



HISTORY of the Montessori Children's Foundation

The Montessori Children's Foundation (MCF) was launched in 2005 to support and assist Montessorians who were working with Indigenous communities and in other areas where disadvantage impacted on the lives of children.

Under the guidance of some of Australia's leading businessmen and women, and with the generous support of many private benefactors and businesses, MCF has already brought the Montessori approach to hundreds of disadvantaged children across Australia. Most notably, MCF has worked to support successful Montessori programs in partnership with a number of remote Indigenous communities, including:

- Gamarada Montessori Playgroup (Redfern, NSW)
- Minimbah Aboriginal Corporation Preschool and Primary School (Armidale, NSW)
- Aurukun Community school holiday program (Aurukun Cape York, Queensland)
- Pormpur Paanth Aboriginal Coorporation Childcare Centre (Pormpuraaw, Cape York, Queensland)

- Tagai State College - Kaziw Mudh (Thursday Island, Queensland)
- Strait Start - Thursday Island, Badu, Kubin, Boigu, Poruma and Erub (Torres Strait Islands, Queensland)
- Iama Migi Kaziw Mudh (Yam Island, Queensland)
- Ngaanyatjarra Lands School, Kiwirrkurra Campus (Kiwirrkurra, Western Australia)
- Ngaanyatjarra Lands School, Blackstone Campus (Papulankutja, Western Australia)

Today, MCF works to champion the cause of all children, to uphold the rights of the child in society, and to promote the Montessori approach as a means to achieving peace and social reform. MCF is committed to expanding the availability of Montessori services to the least privileged members of our society, and, in doing so, remains true to Dr Montessori's original vision.

The History of Montessori in Indigenous Communities

The potential of the Montessori approach to provide a radically different and positive experience of learning for children had been recognised for decades before the establishment of the Montessori Children's Foundation. Since the 1980s, both Indigenous communities and Montessori practitioners alike had recognised the potential in Dr Montessori's teachings.

- 1980s: Strelley Pastoral Station (Pilbara region, Western Australia)
- 1998 - today: Gamarada Montessori Playgroup (Redfern, New South Wales)
- 2001 - 2005: Cairns West Public School, 3-6 Program, Dancing Brolgas (Cairns, Queensland)
- 2003 - 2010: Wadja Wadja High School (Woorabinda, Central Queensland)
- 2006 - 2009: Minimbah Aboriginal Corporation Primary School (Armidale, NSW)
- 2009 - ongoing: Aurukun Community School Holiday Program (Aurukun, Cape York, Queensland)
- 2009 - 2012: Pompokpaanth Aboriginal Corporation Childcare Centre (Pompuraaw, Cape York, Queensland)
- 2009 - ongoing: Tagai State College, 3-6 program, Kalaw Kaziw Mudh (Thursday Island, Queensland)
- 2010 - ongoing: Tagai State College, 3-6 Program, Paru Kaziw Mudh (Thursday Island, Queensland)
- 2011 - 2012: Tagai State College, 6-9 Program
- 2010 - ongoing: Strait Start, 0-3 Infant and Parent Programs, Thursday Island, Badu, Kubin, Boigu, Poruma and Erub (Torres Strait Islands, Queensland)
- 2012 - ongoing: Long Day Care Centre, lama Migi Kaziw Mudh (Yam Island, Queensland)
- 2011 - ongoing: Ngaanyatjarra Lands School, Kiwirrkurra Campus, 3-6 Program (Kiwirrkurra, Western Australia)
- 2013 - ongoing: Ngaanyatjarra Lands School, Blackstone Campus, 3-6 Program (Papulankutja, Western Australia)

SUPPORT the Montessori Children's Foundation

There are many ways you can support the ongoing work of MCF:

- **Sponsor**
- **Pro Bono**
- **Volunteer**
- **Mentor**
- **Donate**

Visit www.montessorifoundation.org

