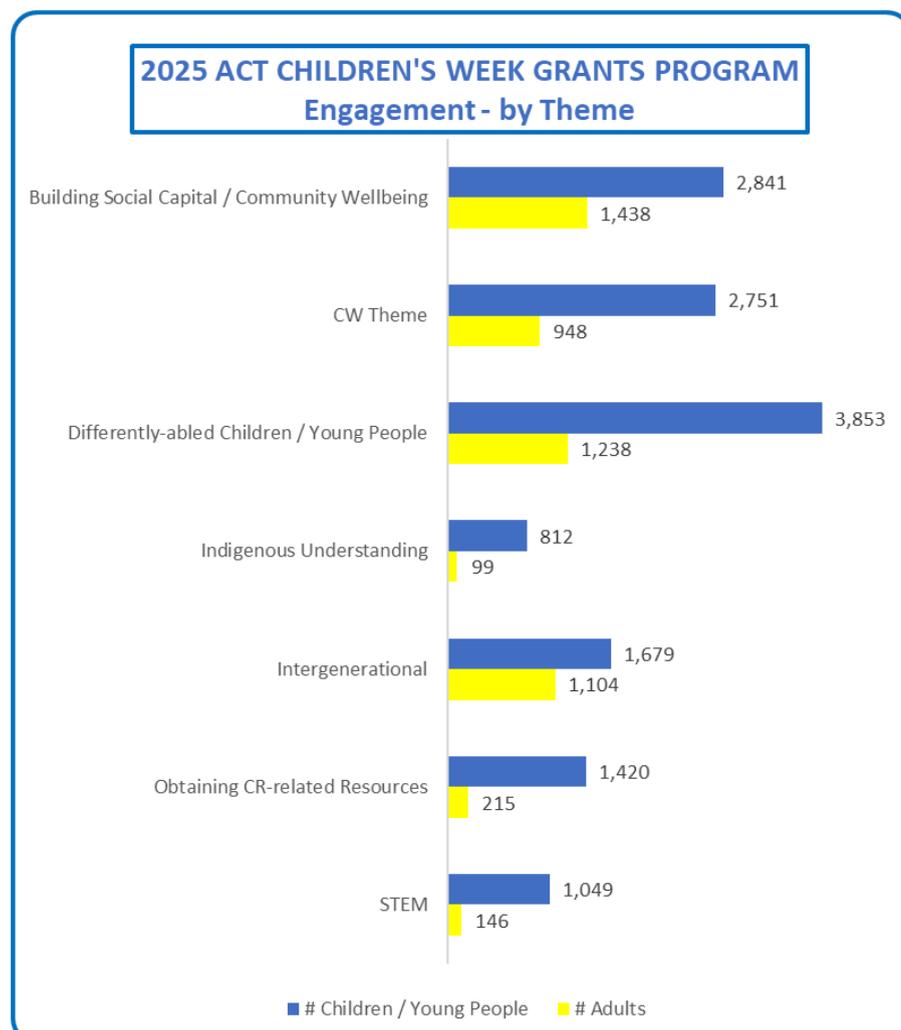
- **# Grants per identified sector:** Event Report data identified with which sector applicants identified.



- **Total Engagement:** Event Reports indicated the overall number of children / young people and adults who participated in events.



- **Engagement by Theme:** Event Reports indicated the number of Children / Young People and Adults who participated in each event. Some events, attended by a particular group, may have covered more than one identified theme resulting in the participants being counted more than once.

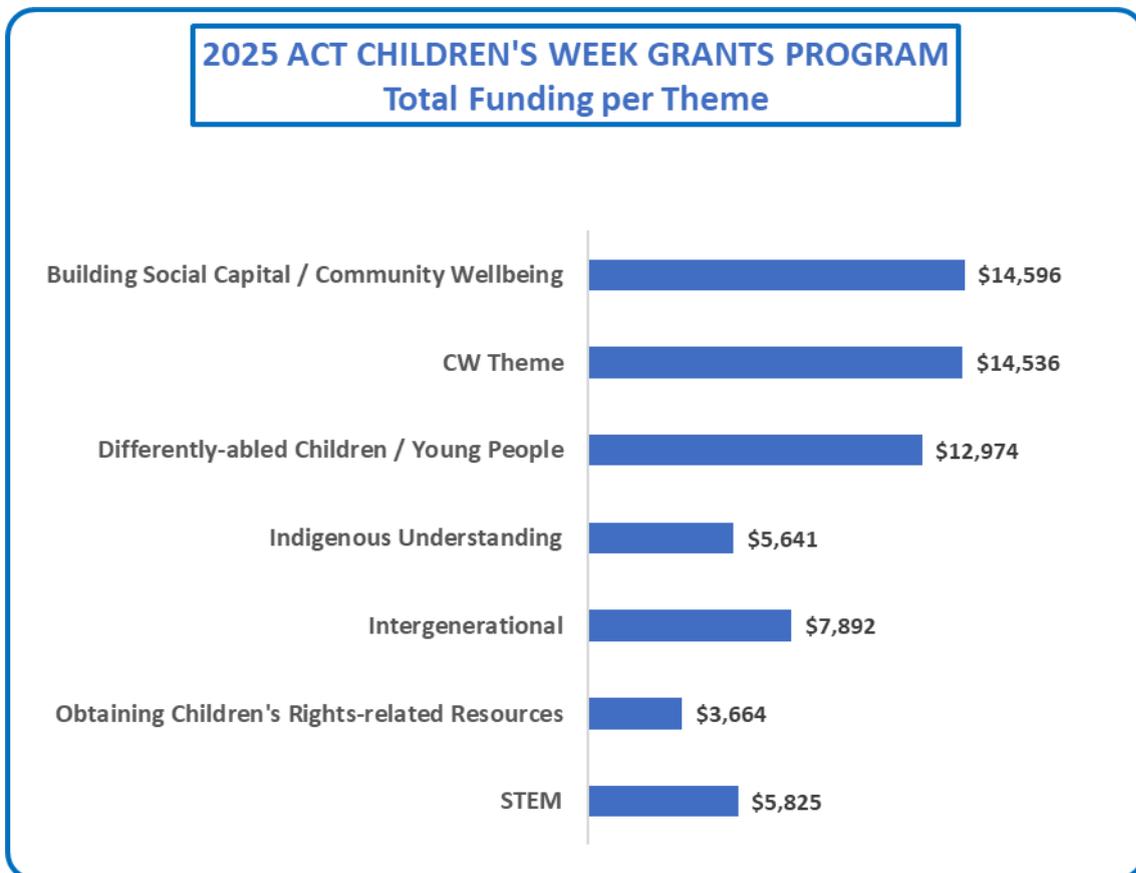


- **# Grants per Grant Amount:** Grants were typically advertised as being “around \$200” so the majority of applications focussed on that figure. Others applied for less, and those who applied for more were determined according to the balance available in the Grants Budget.

2025 ACT CHILDREN’S WEEK GRANTS PROGRAM
Grants per Grant Amount

Grants Amount	# Grants
\$100	2
\$135	16
\$150	3
\$167	9
\$172	1
\$200	68
\$230	2
\$250	10
\$300	23
\$325	3
\$350	2

- **Total Funding per Theme:** Funding per Grant theme figures are based on Event Report data. A single grant possibly covered more than one theme which one event covered.



