

CHILDREN'S GROUND: A CASE STUDY

LOCATION:

Kakadu West Arnhem

WHO:

Bininj people. Children's Ground funded by Oxfam Australia.

WHY:

25 year response to tackle the many social determinants of health the Bininj people face and give the children, families and community a strong future.

WHEN:

October 2013 onwards.

HOW:

Community agency and control lies at the heart the approach. It began with walks and talks with locals to find out what was needed. Weekly community meetings guide direction and walk and talks will be happening for the duration of the 25 years.

WHAT:



Wurdurd (Early Years Learning)

The children enjoy learning the Balanda (Western) side and the Bininj culture side. (p.8) Mainstream education poses challenges for these kids because it is not presented in their mother tongue ... numeracy and literacy has improved greatly with bilingual classes. (p.13)

Photo: Jason Malouin/OxfamAUS

Family health and wellbeing

Children's Ground staff mentors Bininj staff on health concepts so they can deliver a well being message to their community. The health team uses a bi-cultural approach, celebrating the strengths and traditions of both cultures. Since the opening of Children's Ground the community has been a lot more engaged. (p. 15)

Bininj employment and training

Thirty nine Bininj people work regularly at the Children's Ground in different teams. For many this is their first job. (p.13)

Mobile learning

Age appropriate learning activities are taken to children in Kakadu National Park. The service allows children and families without transport access to fun, engaging activities and learning in two or more languages (English and local language).

On-Country learning

We do things like fishing, turtle hunting and collecting pandanas and colour. We also visit elders like Violet Lawson to hear their life story and learn cultural knowledge. (p.14)

Kitchen team

The Kitchen is really important for kids, making sure they eat breakfast and healthy food. Families attending the centre receive two nutritious meals a day so we have healthy bodies and strong hearts. We are starting a bush food program. (p.13)

The Morle Boys

The Morle Boys were set up to do maintenance work at the Community Centre and Madjinbardi and show the young people how to build, how to sing and how to dance. This is how they show the spirit is still alive. P.16

Photo: Jason Malouin/OxfamAUS



Circus

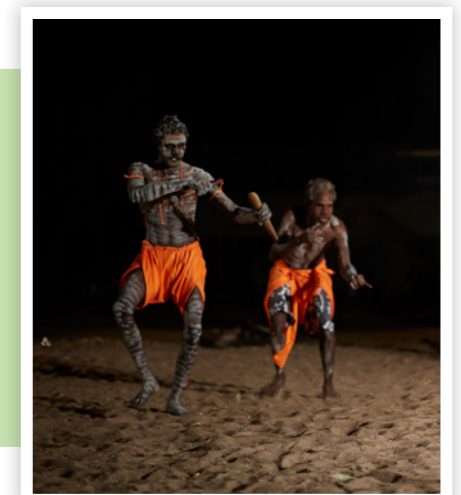
Kindred circus came to set up a circus show, for three weeks they worked with the young kids and staff in the morning, with Jabiru Area School kids in the middle of the day and ran an after school session for older kids. It helps with fitness energy, power and confidence so Bininj people can be strong. The show was performed for the rest of the community in the Community Hall. Regular circus practice has continued since the performance. (p. 21)

Photo: Jason Malouin/OxfamAUS

Song and dance nights

Regular singing and dancing sessions have begun at Madjinbardi. This is a great way for kids to learn culture and respect for their elders. Everyone had a great time sharing this cultural experience. (p.23)

Photo: Jason Malouin/OxfamAUS



This case study has been developed from the Children's Ground Kakadu West Arnhem - Community Report: April 2014. For more information on the program, you can:

- Access the full report online: <http://www.childrensground.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/CG-Community-Report-Apr2014.pdf>
- Visit the Children's Ground website: <http://www.childrensground.org.au>