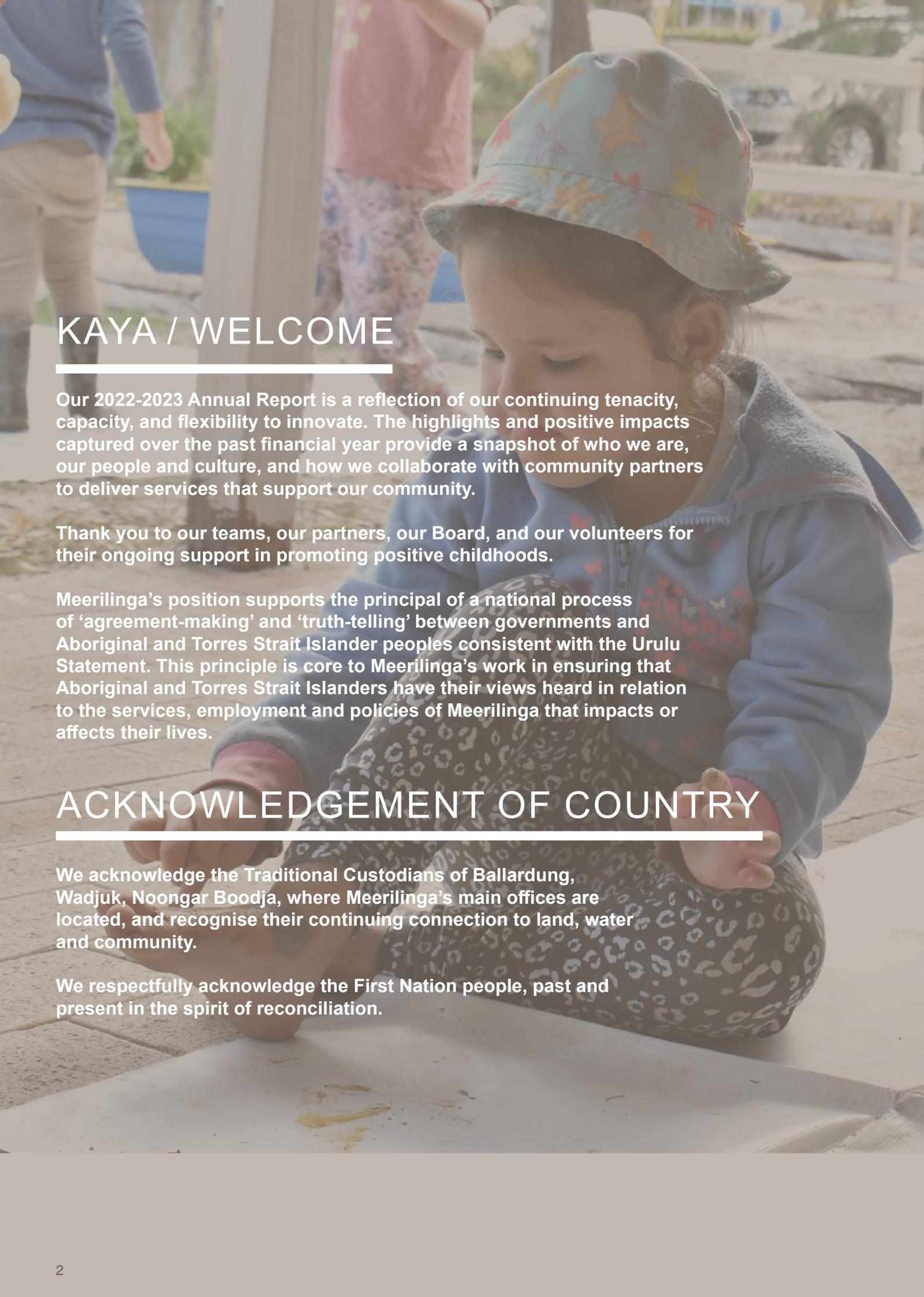




# ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



## KAYA / WELCOME

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Our 2022-2023 Annual Report is a reflection of our continuing tenacity, capacity, and flexibility to innovate. The highlights and positive impacts captured over the past financial year provide a snapshot of who we are, our people and culture, and how we collaborate with community partners to deliver services that support our community.

Thank you to our teams, our partners, our Board, and our volunteers for their ongoing support in promoting positive childhoods.

Meerilinga's position supports the principal of a national process of 'agreement-making' and 'truth-telling' between governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples consistent with the Urulu Statement. This principle is core to Meerilinga's work in ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have their views heard in relation to the services, employment and policies of Meerilinga that impacts or affects their lives.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Ballardung, Wadjuk, Noongar Boodja, where Meerilinga's main offices are located, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community.