2025 ACT CHILDREN'S WEEK GRANTS – IMPACT STATEMENTS

Organisation	Event / Activity Title	Grant impact
Acacia Early Education & Care	Library Expansion	Educators and children have access to these new books and this shared learning has supported the growth and development of both staff and children, enriching our educational environment as a whole.
ACT Home Education	Picnic in the Park - Meet and Greet	Being awarded the grant enabled us to host our first home education meet and greet in several years. The funds added value and enabled our team to put together snack bags (popcorn, biscuits and a small chocolate bar) for each of the children as well as providing fruit and water for the families. This gave parents and young people a reason to come and connect with each other and the home education team.
Aeon Arts	Aeon Halloween Party!	This grant allowed us to depart from our usual menu and create some spookily healthy Halloween themed snacks like maggots in compost (noodles in pumpkin dip) eyeballs in blood (lychees in raspberry jelly) dead fingers (sausages with tomato sauce) etc. It also allowed us to pick up some Halloween 'treats' for children that were not sugar based, like temporary scar tattoos and glow in the dark stickers, to add as prizes and treat bags and generally make the event extremely enjoyable.
Ainslie School	Reading Hour	The ACT CW Grant improved our event as we purchased Children's Rights-related Resources which brought the Rights of Children to the attention of the community
Ainslie School	Children's Week Forum	The ACT CW Grant added to our staff event as we were able to engage a beautiful setting to host our forum
Ainslie School	Preschool Loose Parts Play - Transition Visit	The ACT CW Grant help to boost the Kindergarten supply of loose parts
Ainslie School	Buroinjin	New equipment was purchased to play Buroinjin
Ainslie School	Purposeful Play Play Date	School community connecting
Ainslie School	Fuel for Thought - Sandwich & Wrap Bar	Health snacks for the community, sharing learning for life
Ainslie School	Little People's Big Day Out	The ACT CW grant has helped strengthen our school community connections — a wonderful outcome for everyone!
Ainslie School - Baker Gardens Preschool	Indigenous Book Collection Launch	An ACT CW Grant was used to purchase 10 Indigenous picture books
Ainslie School - Reid Preschool	Indigenous Book Collection Launch	The ACT CW Grant was used to purchase 10 Indigenous picture books
Allara Creative	Book reading and creative arts at 13th Canberra Scouts	The ACT Children's Week Grant enabled us to deliver a high-quality, engaging reading of The Brindabellas' Big Night Out at no cost to participants or Scouts ACT. The funding allowed us to dedicate time towards preparing an interactive, enjoyable session and provide activities which were engaging for the Scouts.
Arawang preschool	Grandfriends morning tea	We were able to cater the morning tea with the funds and we also used children's week resources to 'brand' the event.
Arawang Primary School P&C	Childrens Kitchen Garden Revamp	The grant allowed us to purchase the new soil and vegie/fruit punnets. Without the grant, this would not have been possible

Bonython Primary School P&C Association	Bonython Kids Market - DIY stall	The DIY stall helped to increase engagement at the 2025 Bonython Kids Market by encouraging kids and young people in the broader Bonython community to get involved and show their support for their peers.
Bruce Ridge Early Childhood Centre	Excursion Duncan Echoes	The ACT CW Grant greatly enhanced the quality and impact of our service program. The funding allowed us to bring in external community groups to perform, engage, and teach children about different cultures. This provided the children with valuable opportunities to learn through creative and interactive experiences. Overall, the ACT CW Grant added significant value by supporting local arts engagement, fostering creativity, and building stronger connections between artists, cultural groups, and the community.
Communities at work Taylor CCEC	Hatching Chicks and the Science of Life	Through the Hatching Chicks and the Science of Life program, children at Communities@Work Taylor Child Care and Education Centre experienced the wonder of observing life firsthand. Supported by the grant funding, the initiative offered an engaging, hands-on learning experience that brought the scientific concept of life cycles to life. Children observed eggs hatch, cared for the baby chicks, and learned about the importance of warmth, safety, and nurture — connecting deeply with themes of growth, responsibility, and empathy. One of the most meaningful outcomes of the project was the creation of a book, “Our Hatching Chicks Story.” Children collaborated to document their observations through drawings, dictations, and photos, turning their scientific exploration into a beautiful literacy-rich project. The book is now displayed in the studio library, symbolising the children’s voice, creativity, and growing scientific understanding. This literacy extension fostered ownership of learning and reflected the children’s ability to express their thinking through multiple modes — visual art, oral storytelling, and early writing.
Canberra Islamic School	Acquire school resources for Children's Rights	We plan to use the materials including posters that will be printed to educate children about their rights and responsibilities. The materials acquired would make the learning fun and engaging.
Caroline Chisholm School	Stay and Play	Our event was smaller than planned but it was lovely to have families get together and talk to like-minded parents about ways to improve our P&C
Caroline Chisholm School- Stay and Playgroup	ACT Children's Week Celebration @ Stay and Play	Families and children were grateful for morning tea and more resources being added to stay and play. Stay and Play at CCS is self- funded and all toys are donated by community.
Chapman Preschool P&C	Preschool Garden Working Bee	The ACT Children's Week Grant completely funded our event purchasing all cleaning and painting supplies used at the working bee.
Chifley Preschool	"Play the Day Away" sensory play day	The grant helped us to purchase several different sensory play materials and resources which would not have been possible without the money made available. The materials were of a good quality, colourful and appealed to the children.
Children's Book Council of Australia ACT Branch	Reader's Cup	The Grant enabled the organiser to purchase medallions and have the two Trophies engraved and give the students a chocolate snack during a break.
Children's Book Council, ACT Branch	Christmas Book Giving	Books make a huge impact on both the children and the adults who care for them. We get feedback thanking us for this initiative.
Communities at Work	Children's Week Celebration	Providing opportunities for educators, children and families to engage and network

Communities at Work	Indigenous Literary Library	We would not have been able to buy as many resources.
Communities at Work - Abacus Child Care and Education Centre	Obtaining children rights resources for Children's Week and beyond	During Children's Week, Abacus Child Care and Education Centre used the Children's Rights Educator Packs to deepen children's understanding of their rights through meaningful storytelling, discussions, and yarning circles. The beautifully illustrated books inspired children to explore themes of identity, belonging, respect, and fairness, helping them recognise their own rights and those of others. Educators observed increased confidence, empathy, and thoughtful communication among children as they shared ideas and experiences. Families were also engaged through story-sharing and conversations at home, strengthening partnerships and reinforcing our centre's vision of ensuring every child feels safe, valued, and empowered to express themselves
Communities at work Taylor CCEC	The Science of Life event & Children's Rights Walk	The ACT Children's Week Grant significantly strengthened our event by allowing us to offer richer, more meaningful experiences for children and families. The funding supported our intergenerational afternoon tea, provided high-quality children's rights and wellbeing resources, and enabled hands-on learning through our Hatching Chicks and Ducklings science project. These activities deepened children's understanding of their rights, encouraged creativity and inquiry, and strengthened connections between children and their families. The grant also allowed educators to facilitate purposeful discussions and create environments that supported belonging and participation. Overall, the funding added depth, engagement, and lasting impact to our Children's Week celebrations.
Communities@work	Children's week Art Exhibition- Amaroo OSHC Tree of Children's Rights	Thanks to the generous support from the ACT CW grant, Amaroo OSHC has been able to purchase essential stationery supplies for our Art Exhibition and beyond! These resources are already sparking creativity and will continue to support our children's future art and craft projects, helping them explore, express, and grow through hands-on learning. We're so grateful for this investment in our children's creative journey.
Cranleigh School	Come See Celebrate ME!	Without the ACT Children's Week grant students would not have had the opportunity to create high quality artworks using canvas.
Cranleigh School P&C	Come See Celebrate – Cranleigh Community Day	The ACT Children's Week Grant significantly enhanced the quality and inclusiveness of our event. Funding facilitated the hire of accessible lawn games, which created engaging, shared play spaces for children of all abilities and encouraged meaningful interaction between families. The grant also enabled us to provide afternoon tea for our dedicated volunteers, acknowledging their time and contribution. These additions elevated the overall experience, strengthened community connection, and ensured families who often face barriers could participate fully. The grant's support was instrumental in helping fund these activities.
Duffy Primary School	Traditional Games and Afternoon tea with an older adult	The grant we received we utilized to buy some of the resources that we used for the traditional games that we played. We also used as many natural materials that we could, such as gum nuts and seeds for the game 'Jacks'.
Erindale College	Economics Party	Students built further relationships with each other and their educators
Erindale College	Movie excursion to Limelight Cinemas	The ACT CW Grant allowed our students to attend the movies at no additional cost to them, meaning that families weren't financially impacted on this excursion. The grant provides wonderful opportunities for students that might not be able to happen otherwise.

Erindale College	Bridging Numeracy Class Excursion - Walking around the National Triangle and Lunch	The ACT Children's Week Grant allowed all students in the Bridging Numeracy class to participate fully in the National/Parliamentary Triangle excursion, including lunch, without financial barriers. The funding created an inclusive experience where students could apply maths skills in real-world contexts such as mapping distances, calculating travel times, and budgeting. Visiting the High Court of Australia added unique educational value and sparked meaningful discussions about rights, responsibilities, and everyday problem-solving. The grant promoted wellbeing, confidence, and engagement by connecting classroom learning with community experiences, reinforcing students' right to learn and participate in authentic, hands-on educational opportunities.
Erindale College	Celebrate Science	The grant enabled me to feed my students lunch, to socialise, build relationships and to enable full participation in learning activities.
Erindale College	Indigenous Art activity and Kingsley's morning tea	Without the grant we would not have been able to purchase the large canvas or the Kingsley's Chicken. I feel that it definitely helped to make the lesson successful and enjoyable for the students.
Erindale College	Wooden Clocks	All students were included as we could spread the cost further.
Erindale College	Essential Maths yr 12 Meet and Share	Children love to share moments with their friends over Pizza Lunch. End of school get together.
Erindale College	Mathematical Application yr 11 (line 4) Success & Recognising Students' Rights	The ACT Children's Week Grant supported us financially to celebrate our end-of-year success with a pizza lunch. This celebration also highlighted children's rights to participate and enjoy positive school experiences. The students thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.
Erindale College	Essential Maths yr 12 Meet and Share	The ACT Children's Week Grant supported us financially to celebrate our end-of-year success with a pizza lunch. This celebration also highlighted children's rights to participate and enjoy positive school experiences. The students thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.
Erindale College - Bridging Maths (Mainstream) to the movies	Went to see the movies to see Tron	The ACT Children's Week Grant allowed all students in the Bridging Maths (Mainstream) class to participate in a shared learning experience without financial barriers. The funding covered the cost of movie tickets and refreshments, making the excursion inclusive and enjoyable for everyone. This opportunity added value by helping students connect their classroom learning to real-world applications, such as budgeting, time management, and travel planning. It also promoted social interaction, teamwork, and wellbeing. The grant made it possible for every student to engage equally in a positive, practical, and memorable activity that celebrated Children's Week.
Erindale College - Hospitality	Hospitality showcase - Children's party	With the grant money (and the idea of Children's Week) we were able to put this event on and provide a free party for our whole school community rather than just the Hospitality students.
Erindale College Drama Class - "The Play That Goes Wrong"	Play "The Play That goes Wrong"	The ACT Children's Week Grant made it possible for all Drama students, including those from the Learning Support Unit, to attend the professional performance "The Play That Goes Wrong." This experience would not have been possible for some students without the financial support provided. The grant added value by giving students a real-world connection to their own production, helping them reflect on acting, stage design, and teamwork. It also promoted inclusion, confidence, and wellbeing by ensuring that every student could participate equally in a shared cultural experience, celebrating their right to access the arts and creative learning opportunities.

Erindale College Life Skills Class	School bus trip to see the movie Tron	The ACT Children’s Week Grant made it possible for all Life Skills students to take part in the movie excursion without worrying about cost. Many of our students experience barriers to community participation, so this funding ensured everyone could be included. The grant added value by supporting real-life learning in a safe, enjoyable way—helping students practise budgeting, travel planning, and social interaction. It also promoted wellbeing by giving students a sense of belonging and shared achievement. The outing helped build confidence and reinforced the importance of inclusion, respect, and access to community experiences for all young people.
Erindale College Pasifika Group	End of Year Pizza Celebration	The ACT CW Grant greatly enhanced our Pasifika program by enabling us to celebrate and share our diverse Pacific cultures in authentic and meaningful ways. With this support, we provided cultural workshops, performances, and our inaugural Pacific Excellence Awards, recognising Pasifika achievement and leadership. The funding allowed us to purchase traditional materials, costumes, and decorations that brought pride and cultural identity to our events. Most importantly, it strengthened connections between students, families, and the wider community, creating a strong sense of belonging. The grant truly uplifted our Pasifika voices and empowered our students to celebrate who they are.
Erindale College Wood Work - Pizzas Together	Sharing Pizzas in the Wood Class	The ACT Children’s Week Grant made it possible for all Wood Work students to share in a celebratory pizza lunch without any cost barriers. The funding supported inclusion by ensuring every student could take part equally, helping to strengthen relationships and build a positive sense of community within the class. This simple but meaningful activity added value by promoting wellbeing, teamwork, and recognition of students’ efforts throughout the term. It also reflected the 2025 Children’s Week theme by supporting students’ right to relax, enjoy leisure time, and feel valued and connected within their learning environment.
Erindale College: Compass Program Star Buffet Excursion	Compass Program Star Buffet Excursion	The ACT Children’s Week Grant significantly improved the Star Buffet excursion by ensuring all Compass Program and Food Class students could participate without financial pressure. In addition to the allocated funding, approval to use unspent money from other Children’s Week grants further supported this event and helped reduce costs for families. This combined funding allowed students to enjoy a shared meal, try new foods, and build confidence in a community setting. The experience promoted inclusion, wellbeing, and social connection, supporting the Children’s Week theme by ensuring every student had the right to participate fully and enjoy a positive, memorable celebration.
Evelyn Scott School	Book Launch - 'Children's Rights'	The grant enabled us to publish the book in hard copy, creating a real sense of pride and achievement in co-creating a class book about Rights. The children view themselves as writers, authors and active participants in our learning community.
Fadden Primary P & C	Stay and Play Preschool Picnic	Grant enabled food to be purchased which encouraged people to stay and participation.
Fadden Primary P & C	Fadden Primary P&C Stay and Play afternoon tea	Enabled the purchase of food which encouraged people to stay and play.

Farrer Primary School	Colour Run	The Children's Week grant had a significant positive impact on our school community by enhancing the 2025 Colour Run and ensuring every student could fully participate. The funding allowed us to provide bubbles and icy poles for all students, creating a shared experience that promoted joy, inclusion, and celebration. It also supported the purchase of coloured paint, which transformed the event into a vibrant, high-engagement activity that encouraged physical activity and school connectedness. As a result, the Colour Run strengthened student wellbeing, fostered a sense of belonging across Preschool to Year 6, and brought families, staff, and P&C volunteers together in a meaningful community event. The grant directly contributed to creating a fun, memorable, and inclusive Children's Week experience for every child.
Flynn Early Childhood Education Centre	Celebrating our Reconciliation Action Plan Success	The grant funds supported us to celebrate the success of our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) with the children in a meaningful and engaging way. The mat will continue to be a valuable addition to our outdoor environments, supporting children's ongoing learning, play, and connection to culture.
Forrest Early Education & Care	Library Expansion	Educators and children have access to these new books and this shared learning has supported the growth and development of both staff and children, enriching our educational environment as a whole.
Forrest Out of School Hours Care	Family Play Day	The grant impact was huge as a NFP service it gave us the funds to buy additional resources and promote children's rights,
Forrest Primary School P and C	Letters to Our Leaders at Forrest Primary School	Resources and promotion helped explain the week and encouragement meaningful engagement
Franklin School Parent Committee	<i>Seen</i> screening	The cost of the screening licence for <i>Seen</i> was \$250 so the grant allowed us to undertake the screening. We are a small P&C with not much capital reserves
Fraser After School Care	Children's Week STEAM Extravaganza	The grant allowed for us to widen the range of activities we could put on offer for the children and allowed for us to cater to their wider curiosities and desires. It ensured the day was fully designed for them.
Garran Scout Group	Children's Week - Learning Through Bushcraft	The impact was allowing the purchase of much needed equipment for the Scouts. We purchased 10 ferro rods so more youth members could participate in the fire lighting skills session. The rods are now also available for youth at their meetings and future camps to easily re-run the same session.
Gumnuts Yarralumla Playgroup	The Life Cycle of a Plant	The Grant was wonderful in that it allowed us to do something different for the children as we do not have much income. Learning and doing something different was exciting for the children and they entered into it wholeheartedly, so thank you very much for the Grant.
Gungahlin Child and Family Centre	Fletcher's Ark Farmyard Fun	The ACT CW Grant added significant value to our event by enabling us to host Fletcher's Ark Farmyard at our playgroup. This experience was unlike our usual sessions, providing a new and enriching way for children to build empathy, confidence, and social skills, while also bringing families together to create lasting memories and strengthen community connections.
Gungahlin Child and Family Centre	Welcome back to Tiddas Indigenous Young Girls Group	We were able to expand on our existing resources, allowing the girls to explore their creativity and exposure to beautiful food ingredients.