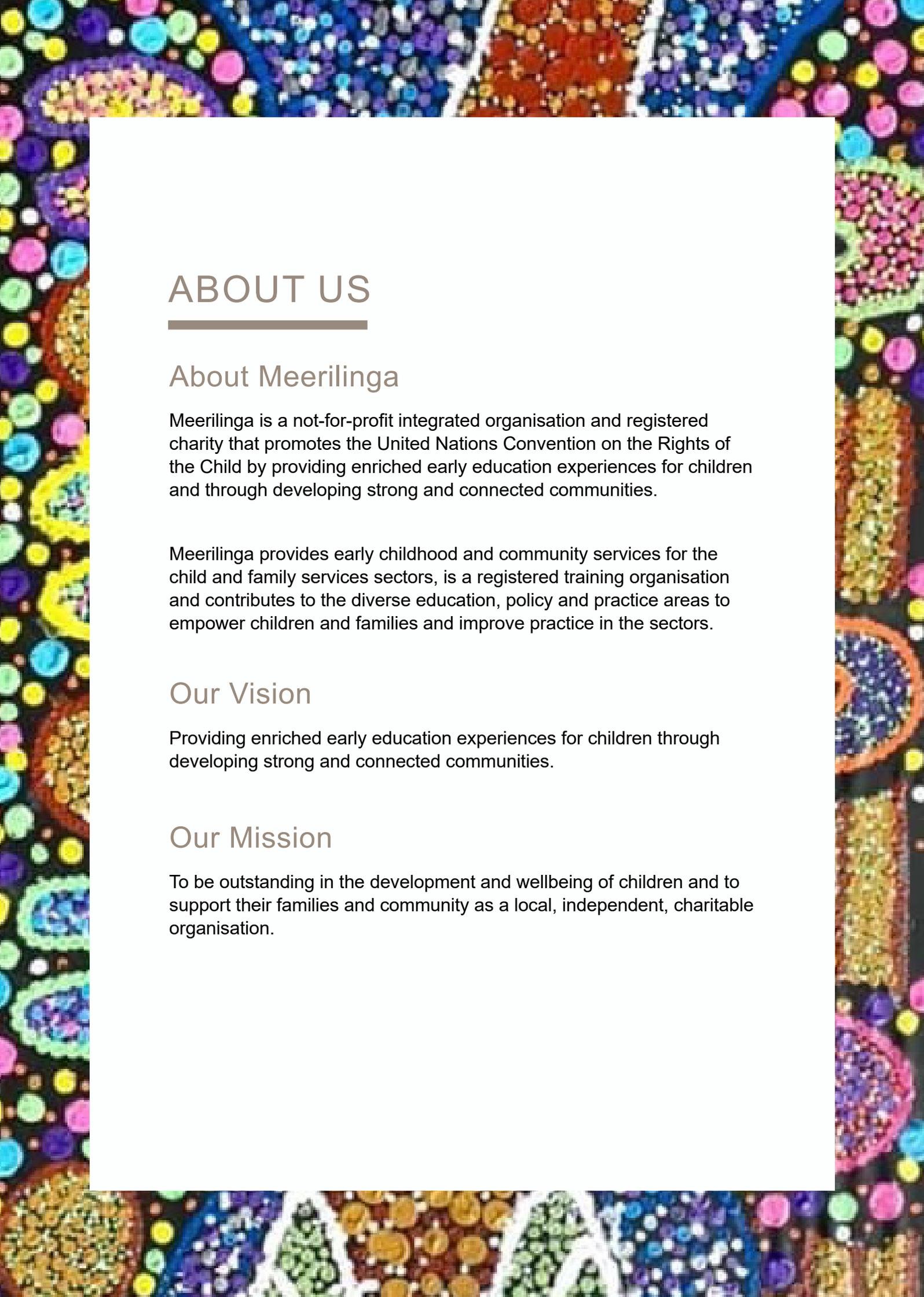
We respectfully acknowledge the First Nation people, past and present in the spirit of reconciliation.



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# ABOUT US

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## About Meerilinga

Meerilinga is a not-for-profit integrated organisation and registered charity that promotes the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child by providing enriched early education experiences for children and through developing strong and connected communities.

Meerilinga provides early childhood and community services for the child and family services sectors, is a registered training organisation and contributes to the diverse education, policy and practice areas to empower children and families and improve practice in the sectors.

## Our Vision

Providing enriched early education experiences for children through developing strong and connected communities.

## Our Mission

To be outstanding in the development and wellbeing of children and to support their families and community as a local, independent, charitable organisation.

## Promoting Play with Purpose

Children are drawn to new and exciting experiences and have an innate ability to decide their own play based on their individual interests. Meerilinga promotes play with purpose by encouraging children to explore their world and create their own unique learning outcomes.

## Promoting Positive Childhoods

Meerilinga aims to build the capacity of families and communities to identify and respond to their own needs and develop strategies for healthy and happy childhoods.

## Promoting Professional Excellence

Meerilinga is committed to exceeding industry standards in every aspect of our organisation.

This is achieved through a dedication to continuous improvement, best practice approaches, and strategic collaborations with other providers.

## Promoting Health and Wellbeing

Meerilinga encourages families and communities to prioritise health and wellbeing and recognise the importance of resilience.

Programs, workshops, and other resources are made available to support families and communities in developing knowledge and skills in these areas.