Gungahlin Child and Family Centre	Children's Week 2025 Arboretum Excursion for Atfaal and Learn Giggle Grow playgroups: Exploring Rights Through Nature event	The ACT Children's Week Grant significantly enhanced the success and accessibility of our Arboretum excursion by enabling us to hire a charter bus to transport families to and from the National Arboretum Canberra. This support ensured that families without access to private transport could participate in the event, promoting inclusivity and reducing barriers to engagement. By providing safe and convenient travel, the grant helped create a welcoming experience for all attendees, allowing families to focus on connecting with nature, exploring children's rights, and enjoying quality time together. The charter bus was instrumental in fostering community participation and ensuring the event was accessible to a broader range of families.
HeartKids Ltd	Two Feet and a Heartbeat	The grant allowed us to purchase bubble wands for all children participating, coloured hairspray for kids and siblings to proudly wear HeartKids colours of red and blue, colouring and painting supplies and partial payment for our face painter.
Holy Family Primary School	Grandparents Day	The financial impact of the grant was significant as we did not need to charge the families as much if they wished to purchase a grazing box to share at the event.
Holy Trinity ELC	Slow Afternoon and Loose Parts	The ACT Children's Week Grant enabled us to enrich our outdoor learning environments through the addition of high-quality loose parts, which inspired creativity, collaboration and problem-solving during our Slow Afternoon event. These materials encouraged children and families to engage in open-ended play and meaningful interaction, aligning beautifully with this year's theme, "Everyone should know about Children's Rights." The grant helped us create a calm, inviting space where children's capabilities, curiosity, and joy were celebrated — deepening family connections and strengthening our shared understanding of children's rights in action.
Holy Trinity Primary School	Holy Trinity Family Tennis Tournament: Celebrating Children's Right to Play	The ACT Children's Week grant was instrumental in enhancing our Tennis Challenge event. The funding enabled us to provide catering for all attending families, which significantly increased participation by removing barriers and creating a relaxed, social atmosphere where families could stay longer and connect more meaningfully. By offering food and refreshments, we transformed the event from simply a tennis activity into a genuine community gathering. The catering reinforced the welcoming, inclusive nature of the event, ensuring every family could participate fully without additional cost.
Jessica Wright	Theo's Rainbow Rush (Colour Run)	The ACT CW Grant provided helpful support for our Rainbow Rush by contributing toward key items like colour powder and safety supplies. While the \$200 grant didn't cover the overall event costs, it eased some pressure and allowed us to offer the event free for all students to participate in. This assistance helped us deliver a fun, inclusive and well-run experience that students described as "the best day ever", while still raising valuable funds for our school.
Joey's Weston (Scouts ACT)	Joey's & Grandfriends: Play, Share, and Explore Together	The grant added value by helping us provide additional materials and resources that enriched the activities and made the overall experience more enjoyable for everyone involved.
Kaleen Primary School	Grandparents Day	The positive feedback from grandparents was overwhelming. They were happy to be invited into the school, grandparents day had not been event at the school since prior to covid. It was evident to the connection between the different generations.
Kingsford Smith School	Grand friends Day Sing-along and Morning Tea	The impact of the grant supported a healthy morning tea to share with students and their families.

Koala Playschool	Grandparents and special persons day	Facilitating the money to buy the art making resources allowed us to provide a meaningful shared experienced between the grandparents/special people and the young children form our service. They money allowed us to purchase quality materials that facilitated the interaction between them and allowed the children to showcase their artistic abilities.
Lake Ginninderra Sea Scouts - Rainbow Joeys	Coding Robots	Without the grant this activity wouldn't have been possible, as we wouldn't have been able to purchase the robots.
Latham Preschool	Our Relationship with Country	We would not have been able to purchase these resources if not for the grant money we graciously received.
Lillypilly Early Education Centre	"Everyone should know about Children's Rights	We were able to purchase two wonderful sets of Qld Children's Rights books, including a set for our famil+C81ies to take home in the library. The books have helped challenge our children and understand what their rights are.
Macquarie Preschool	Collaborative Play with Community	We were able to purchase a number of resources which will enhance children's collaborative play possibilities. When the event does happen both Macquarie and Milestones students will have a collaborative artwork to display in their centre as a symbol of their place in community and an ongoing relationship.
Macquarie Primary School	Grandfriends' Morning Tea	It sure did - we were able to fund not only morning tea but many activities for the children to partake in with their guests, including rock painting, scavenger hunt, dance class, art and craft activities, Pickleball and much more
Margaret Hendry School	Children's Week welcome sign unveiling	It supported the purchase of the welcome sign, enabling us to conduct this event! Thank you!
Marlee Early Education & Care	Our Rights Storybook	The grant provided our service the opportunity to purchase a range of materials the children could utilise in creating their book. We were able to laminate and collate the book to add to our library and for it to remain a long lasting piece in our collection.
Mawson Out of School Hours Care	Library Expansion	Educators and children have access to these new books and this shared learning has supported the growth and development of both staff and children, enriching our educational environment as a whole.
Mulga Scouts ACT	Messengers of Peace Little Free Library	We would not have been able to do this without receiving the grant in essence the grant allowed us to live our value of youth empowerment in allowing the children to plan and complete th activity as well as being a service to their community.
Music Theatre Projects Ltd	Newsies Jnr	Our project was ambitious, and we were starting out on a new program without any base funding, so every grant we received was incredibly important in getting this project over the line. It also underlined the meaning of the production, to be associated with events that share values and goals.
Namadgi School	Grandfriends afternoon	It was very valuable as it provided valuable resources to use
Namadgi School	Community Library	It was a wonderful event that bought our community together
Narrabundah Children's Cottage	Grandparents Day	The grant allowed the team at Cottage to purchase stamps, envelopes and letter writing supplies to encourage connection and communication between children and their older family members.

Neville Bonner Preschool - Burugun and Malunggang groups	Children's Fun Day	The grant enabled us to purchase the resources needed to have a fun, engaging day for the children including the cake, napkins etc to gith this, as well as the face paint, nail polish and a new football target set. Thank you!
Neville Bonner Primary School	A fun outside day for children. Throughout the week, we will focus our teaching and learning on the Children's Rights with a particular focus on number 31 - Children have the right to rest, relax and play.	I actually used the United Convention on the rights of the child with children and families which I haven't done before. It was lovely to celebrate in a fun way as a preschool community as well.
Ngunnawal Child Care and Education Centre	Nature Environment Explore and Engage	The grant to our centre, supported the cost of part of the items required for our vision to be funded, which allowed C97for us to achieve our vision.
Noah's Ark Inc.	You Can! Read, Learn, Belong: A Noah's Ark community event celebrating children's strengths and rights through inclusive shared reading	The ACT Children's Week Grant significantly enhanced the quality and of our book-sharing event at Ruth Park. Thanks to the funding, we were able to: Provide a free morning tea, which encouraged families to stay longer, connect with one another, and build a sense of community. Purchase inclusive resources such as key word sign visuals and picture boards, allowing children of all abilities to actively participate in the storytelling experience. Offer take-home materials for parents and carers, supporting early literacy beyond the event and reinforcing the message that every child can be a reader. Create a welcoming and accessible environment, ensuring that cost was not a barrier to participation and that every family felt included. The grant helped us deliver a meaningful, inclusive, event that celebrated children's rights and belonging.
North Ainslie Primary School P and C	Green Halloween	Year 5 and 6 students used the grant funding to design and run Side Show Alley stalls, purchasing materials for engaging activities such as spider-making, face painting, bowling, archery, and throwing games. This hands-on experience empowered students to take initiative, collaborate with peers, and play a meaningful role in the success of the event. Funds raised through these student-led stalls will help subsidise Year 6 graduation celebrations and contribute towards a gift for the school—something future students can enjoy and benefit from. This cycle of giving and leadership reflects the strong community values at the heart of our school.
North Ainslie Primary School P and C	Obtaining Children's Rights Resources	This initiative supports North Ainslie's ongoing commitment to embedding the Child Safe Standards. By promoting identity safety and emotional wellbeing, The Big Box of Rights aligns with our efforts to create a school environment where children feel safe, supported, and free to express who they are.
North Ainslie Primary School P and C	Bush Tucker Garden	The impact of this garden extends beyond planting. Students will take care of the plants, observe their growth, and learn about the Six Aboriginal Seasons through intentional plant selection—connecting seasonal changes to traditional knowledge and ecological cycles.

O'Connor Cooperative School	Ice Cream Dreams & Crazy Hair	The ACT Children's Week Grant significantly enhanced our event by allowing the children's chosen idea to come to life exactly as they imagined it. Because the activity was fully funded, every child could participate equally, removing financial barriers for families. The grant enabled us to purchase quality resources, decorations, and treats that created a fun, inclusive and memorable experience. It also strengthened student voice, as the children proudly voted for the theme and saw their ideas respected and celebrated. Overall, the grant added excitement, ownership, and joy, transforming a simple activity into a vibrant whole-school celebration.
O'Connor Cooperative School	STEM on Wheels	The event had a significant impact on the children by combining STEM learning with genuine student voice. The children voted for this activity themselves and were excited and proud when their idea received a Children's Week Grant. Using the STEM remote-control circuit cars, students built, connected and experimented with electronics in a hands-on, playful way. This boosted their curiosity, problem-solving abilities and confidence in STEM. The activity encouraged collaboration, testing ideas, and learning from mistakes in a supportive environment. Overall, the grant transformed their chosen idea into an engaging STEM experience that strengthened learning, ownership and joy across the school.
Parish of the Transfiguration, North Woden	Obtaining Children's Rights Resources	The ACT Children's Week grant enabled Transfiguration Parish to purchase comprehensive Children's Rights resources for every classroom at Holy Trinity Primary School. The funding allowed us to place high-quality picture books in all seven year levels from Kindergarten to Year 6, ensuring every student has equitable access to Children's Rights education. The grant made it possible to embed Children's Rights learning across our entire school immediately, creating a consistent, whole-school approach to understanding and celebrating the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This comprehensive approach ensures maximum impact and reach across our parish school community.
Pearce Preschool Kookaburras	Storytelling with Holly Bidwell - Pearce Preschool Kookaburras	Receiving the 2025 ACT Children's Week Grant allowed us to facilitate an incursion with a local storyteller without cost to families, allowing all children at our service the opportunity to participate in the experience. The enjoyment and engagement from the children participating in the incursion supported their wellbeing by strengthening emotional intelligence, building resilience, and enhancing cognitive and social skills. It also allowed us the opportunity to build a relationship with our local community by inviting Holly to come and share stories with the children.
Rebels Netball Club	Rebels Netball Club Presentation Night	The grant helped alleviate the financial costs of the night on a not for profit group.
Rosary Out of School Hours Care	STEM Workshop Challenge - Creating Safe & Accessible Environments	We used the grant money to access resources that encourage and excite the children in exploring science, technology, engineering and maths and to be able to use these resources to expand on their ideas and support them all in accessing STEM related experiences. We will use these resources to develop our workshop and continue to use this space regularly.
School Volunteer Program ACT Inc	Recruiting Volunteers to work with students building Meccano models	The \$200 purchased advertising in CityNews. This also led to an interview with 2CC. We were trying to recruit as many volunteers as possible.
Scouts ACT Survival Team	Foraging for Food, Fire, Water and Cordage	It provided the funds to acquire navigational equipment for the foraging walk.
South Belconnen Girl Guides	JOTA/JOTI	The morse code machines made brought morse code to life. The girls had heaps of fun with the walkie talkies, and the build your own kits added a more hands on component to the day.

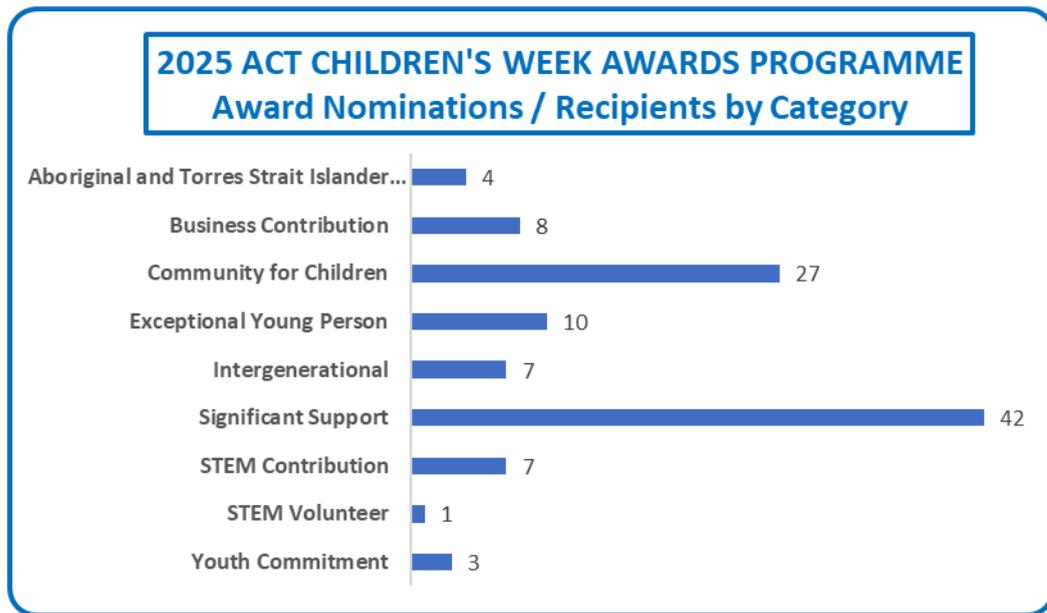
Southern Cross Early Childhood School	Grandparents/friends Celebration Morning Tea	This event would not have been successful at all, without this grant. Thank you very much from our school community.
Southern Valley Spartans Basketball club	Fruit at training	The grant meant it didn't impact on the running costs of the club.
Southwell Cub scouts	Science project night	If we didn't get the grant the Cubs would've had to share the few kits we had & then their experience in making different projects would've suffered. The Cubs scouts were so engaged in making different science experiments we could've spent hours & hours on the event. The Cubs were so happy with the night they have asked if we can plan another night next year with the science kits.
Southwell Scout Group - Brindabella Venturers	Tombola stall at the Hawker School Fete	The ACT Children's Week grant empowered Southwell Scout Group's Venturer Scouts to design and deliver a youth-led Tombola stall at the Hawker School Fete. This initiative provided practical leadership experience for 14–18 year olds, while engaging children and families in a fun, inclusive activity. By reusing jars for prizes, the project modelled sustainability and resourcefulness. It also raised awareness of Scouting opportunities across age groups, fostering resilience, teamwork and civic responsibility. The grant covered materials, prizes and safety supplies, enabling Venturers to contribute meaningfully to their community and inspiring more families to explore the benefits of Scouting.
St John Vianney's Primary School Waramanga	Read, Reflect, Connect: Building Resilience Through Books	The grant allowed us to purchase some new updated Resilience books.
St Jude's Primary School	Year 5/6 Book-club Manga Party	Our grant enabled us to purchase books that are expensive and not readily available. By responding to our students requests I build a strong trust with them and we improve our reading culture at St Jude's.
St Jude's School Holder ACT	Purchasing a Buddy Bench from recycled Lids	Without the grant we would probably have had to wait until next year to purchase the bench which would have been well after the competition which would not be ideal. It is also great for the Year 6 children who are here to see the culmination of the project they have been very involved in.
St Michael's Out of School Hours Care	STEM Challenge - Keeping Everyone Safe	The grant money was used to access resources that encourage and excite the children in exploring science, technology, engineering and maths and to be able to use these resources to expand on their ideas and support them all in accessing STEM related experiences. The resources included blocks, building kits and recyclable building materials.
St Michael's Primary Kaleen	Grandparent's and Greatfriend's Day	We were able to use the grant to purchase treats for the students. Each child received a mini frozen yogurt.
St Monica's Primary School	Children's Rights to an education	The books have allowed us to build a collection of books that are fresh and up to date about Children's Rights for our students to access and learn about Children's Rights
St Vincent's Primary School	Children's Rights Garden, Art competition and Resources for the library	The grant allowed us to purchase some books which supported our work in promoting Children's Rights. These will remain a permanent fixture in our library.
Sts Peter & Paul Out of School Hours Care	STEM Station	Using the grant money, we were able to buy resources to go towards our STEM station, supporting children in their exploration of STEM related learning experiences. Most importantly this now extends beyond Children's Week, with the STEM Station being accessible throughout the program