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO AND PRESIDENT

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The year has been one of setting the course for Meerilinga's next decade. The lessons learnt from the global pandemic, the much publicised cyber-attacks, economic uncertainty and the change in customer and worker expectations has featured largely in our review of strategy and operations this year. Inflation erodes the not for profit purchasing power and the escalating costs such as utilities, government charges and staffing. Since the pandemic these costs are continuously being absorbed by Meerilinga without recognition of funders. Containing costs and mitigating risk by further accelerating our digital transformation and to pursue new opportunities in higher-growth markets such as Jobs and Skills training and Traineeships continue to feature into 2023 – 2024.

A significant milestone was the sale of our West Leederville building at the conclusion of this year that no longer accommodated us in this changing environment. Our strength is derived from being and belonging in the Western Australian community and our workers being more mobile and self-sufficient out of the office.

Coupled with our investment and strengthening of digital options, security and flexibility, the time was optimum as market conditions and business performance has shown a slow but acceptable recovery for us this year and the investment from the sale will be redirected to areas that provide the most value for Meerilinga such as our staff, community services, training and emerging growth opportunities.

We commend our staff and leadership who have continued to demonstrate their loyalty and commitment. Our talent retention exceeded 95%, a remarkable feat in this current market. We sincerely thank the Pro Bono support offered by Herbert Smith Freehills in our major review of employment contracts and flexibility agreements during this year.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all our financial supporters, sponsors, philanthropists, and corporate volunteers for their commitment to West Australian children and acknowledge the Board, Executive, Advisory Team, staff and volunteers who have all contributed to a successful 2022-23 year.



**Lesley Moreschi**  
**Chief Executive Officer**



**Bruno Camarri AM LLB**  
**President**



# CHILDREN'S WEEK

Children's Week is a national awareness week celebrated annually in October across Australia. This week is dedicated to celebrating children and the important role children play in society and the importance of fostering positive childhood across our state.

We held another fantastic Children's Week and Family Fun Day in 2022. Our grants program received 95 applications from regional and remote communities, and we were able to award grants to 84 organisations.

The theme for the upcoming 2023 Children's Week is based on UNCRC Article 31: 'Children have the right to relax, play and to join in a wide range of leisure activities.'

We are excited for Children's Week to return in 2023 with a new twist on our metro events!

In Bullsbrook, we will be hosting a free youth event in collaboration with local community. We will have stalls, food trucks, fun activities, youth services and more!

In Hilton, we will be hosting a free event for parents and young children. This will include a parenting expo showcasing local services and a range of activities for children and parents to enjoy.

Our grants program will return once more, enabling local regional and remote communities to host their own events.

A heartfelt thank you to Lotterywest, Healthway, The Department of Communities, The WA Department of Education, The Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment, our sponsors, partners, volunteers and the WA community for their continued support of our Children's Week celebrations.

## MAJOR SUPPORTERS:



as convened in WA by



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Communities



Department of  
Education

# OUR DEDICATED AND RETIRING STAFF

## Peter Harper

Peter commenced at Meerilinga in 2007 as Executive Finance Manager and his contributions in this role to the organization have been invaluable and have helped shape it into the successful entity it is today.

With a background in banking and finance for many years, Peter's commitment and dedication in all financial matters for Meerilinga has not gone unnoticed and has been appreciated by staff, volunteers, and the families who have benefited from the services provided by the organization.

Peter officially retired in late 2022 although is still volunteering at Meerilinga along with his wife Jenny who also worked at our Cockburn Service as Director. We would like to express our sincere appreciation for your dedication to Meerilinga.

Your efforts have allowed Meerilinga to continue to provide high-quality early childhood education and care services to families in need.

Good luck with your future endeavours Peter!



## Patricia Hope

Pat has been a long serving staff member celebrating over 15+ years with Meerilinga. With her warm and caring personality she has become a favourite among the children who attend the Meerilinga programs.

Pat commenced her journey with us as an Educator at our Beechboro service and then progressed to Advisor for Community Development. In her last role, Pat promoted Meerilinga throughout the broader community to engage in relationships including coordinating all of the volunteering for the organisation. Her role included hosting Corporate Volunteer Days with Woodside for example at various centres, and also ensured the promotion of sustainability within our services.

Pat also communicated with the community and Volunteers guiding the way during the COVID-19 pandemic, encouraging them to stay safe and well and ensuring they were welcomed on their return.

After retiring in 2022 to spend quality time with family, Pat returned as a Volunteer in 2023. Her dedication and knowledge of Meerilinga is an inspiration and very much appreciated by all staff.



# CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

Meerilinga respectfully acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Traditional Custodians of the Land in which we live and share. We respect the local perspectives, stories and knowledges shared with us as Custodians and in allowing us to enrich our lives through mutual knowledge and understanding.

## OUR RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN (RAP)

We updated our RAP in 2023 to add new actions to be embedded in our centres. We also had two new Aboriginal Community members join our RAP working group.

One of our RAP actions is to celebrate significant dates, NAIDOC was celebrated at all centres and planning for 2023 are already being discussed and dates set.

## OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Kadadjiny Waabiny Families
- Koya Aboriginal Organisation
- Midland Aboriginal Networking Group
- Mundaring Shire
- Midvale Hub
- Mundaring Parenting
- Kiara College
- Youth Futures
- Wungening Aboriginal Corporation
- MIDLAS
- Mission Australia
- Elders Advisory Group – Beechboro/Midland
- Elders Advisory Group – Hilton/Cockburn
- Corrobboree 4 Life
- Whudjuk Artist
- Kahui Kaumatua O Te Urupu
- Mercy College
- Moorditj Mia
- Foundation Housing
- Midland Women's Health & Family
- HCL Australia
- Brockman House
- West Australian Multicultural Association
- Swan Alliance
- Hapee
- AND MANY MORE!

## A 2022-2023 SUCCESS STORY

New connections are being made to promote and support Meerilinga Children and Community Services.

The Department for Child Protection have granted permission for two Aboriginal children to attend a Cahoots wellness program workshop facilitated on Wednesday afternoons during term.

During these program sessions, the children's grandmother is able to attend and spend time with the children, enabling continued family connection.



"Love working with Meerilinga watching Koolunga's grow and learn and giving support to the Moorts that attend Kadadjiny Waabiny".  
Kelly Wylie AIEO  
West Beechboro PS.



# VOLUNTEERING

## Volunteers continue to be the heart and soul of programs and services here at Meerilinga.

This year has seen an increase in volunteers. The biggest increase is in the student placements from a various number of learning institutions that we nurture from Stotts College, TAFE and Curtin. The students bring a range of knowledge and enjoy engaging with our staff, children and families.

One example is when we formed a special partnership with Stotts College, due to Covid-19 the college had difficulties placing many of their Diploma of Community Services students. After taking on one of their students with our Youth Officer as a supervisor, Stotts College reached to Meerilinga with a special project asking if we could take on another 12 Diploma of Community Services students into our service for student placement.

Volunteer opportunities at Meerilinga include:

- Assisting with playgroup sessions
- Helping out with events and fundraising activities
- Providing administrative support
- Participating in gardening and maintenance projects
- Mentoring and tutoring children



Volunteers at Meerilinga are provided with training and ongoing support to ensure that they are able to make a meaningful contribution to the organization. They are also given the opportunity to work alongside experienced early childhood educators and gain valuable skills and knowledge.

We are always happy to build our volunteering community at Meerilinga, contact us directly or visit our website to find out more about current opportunities.

20 REGISTERED VOLUNTEERS

15 STUDENT PLACEMENTS STOTT

15 COMMUNITY MOTHERS



# CHILDREN & COMMUNITY SERVICES BALLAJURA

## OUR YEAR IN FOCUS

A highlight for Ballajura this year has been the successful delivery of the My Time program.

This is a national program that facilitates peer support groups for parents and carers of children with disability, developmental delay or chronic medical condition.

Our MyTime program provides face-to-face peer support for parents/carers, with a facilitator for parents and a play leader for preschool aged children.

## OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

We have so many fantastic community partners in Ballajura who we are very thankful for:

- Local food services: Woolworths Ballajura, Secondbite and Foodbank WA;
- Nearby community organisations: Lions Ballajura, Stotts College, Sikh Gurudwara Bennett Springs, and Swan Active;
- Local services including Bunnings Malaga, St John's Youth Ambulance, Ballajura Library and our Child Health Nurse;
- And many other fantastic organisations, including KidSafe WA, Wanslea, Roll-up for WA, and NDIS, and Linkwest.

We look forward to working together again for our Ballajura community in the future!



"The family grouping model in the early learning program is so refreshing, my children can attend together, and it has made the transition to formal care so much easier for our family"  
- Ballajura Parent



"If it wasn't for the community pantry our family wouldn't be able to have a meal everyday, having fresh fruit and vegetable available for us to access for free has been an absolute winner for us, thank you"  
- Ballajura Community Member



# CHILDREN & COMMUNITY SERVICES BEECHBORO

## OUR YEAR IN FOCUS

A huge centre highlight for Beechboro this year was our NAIDOC 2022 event which was celebrated on Tuesday 28 June 2022. It was a fantastic day had by all. We enjoyed lots of activities, having a yarn, connecting to country, and eating all the tucker. It was a busy morning mingling with our community with over 200 people in attendance.

Special mention to the City of Swan, West Beechboro Primary school, Middle Swan Primary School, Cahoots, Woolworths Altona, and everyone involved who helped bring this day together!

It was great to see the community embracing the theme to Get up! Stand up! and Show up! for all First Nations Peoples.



## OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

We are so privileged to have so many wonderful community partners to work alongside:

- Food services: Coles Beechboro, Secondbite, Woolworths Altona, and Foodbank WA;
- Nearby schools: West Beechboro Primary, Beechboro Primary, East Beechboro Primary, Stotts College, and Kiara College;
- Local services including Cahoots, Brockman House, Kiara Police station, Altona Library, and Paint the Swan REaD;
- And many other fantastic organisations, including Wungening, Child Australia, KidSafe WA, Wanslea, Roll-up for WA, and Youth Futures.

We look forward to working together for our local community in the future!