The Learning Nest Co	Free Intergenerational Playgroup	We were able to purchase resources that were reflective of what we were wanting to achieve + paying for staff to conduct the session. It was very successful!
Throsby Out of School Hours Care	Wellbeing Space	This tent has been a safe haven for children when they need support with social interactions, self-regulation and personal space. Being able to provide them with a resource that allows them to understand and advocate for a range of their rights is a truly wonderful way to spend children's week and celebrating this year's theme.
Torrens Primary School	Grandfriends Day	It had a huge impact! Without the grant we would not have been able to host such a beautiful morning tea for our grandparents.
Torrens Primary School	Addition of Children's Week Resources to our Library Collection	These resources are key to our focus on children's rights in the curriculum for all future units of work across K-6
Torrens Primary School P&C Association Incorporated	Big Bubble Station and Children's Art Show	The grant added value to the event by providing a space at the fete that was no cost to families and focused on connection and child-led fun. It honoured kids' creativity and curiosity.
Tuggeranong Child & Family Centre	Children's Week theme Everyone Should Know about Children's Rights	Being able to invite a paid balloon artist to the Learn, Giggle and Grow Playgroup at the Tuggeranong Child & Family Centre took the Children's week celebration to the next level.
Tuggeranong Child and Family Centre	Everyone should know about Children's Rights-event	It supported us to provide very important information to our Koori families about the rights of every child. It was a fun event and every child does, as the Convention on the Rights of the Child states, have the right to play and have fun. The Balloon artist made a little story about the Three Little Pigs. This is a story about feeling safe. She also made individual balloons in the shapes of Australian native animals, which helps with identity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and every child could choose which animal they wanted.
Tuggeranong Child and Family Centre	Multicultural Playgroup Children's Party theme	The grant allowed our Centre to hold a Children's Party theme including a visit from the reptile zoo. This added value to our event by likely attracting more families to visit the centre and therefore allowing us to educate more families regarding the UN's Right of the Children while demonstrating our safe and inclusive group and centre.
Watson Early Childhood Education & Care	Children's Gallery	Using the fund provided, Watson was able to host a really special evening, with artwork displayed respectfully. Families were so proud to see their children's voices shared with dignity, respect and appreciation.
Wesley Whippersnappers Playgroup	Colours of the Rainbow	The grant helped us put together a wonderful morning tea for the children and their carers who could play and have a feast at the same time. It paid for the resources such as the rice, the flowers, the knives and the fruits, the morning tea and extra stationery which we usually don't have a lot of budget for.
West Belconnen Child and Family Centre	Learn Giggle Grow	Thanks to the grant, we were able to enhance our regular play group session by offering a special activity day for children and parents. This event provided opportunities for families to engage in creative play, strengthen social connections, and enjoy a variety of enriching experiences that would not have been possible without this funding. The grant allowed us to cover costs for Fletcher's ARK services creating a memorable and inclusive environment for all participants.

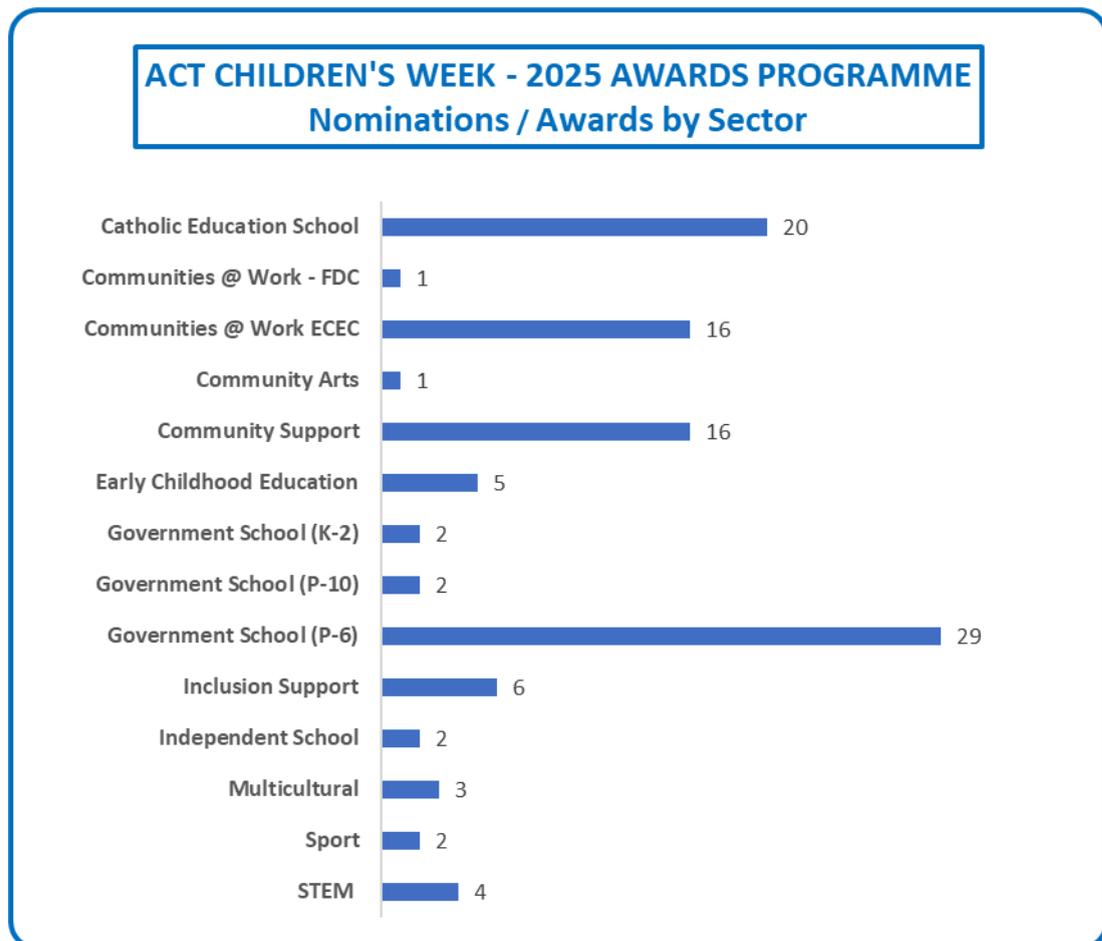
West Belconnen Child and Family Centre - Multicultural Playgroup	Excursion to National Zoo & Aquarium	Thanks to the grant, we were able to cover essential costs for the excursion, such as food, water, and transport, which made the event possible.
West Belconnen Child and Family Centres	Koori Pre Children's week	The children loved the books. Each preschool received two: Learning Country by Ryhia Dank, which teaches traditional place names and totems, helping children connect with their identity and culture. The second, Silly Birds by Gregg Dreise, explores the importance of choosing good friends and learning from mistakes. It shows how poor choices can lead to trouble, but also how to take responsibility and make things right. Both books sparked meaningful conversations and helped children understand their place in culture and community.
Wonderschool Dickson	Exploring animals that live on Ngunawal Country Australia - Reptile Incursion	The grant allowed the opportunity for all children to be involved
YMCA Early learning Holt	Larry Brandy session	The grant enabled us to engage storyteller Larry Brandy, enriching children's learning about culture, identity, and wellbeing. His interactive session encouraged children to express themselves, listen to others, and connect with Aboriginal heritage, fostering confidence, creativity, and a sense of belonging. It also provided educators with new ideas to support engagement and cultural awareness. By supporting this activity during Children's Week, the grant directly promoted children's rights, voices, and wellbeing. Overall, it enhanced the quality of our program, created meaningful experiences for children, and left a lasting positive impact on both participants and the wider community.
YMCA Gungahlin	Banner display	This support enabled the service to acquire the required resources and materials for the development of the display.
YWCA	Discussed and learn about the Rights of the children	The ACT Children's Week Grant added great value to our event by helping us create meaningful learning experiences for all children. The funds allowed us to provide engaging materials and resources that supported children to explore and share their ideas about their rights through art, discussion, and play. It also enabled educators to learn more about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and reflect on how to embed these principles in daily practice. The grant helped us celebrate children's voices and promote respect, inclusion, and awareness across our service community.
YWCA O'Connor SAC	Children's Disco	The \$150 grant made a meaningful impact by supporting a disco experience shaped directly by the children's voices and interests. Their suggestions guided the music, activities and overall atmosphere, ensuring the event was genuinely child-led. The funding allowed us to create a fun, inclusive and engaging environment that promoted movement, joy and social connection. This experience positively supported children's wellbeing by giving them opportunities to express themselves, build confidence and feel a strong sense of belonging within the group. By easing financial pressure on the service, the grant enabled educators to prioritise high-quality, child-centred experiences that met the children's emotional and developmental needs.

APPENDIX 2 – ACT CHILDREN’S WEEK 2025 AWARDS PROGRAMME

- **Award Nominations / Recipients by Category:** Numbers of nominations, and awards, per award category.



- **Nominations / Awards by Sector:** Numbers of award nominations and awardees by sector.