“Our family are so grateful for such caring educators for Roman. Every drop off and pickup we are always met with warmth and kindness from Lisa and Asheka. Roman loves going to Bindi Kindi every Thursday and Friday, and we know it’s because his educators take great care of him as well as provide loads of learning and support whilst he is in their care. We have so much trust and respect for Meerilinga Beechboro educators. Keep up the amazing work and know that we appreciate you all.”  
- Beechboro Parent



# CONNECTING FAMILIES IN BULLSBROOK

## OUR YEAR IN FOCUS

Playgroup has become an inclusive environment for local homeschool families with activities available that support development from birth to early primary age.

Our Junior Hangout program is at full to capacity and has a wait list.

Our Senior Hangout commenced in April with 8-10 seniors regularly attending.

## OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Kingsford Estate
- Bullsbrook College
- City of Swan
- Bullsbrook Child Health Nurse
- Bullsbrook Community Kindy
- Paint The Swan Read
- Clan Midland
- Martha McKechnie- Playgroup Volunteer
- Bullsbrook and Surrounds Home school Network
- Foodbank
- Royal Lifesaving
- Midland Women's Healthcare Place
- CWA
- City of Swan Ethel Warren Library
- Bullseye Youth Centre
- Mundaring Parenting
- Meerilinga CELA
- Meerilinga Beechboro Community Coordinator
- Bullsbrook Residents and Ratepayers Association
- Playgroup WA
- Bullsbrook Toy Library
- Rockin Bops



"I enjoy having a social outlet available for my younger children that is also welcoming to my older children who are home schooled"  
- Bullsbrook Program Parent



# CHILDREN & COMMUNITY SERVICES COCKBURN

## OUR YEAR IN FOCUS

This year Meerilinga Cockburn has entered into a partnership with local Woolworths in Coolbellup to provide the community with a regular community food pantry.

This partnership results in 30 families each week being able to be supplemented in their fresh fruit/veggies and pantry supplies.

We were even able to provide some Easter treats to 20 families who otherwise wouldn't be able to provide an Easter surprise to their children!

We are so thankful to our local Woolworths for enabling us to support the community in this way!



"Your [community food pantry] program is a gem, thank you for every week that you place aside food for my family, you are the reason we can have a full belly"  
Coolbellup Community Member



"The staff are very friendly and we love the inclusion of Noongar language in our playgroup session, we feel that we belong to this Meerilinga place"  
- Cockburn Playgroup Member

## OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Our Community Centre wouldn't be the same without all our wonderful community partners:

- Woolworths Coolbellup, Spearwood, Palmyra, Fremantle, Booragoon, and Port Coogee;
- Kidsafe WA, Wanslea, Child Health Nurse, Ngala, The Department of Communities, and NDIS;
- Stotts College and Meerilinga Training College;
- St John's Youth Ambulance;
- Food Bank WA;
- Landcare, and Bunnings;
- And so many more



# CHILDREN & COMMUNITY SERVICES HIGH WYCOMBE

## OUR YEAR IN FOCUS

This year Meerilinga High Wycombe has partnered with Woolworths Forrestdfield in the development of the food diversion program for our local community.

This has influenced an increase in interactions with the broader High Wycombe community with the centre, as they come to visit and collect the food they are learning about who we are and what services we provide to community.

This has then been reflected through increased enrolments for the Early Learning program and playgroups, increase in attendance for workshops and community events and even an increase in filling Volunteering roles.

We have created a second collection point with Kids HQ Early learning so families and community can access this food diversion service at more locations.



## OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- City of Kalamunda (Zig Zag Early Years Network)
- Meerilinga training college
- Woodlupine Family Centre
- Darling Range seniors Hub
- Inclusion solutions (Wayfairers project)
- Wanslea
- Kalamunda toy Library
- High Wycombe Library
- Bunnings Kalamunda
- Kidsafe
- Royal Life saving association WA
- Child Health nurse
- Edney Primary school
- Landcare
- St Johns Youth Ambulance
- Edith Cowan University
- Communicare



“I feel like I do belong to a community at Meerilinga. The parenting courses that you provide are excellent and I feel supported by Educators.

The Educators do a fabulous job of bringing parts of themselves into the classroom which helps to enrich the lives of the children.

I have also learnt more about Noongar culture while Eric has been attending Meerilinga (I am not a WA native so learnt about other Aboriginal cultures in my schooling experience)”

- High Wycombe Parent

# CHILDREN & COMMUNITY SERVICES HILTON

## OUR YEAR IN FOCUS

A highlight for this year was our October school holiday activity – Pizza and Paper Planes. 16 children attended this activity with their families.

They had a great time creating “the perfect pizza” (quote from a 6 year old attendee). The conversations and feedback we received were very encouraging and the pizzas were delicious!

Playtime was another highlight. This 8-week parenting program encourages parents and children that “ten minutes of play can change the whole day” through sharing songs, stories and games.



## OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- City of Fremantle including Fremantle Toy Library, Buster, and the Community Development Team
- Fremantle Women’s Health Centre
- Hilton Child Health Centre
- Hilton Dads
- Imagined Futures, including Community Facilitator for Davis Park
- Hilton Precinct
- Hilton Child Health Centre
- Autism WA

“I liked the strategies for the hard times with my children, being able to do something other than to tell them, to order them what to do.”