2025 ACT CHILDREN'S WEEK AWARD RECIPIENTS - by Award Category x Organisation

Award Category	Awardee	Position Held	Organisation
ACT Children & Young People Commissioner's EXCEPTIONAL YOUNG PERSON AWARD	Felicity Gribble	Student, Year 5	Holy Trinity Primary School, Curtin
Community Services Directorate / Office for Seniors & Veterans EXCEPTIONAL SENIOR AWARD	Stuart Thorn	Volunteer and Southside Organiser / Trainer	Story Dogs
Business Contribution	Ravi Krishnamurthy	President	Australian Multicultural Action Network Inc.
Business Contribution	Bee and Luna Selde	Owners / Creators	Canberra Queer Directory
Business Contribution	Zabeen Fakre	Early Childhood Educator	Communities at Work
Business Contribution	Communities at Work - Taylor CCEC	Early Childhood Educator Team	Communities at Work
Business Contribution	Joe Hedger	Founder	Cuz Boxing
Business Contribution	Charuni Weerasooriya	Founder & Director	EDII (Maker2Market Program)
Business Contribution	Chloe Lim	Director	Twistyfic
Community for Children	Sally Campbell	School Leader - Early Years	Ainslie School
Community for Children	Rebecca Elias	Volunteer	Ainslie School
Community for Children	Dewi Gurnitha	School Leader - Early Years	Ainslie School
Community for Children	Leah Jackson	Volunteer	Ainslie School
Community for Children	Cordelia McColl-Griffiths	Volunteer	Ainslie School
Community for Children	Zaza Mohd Zainee	School Leader - Early Years	Ainslie School
Community for Children	Hannah Sparks	Volunteer	Ainslie School
Community for Children	George Stewart	Volunteer	Ainslie School
Community for Children	Adit Taruna	School Leader - Early Years	Ainslie School
Community for Children	Rosy Garg	Dental Assistant	Canberra Health Services Dental
Community for Children	Maree and Helen Wilson	Teachers	Canberra Physical Culture Club
Community for Children	BJ Anyos	Founder and Artistic Director	Child Players ACT
Community for Children	Farah Junaid	Manager/Educational Leader	Communities at Work
Community for Children	Glenn Tindall	President	Forrest Primary P and C Association

Community for Children	Kayleigh and Tom McGlynn	Carer and author	Foster Carers and Author
Community for Children	Dennis Ogden	Secretary	Kids in Care ACT
Community for Children	Melinda Wise	Director / Teacher	Koala Playschool
Community for Children	Alethea White	Volunteer	Macquarie Primary School
Community for Children	Christina Schwarz	P & C President	O'Connor Cooperative School
Community for Children	Wayne Dunn	Classroom Teacher	St Clare of Assisi Primary School
Community for Children	Katherine Austin	Classroom Support Assistant	St Clare of Assisi Primary School, Conder
Community for Children	Kate Blenkin	Classroom Support Assistant	St Clare of Assisi Primary School, Conder
Community for Children	Cherie Ruzvidzo	Classroom Teacher	St Clare of Assisi Primary School, Conder
Community for Children	Cheyenne Symons	Classroom Teacher	St Clare of Assisi Primary School, Conder
Community for Children	Shianne Sahariv	Teacher	St Michael's Primary School, Kaleen
Community for Children	Penny Vanzwol	Student Welfare Officer	St Thomas More's Primary School, Campbell
Community for Children	Nat Bannerman	Co-founder	Zosimos Curra
Contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children	Nathan Snow	Early Childhood Educator	Communities at Work - Taylor Child Care and Education Centre
Contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children	Tegan Bonner	Koori Pre Teacher	Ngunnawal Primary School
Contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children	Emily O'Rourke	Teacher	St Michael's Primary School, Kaleen
Contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children	Wanniassa School		
Exceptional STEM Contribution	Linda White	Family Day Care Support Coordinator	Communities at Work
Exceptional STEM Contribution	Katie Jakab-Van Dooren	Assistant-Manager	Daydream Machine
Exceptional STEM Contribution	Elizabeth Mihalopoulos	Library / STEM teacher	St Joseph's Primary School, O'Connor
Exceptional STEM Contribution	Jessica Hallahan	Teacher	St Michael's Primary School, Kaleen
Exceptional STEM Contribution	Wendy Rodriguez	Early Childhood Teacher	YWCA Canberra
Exceptional STEM Contribution	Women in ICT - Work Experience Connection Program		
Exceptional STEM Volunteer	Maria Batool	Early Childhood Educator	Communities at Work
Exceptional Young Person	Sofia Di Dio	Support Assistant	Daydream Machine
Exceptional Young Person	Dakoda Leach	Educator	Communities at Work

Exceptional Young Person	Chhimi Wangmo	Diploma Educator	Communities at Work Abacus Child Care and Education Centre
Exceptional Young Person	Katarina Elix	N/A	Daydream Machine
Exceptional Young Person	Hunter Lambert	N/A	Daydream Machine
Exceptional Young Person	Felicity Gribble	Student Year 5	Holy Trinity Primary School, Curtin
Exceptional Young Person	Jackson Hasler	School Captain	St Edmund's College, Canberra
Exceptional Young Person	Amalie Schwarz	Student	St Michael's Primary School, Kaleen
Exceptional Young Person	Queenie Smith	Trainee Educator	Wonderschool Dickson
Intergenerational Award	Belinda Loveless	Volunteer	Ainslie School
Intergenerational Award	David Sloper	Volunteer	Ainslie School
Intergenerational Award	Terry Walker	Volunteer	Ainslie School
Intergenerational Award	Charmaine Savage	Casual Relief Teacher	Chapman Primary School
Intergenerational Award	Nicole Smith	Founder - COO	Community Home Australia
Intergenerational Award	Robert Greeney	Vice President	School Volunteer Program ACT Inc
Intergenerational Award	Stuart Thorn	Volunteer and Southside Organiser / Trainer	Story Dogs
Significant Support	William Knight	Chess Coach	ACT Junior Chess League
Significant Support	David Barber	Meccano / Mentoring	ACT School Volunteer Programme
Significant Support	Alison Burrows	Supporting with Reading	Ainslie School
Significant Support	Julian Davies	Volunteer	Ainslie School
Significant Support	Rhyl Hurley	Volunteer	Ainslie School
Significant Support	Eskindir Gavel	Student Support	Ainslie School
Significant Support	Catherine Gough	Volunteer	Ainslie School
Significant Support	Claire Hazlett	Volunteer	Ainslie School
Significant Support	Edward Neeman	Chess Coach	Ainslie School
Significant Support	Jess Richardson	Volunteer	Ainslie School
Significant Support	Ravi Krishnamurthy	President	AMAN
Significant Support	Santosh Gupta	Principal & Coordinator	Canberra Hindi School

Significant Support	Emi Hirai	Early Childhood Educator	Communities at Work Abacus CCEC
Significant Support	Ciska Leemhuis	Cert 3	Communities at Work Abacus CCEC
Significant Support	Angus Lockley	Leadership Team	Communities at Work Abacus CCEC
Significant Support	Ashlea Nicholson	Centre Manager	Communities at Work Abacus CCEC
Significant Support	Chhimi Wangmo	Diploma	Communities at Work Abacus CCEC
Significant Support	Thi Ngan Ho	Diploma Educator	Communities at Work Abacus CCEC
Significant Support	Joy Lin	Educator	Communities at Work Abacus CCEC
Significant Support	Katelyn Palmer	Early Childhood Educator	Communities at Work Taylor CCEC
Significant Support	Sapna Sapna	Team Leader	Communities at Work Taylor CCEC
Significant Support	Wai Ling Ho	Educational Leader	Gowrie NSW, Phillip
Significant Support	Diana Davison-Mowle	Volunteer	Holy Trinity Primary School, Curtin
Significant Support	John Davison-Mowle	Volunteer	Holy Trinity Primary School, Curtin
Significant Support	Nikki Beljanski	Learning Support Assistant	Macquarie Primary School
Significant Support	Leanne Platts	Learning Support Assistant	Macquarie Primary School
Significant Support	Leeanne Walls	Library Tech & Administration Officer	Maribyrnong Primary School
Significant Support	Rosemary Solano	Year 1 Teacher	O'Connor Cooperative School
Significant Support	Beth Fear	Inclusion teacher	St John the Apostle School, Florey
Significant Support	Trina Jelfs-Smith	Learning Support Assistant	St John Vianney's Primary School, Waramanga
Significant Support	Louise Osbourne-Goldsbrough	Teacher	St John's School
Significant Support	Shannon Thewlis	Classroom Support Teacher	St Michael's Primary School, Kaleen
Significant Support	Veronica Melville	Teacher-Librarian	St Monica's Primary School, Evatt
Significant Support	Rachel Rasmussen	Head of Performing Arts	St. Edmunds College Canberra
Significant Support	Sara Luscombe	Regional Manager	The Shepherd Centre, Canberra
Significant Support	Kirsty Dixon	CEO	The Y Canberra Region
Significant Support	Ruby Christensen	Youth Worker	Turner School
Significant Support	Youth Volunteering Working Group		VolunteeringACT

Significant Support	Ashley Cox	Head of Training	Warehouse Circus Inc.
Significant Support	Leki Tshering	Program Manager and Educational Leader	YWCA Canberra
Significant Support	Yu - Chaun (Finley) Lai	Assistant Centre Manager/Educational Leader	YWCA Canberra - Winyu Early Childhood Service
Youth Commitment	Year 1-2 Readers, Yr 5-6 Restoration	Students	Bonython Primary School
Youth Commitment	Liz Stephens	President	Diversity ACT
Youth Commitment	Kate Marshall	Principal	Wanniassa School

APPENDIX 3 - 2025 LAUNCH AND AWARDS CEREMONY PROGRAMME

YOUTH AMBASSADORS – Sryia Arcot / Nicole Jennings (Living Streets Assoc. Youth)

2025 ACT CHILDREN'S WEEK COMMITTEE

Mike Payne (President)
Vicki Brown OAM (Community Representative)
Natasha Bunter (North Belconnen Community Association)
Wendy Cave (Ainslie School)
Narelle Hargreaves AM JP FACEL
Farah Junaid (Communities@Work)
Fouad Kourata (IEEE / Community Representative)
Julie Long OAM (Publicity / Children's Book Council ACT / Scouts ACT)
Kerrie Long (Community Representative)
Ashlea Nicholson (Communities@Work)
Matthew Platt (Treasurer / Scouts ACT)
Liliana Russell (Catholic Education Office)
Leanne Thomas (Community Representative)
Salinda Wong (St Anthony Catholic Primary School)
Nathan Young (Secretary / O'Connor Cooperative School)

ACT Children's Week
actchildrensweek.org.au



info@actchildrensweek.org.au

Children's Week ACT
Mike Payne, President,
ACT Children's Week Committee
Inc.

ACT CHILDREN'S WEEK - CELEBRATING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY:



- Health & Community Services Directorate
- Education Directorate



ACT CHILDREN'S WEEK 2025



2025 Theme:

Everyone should know about Children's Rights

LAUNCH and AWARDS CEREMONY

THEO NOTARAS MULTICULTURAL CENTRE
UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY IN AUSTRALIA
Wednesday 22 October 2025
11.30 – 1.00

<p>WELCOME</p> <p>WELCOME TO COUNTRY</p> <p>VIDEO MESSAGE</p> <p>LAUNCH</p> <p>AWARD PRESENTATIONS Citations</p> <p>MUSICAL ITEM</p> <p>VIDEO MESSAGE</p> <p>AWARD PRESENTATIONS Citations</p>	<p>Sryia Arco and Nicole Jennings, Living Streets Assoc'n Youth Team ACT Children's Week Youth Ambassadors / Comperes</p> <p>Aunty Violet Sheridan, Ngunnawal Elder</p> <p>National Patron of the Children's Week Council of Australia: Her Excellency, the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, The Honourable Sam Mostyn AC</p> <p>The Hon. Margaret Reid AO, ACT Children's Week Patron</p> <p>The Hon. Margaret Reid AO Tim Elliott, School and Family Services Leader, acting Deputy Director, Catholic Education Office</p> <p>AWARDEES: Charuni Weerasooriya – Business Contribution Award Penny Vanzwol – Community for Children Award Katie Jakab-Van Dooren – Exceptional STEM Volunteer Award Sofia Di Dio – Exceptional Young Person Award Felicity Gribble – Exceptional Young Person</p> <p><i>All the Leaves Are Turning</i> – Charles Weston School Choir</p> <p>Jackie French AM, ACT Children's Week Ambassador</p> <p>Aunty Violet Sheridan Kirsty Windeyer, Deputy Director General ACT Health & Community Services Directorate</p> <p>AWARDEES: Kayleigh & Tom McGlynn - Community for Children Award Joe Hedger – Contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children / Business Contribution Awards Stuart Thorn – Intergenerational Award VolunteeringACT Youth Volunteering WG - Significant Support Award Liz Stephens - Youth Commitment Award Teegan Bonner - Contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children Award</p>	<p>AWARD PRESENTATIONS Citations</p> <p>MUSICAL ITEM</p> <p>AWARD PRESENTATIONS Citations</p> <p>EXCEPTIONAL SENIOR AWARD</p> <p>CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER'S AWARD</p> <p>MUSICAL ITEM</p> <p>CYPC VIDEO</p> <p>CONCLUSION</p>	<p>The Hon. Margaret Reid AO Angela Spence, Deputy Director General, ACT Education Directorate</p> <p>AWARDEES: Chloe Lim – Exceptional STEM Contribution / Business Contribution Award Christina Schwarz - Community for Children Award Glenn Tindall / Forrest School P&C Association – Community for Children Award Women in ICT - Work Experience Connection Program – Exceptional STEM Contribution Award Katarina Elix – Exceptional Young Person Award</p> <p><i>Let's Sing</i> - Charles Weston School Choir</p> <p>Aunty Violet Sheridan Natasha Bunter, Chair, ACT Children's Week Awards Sub-committee</p> <p>AWARDEES: Ravi Krishnamurthy – Business Contribution Award Bee & Luna Selde – Business Contribution Award Nicole Smith - Intergenerational Award Robert Greeney - Intergenerational Award Ashley Cox – Significant Support Award</p> <p>Kirsty Windeyer, Deputy Director General, ACT Health & Community Services Directorate</p> <p>Jodie Griffiths-Cook, Public Advocate and Children & Young People's Commissioner</p> <p><i>Poor Mouse</i> - Charles Weston School Choir</p> <p><i>Your rights, in your words: A guide to the ACT Human Rights Act 2004</i></p> <p>Mike Payne, President, ACT Children's Week</p>
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APPENDIX 4 – ACT CHILDREN’S WEEK 2025 FINANCIAL REPORTS

ACT CHILDREN'S WEEK PAYMENTS AND INCOME - 2025 SUMMARY						
PAYMENTS						
Incidentals	CWCOA membership	Seeding Grants	Insurance	Postage / Stationery	Internet / Website Services	TOTAL
\$2,688.24	\$350.00	\$29,617.00	\$866.25	\$738.44	\$3,848.00	\$38,107.93
INCOME						
Incidentals	ACT Education Directorate	ACT Health & Community Services Directorate	ACT HCSD - Office of Seniors & Veterans	Catholic Education Office	IEEE	TOTAL
\$2,991.60	\$11,000	\$10,000	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$31,991.60
In-kind Sponsorships:						
Southern Cross Club (Meeting room hire)		\$1,500				
Southern Cross Club (AV hire)		\$600				
Southern Cross Club (Launch catering)		\$2,000				
Southern Cross Club private dining / meeting room hire		\$500				
Total (In-kind):		\$4,600				
RECONCILIATION:						
Opening balance - 1/1/25			\$10,494.25			
Income			\$31,991.60			
Total			\$42,485.85			
Payments			\$38,107.93			
Available Balance			\$4,377.92			
Closing Bank Balance as per bank statement 31/12/25			\$4,377.92			
Discrepancy			\$0.00			

The reviewer can be any person who is not an officer of the association or have prepared or assisted with the preparation of the accounts. They do not need to hold any qualifications.

I, Christopher Long, have reviewed the accounts of the ACT Children's Week Committee Incorporated for the 2025 calendar year. I confirm that, on the basis of the review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe the accounting records are misleading and that they give a true and fair account of —

- (a) the income and expenditure of the association during the year under review; and
- (b) the assets and liabilities of the association at the end of that year; and
- (c) any mortgages, charges or other securities of any description affecting any property of the association at the end of that year; and
- (d) for each trust of which the association was the trustee during a period in that year, being part or all of that year:
 - (i) the income and expenditure of the trust during that period;
 - (ii) the assets and liabilities of the trust at the end of that period;
 - (iii) any mortgages, charges or other securities of any description affecting any of the property of the trust during that period; and
- (e) any prescribed matters.

Signed: _____



Date: 27 FEB 26

Phone: 0433 293 258

ACT Children's Week Committee Inc thanks Chris Long for his time and expertise in reviewing the 2025 Financial Statements.