I’ve noticed my husband doing it. It’s rubbing off on the rest of our family, little transition things, like general frustration has improved a lot. Compared to what we had when we were growing up, it’s a nicer way of getting through without butting heads. My daughter loves it, she’s very excited to come, and she enjoys the songs. We do a lot of singing at home”

- Playtime participant



“Making pizzas is so much fun! I liked making the dough and making the pizza how I like pizzas, you know with pineapple and lots of cheese and no olives. It was fun to make different paper planes and to fly them outside. Can we do this again please?”  
7 year old participant

# CHILDREN & COMMUNITY SERVICES KINGSLEY

## OUR YEAR IN FOCUS

During the 2022-2023 period Meerilinga Kingsley has provided community support by partnering with Woolworths Kingsway to provide food donation for people with our community who need a little extra help to provide food for their family.

Woolworths provide free workshops to support the Kingsley community in building their skills and confidence, some examples of these are:

- Resume writing and interview skills,
- Raising Resilient Children
- Heartbeat club CPR
- Financial planning

Our school holiday workshops, and playgroup attendances have increased in numbers and are busy providing social support for the community.

Our Pre Kindy and Bindi Kindi's are operating at capacity with a lengthy waitlist.

Meerilinga Kingsley partnered with the Kids with Cancer Support group and Hero Hunter Foundation to raise money to support families living with Childhood Cancer by providing a dress as a superhero week.

Our Seniors group continues to thrive with attendees feeling a sense of belonging within this group, it provides a place for them to connect with others and reduce their social isolation.

Meerilinga Kingsley has created an Empowering Communities group with the local community centres. This group aims to provide an opportunity for centres to collaborate and provide a strong community network, increasing outcomes for the community.



## OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Bunnings Wangara
- Helping Minds
- Royal Lifesaving
- Woolworths Kingsway
- Spier's centre
- Dalmain Primary School
- Hero Hunter Foundation
- Jobs and Skills WA
- Jessica Stojkovski
- Woodvale Library
- Kids with Cancer Support Group
- Hepburn Centre
- Whitfords Family Centre
- Joondalup Family Centre



"The staff at Kingsley are so professional, we have had all of our children attend their early learning programs and wouldn't hesitate to recommend these programs to assist with an easy transition to school"  
- Kingsley Parent



# CHILDREN & COMMUNITY SERVICES WOODVALE

## OUR YEAR IN FOCUS

This year, Meerilinga Woodvale were finalists in Community Engagement/School partnership Awards, for our partnership with North Woodvale Primary School.

Our Children attend Woodvale Library Monthly to host “Song and Stories with Meerilinga Woodvale” (Intergenerational Storytime) for our community which has seen a significant increase in participants and engagement with our services.

In December we hosted a market and food truck night at Chichester Park which saw over 500 people attend and further engage in our services. It was lovely to see all our local community come together!



“I really enjoy Meerilinga Woodvale as they are inclusive and supportive of each individual child’s needs, especially my own child. They have a strong focus on community and giving the children many opportunities to do more beyond the program.”  
- ELP Parent.

## OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Foodbank W.A.
- Woolworths Woodvale
- IGA Woodvale
- Bakers delight Whitfords
- Jessica Stojkovski MLA
- Anglicare (Joondalup Branch)
- Helping Minds
- Woodvale Library
- City of Joondalup Youth Team
- Soo Bahk Do
- Autism Association of Western Australia
- Ozharvest
- Pat Giles Centre for Non-Violence
- CARAD
- Our Volunteers:  
Eira (Garden) and Charmaine (Food trolley)



“Meerilinga is a highly valuable community asset, acting as a community hub for people to connect with other locals, while also offering support and services for parents and families. I’m lucky to have two Meerilinga sites in my electorate, in Kingsley and Woodvale. The electorate of Kingsley is incredibly lucky to have access to the services, thank you to the staff for everything you do.”  
- Jessica Stojkovski MLA



# MEERILINGA PARENTING SERVICES

## OUR YEAR IN FOCUS

Meerilinga continues to be a leader in the provision of high-quality parenting services in WA. Located at Meerilinga Hilton Children and Community Service, we work with families with children aged birth to 18 years of age across the South West Metropolitan region.

A highlight over 2022 -2023 has been continuing to work collaboratively with our partners and key stakeholders. These partnerships provide us with the opportunity to work alongside families, community and service providers to ensure we understand their needs and support children and families in the community to thrive and build strong foundations now and for the future.

Meerilinga Parenting Service continues to collaborate with the Better Beginnings team from the State Library of Western Australia and Multilingual Australia. During Harmony Week 2023 we presented a webinar online via Zoom. This collaboration built on the Sharing Stories project. The webinar was ideal for parents, carers and educators of children aged birth to 5 and shared information on;

- child development for children aged 0-5 years
- what bilingualism is and how you can support your child to learn and grow in more than one language
- why it is important to read, talk, sing, write and play every day

The webinar was recorded and available for those that had registered to attend. We had 75 people register and 30 people participate in the webinar.



Through the 2022 Children's Week Positive Childhoods Podcast, we delivered 7 podcasts with 8 new speakers that focused on the theme of Children's Week 2022 "Children have the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs". Our speakers included an Early Literacy expert, a Certified Dietitian and colleagues from Emerging Minds, Nature Play WA, Dads Group, Curtin University, and Anat Baniel Method Neuro Movement.

We continue to focus on supporting Dads in our community through the provision of workshops, courses and referrals to other services and supports. We have developed strong partnerships with a local Dads group and other community led groups that focus on Dads.



## OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- KEYS
- Cockburn Parenting Service / City of Cockburn
- Fremantle Women's Health Centre
- City of Melville
- City of Fremantle
- City of Kwinana
- Multicultural Futures
- Bunnings O'Connor and Bibra Lake
- State Library of WA and Better Beginnings
- Imagined Futures
- Port School and Young Parents Centre
- The Bridge Project – Dads
- Hilton Dads
- Caralee Community School
- Perth Waldorf School
- Telethon Kids Institute
- Connecting Community for Kids
- Yangebup Family Centre
- UWA Oral Health project
- Cockburn Early Years Network

## OUR SUCCESS STORY

Our Family Fun Time sessions are very successful as they provide parents with an opportunity to attend a short informal parenting workshop with their child(ren). We use songs, stories and games to help with tricky times and transitions and learn about playful strategies to support family life to go smoothly. We engage with families at local parks or at community services in an informal and relaxed way. When we set up at a park, families that are at the park will often come over and join in the fun!

Feedback from a Family Fun Time participant: "That was a fun session! We came to the park for a play and saw you setting up so we wandered over to see what was happening. My kids loved joining in with the singing, and we learnt some new songs and rhymes to use at home. Thanks so much – we will definitely attend more Family Fun Time sessions."

 **32**  
WORKSHOPS  
DELIVERED

**17**   
COURSES  
COMPLETED

 **35** PARENTS PROVIDED  
ONE-ON-ONE SUPPORT

**7** ONLINE WEBINARS, AND  
**6** PODCAST EPISODES

"Thank you so much for supporting me through attending Parenting by Connection. I have a much better understanding about why connection between me and my son is so important. My husband and I are really on board using the PbC tools of special time, play listening settling limits and stay listening. We use these tools with our older children as well. Our kids really enjoy special time with each of us every second day. We feel we have found our fun and sense of humour again with each other and our kids. We have also both set up Listening Partnerships with other people and use this strategy to ensure we are really tuned into one another."



## OUR GOALS

We will continue to explore innovative ways to engage with parents; such as social media, podcasting and webinars. These options offers learning at the point of need, and because both are free and flexible it is a highly accessible way to share information.

We will continue to build and strengthen partnerships, connections and relationships with community, service providers and organisations both at the local level, at a state wide level and nationally.

We will undertake an deep dive into the efficacy of our service to ensure we continue to meet agreed outcomes and outputs and maintain a strong focus on First Nation families, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse families, Fathers and Young Parents.

"I can't thank you enough for the support you have given me. I now know that I am a connected parent and that I am always trying to be the best parent I can be"



# TRAINING AND EDUCATION

## OUR YEAR IN FOCUS

We've had a very busy year at Meerilinga Training College!

We had the privilege of running the pilot Early Childhood Education and Care Job Ready program, and have since run the program a second time.

Job Ready short course consists of four units from CHC30121 Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care. The students complete the learning over a ten-week term through face to face and virtual classes as well as 70 hours practical placement in a regulated Early Childhood Education and Care service.

The ultimate outcome for the students is to be offered employment in the form of a traineeship from the service with whom they completed their Placement.



Our Community Partners share our commitment to improving the lives of children and families. Our centres are made possible through the support of our partners who play a vital role in helping us achieve our mission.

## OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

### Department of Training and Workforce Development

Worked collaboratively with Meerilinga Training Centre to design and implement the Job Ready Program (Cathy Davids/ Phillip Wyles).

### Community Skills WA

Caroline Thompson also collaborated with and supported Meerilinga Training Centre to be at the fore front of this Job Ready Program project.

### Department of Employment and Workplace Relations

Rosie Hegarty's new working relationship will benefit Meerilinga Training Centre traineeships in the South and Jodie Dutton in the Northern suburbs.

### Career Development Association of Australia

Continued advertising and support for Meerilinga Training Centre.

### Children and Family Services

Continued collaboration and integration for student placement with Meerilinga Training Centre

Preferred providers and Early Childhood Education and Care services with established Memorandum of Understanding, host our trainees and students and have contributed to our validation program.



## OUR SUCCESS STORY

Madison came to us in the 2022 October Job Ready course. She was from Leeming Education Support Centre and was looking for an alternate pathway to a career.

Madi successfully achieved her statement of attainment, and on completion of her placement hours, was offered a traineeship at Studio 64.

We're very excited for Madi and looking forward to seeing her finish her qualification through her traineeship.

This was the ultimate outcome of the Job Ready program.



## OUR GOALS

Continue to network/promote/market/sell Meerilinga Training Centre as RTO of choice for traineeships to build business opportunities

Continue to enhance current traineeship program through connections with Industry – designing and promoting 'value add' extras such as podcasts, Industry breakfast, peer training, workshops.

To build business opportunities with MTC being Industry RTO of choice.

Continue to make new connections with stakeholders like our recently established connection with DEWR to build business opportunities

Continue to review, edit and improve all tools and processes across MTC in preparation for audit and re-registration .

Ensure our learning management system is being used to it's full capacity – including modifying and restructuring HLTAID012 First Aid theory to be delivered online.

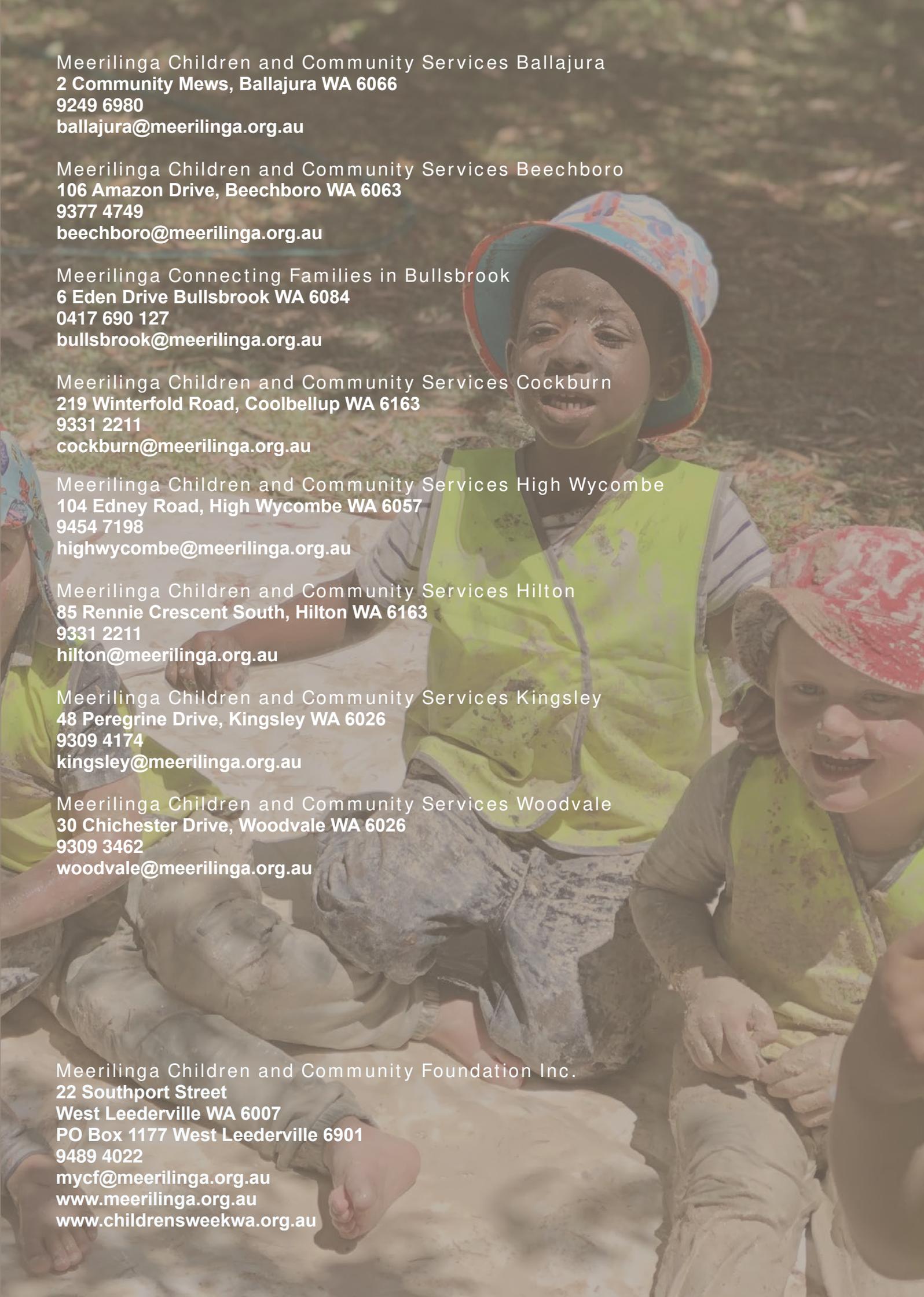




## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you to all of the generous and compassionate individuals, volunteers, staff, government departments, community organisations, local businesses and the communities our Children and Community Services operate in - who partnered with us or gave generously to the children, families and communities we served in 2022-2023.

Thank you for your continuous support in helping us promote positive childhoods and for being a part of the work that we do at Meerilinga. We are forever grateful.

A photograph of several children sitting on a sandpit, wearing colorful hats and high-visibility vests. They appear to be engaged in a sandcastle-building activity. The background is a blurred natural setting with trees and foliage.

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