

Communities for Children FP Katherine Region, NT Program Overview 2024-2026



Our Katherine Region families and communities are valued, connected and empowered, to ensure our children are happy, healthy and safe.

Priority areas

- *Our children are happy and have everything they need to learn and grow.*
- *Our children and their families are ready for and supported through all of life's transitions.*
- *Our families have the knowledge, skills and connectedness to support their children's aspirations.*
- *Our communities are safe, nurturing and inclusive places.*

Communities for Children Facilitating Partner (CfC FP) is a place based initiative, using a whole of community approach to support and enhance early childhood development and wellbeing for children from birth to 12-18 years.

The Smith Family has been the Facilitating Partner for this initiative in the Katherine Region since 2005. Geographically, it is the largest CfC FP site and includes some of the most remote communities in Australia. The Katherine Region CfC FP site covers the Statistical Areas (level 2) (also called SA2s) of Victoria River, Katherine, Elsey and Gulf, covering a total geographical area of 326,326.7 km². Though not exactly the same, there is a great overlap with these SA2s and what Northern Territory calls the Big Rivers Region.

By taking a place based 'whole of community' approach, Katherine Region CfC FP aims to help build a strong community that is inclusive and supportive of all families living in our region.

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Community Partners are funded to deliver services within the Katherine Region CfC FP site for families with children aged from before birth to 12-18 years.

CONNECTING REMOTE COMMUNITIES THROUGH IN-SCHOOL ARTS LEARNING

The program will comprise of creative arts in-school workshops, teacher support program, and a creative community project. These programs are designed to increase social participation as well as the social and emotional wellbeing of children, build the capacity of teachers and principals to deliver creative arts programs, and promote community connectedness and active engagement of parents with their children's schools.

Community Partner:

The Song Room

Service delivery area:

Bulman, Timber Creek, Wugularr/Beswick

Eligibility:

Bulman Timber Creek, Wugularr/Beswick School Students and educators

Contact: Alice Gerlach 03 9521 3990

agerlach@songroom.org.au



GROMAP BIGININI STRONGBALA WEI

The "Gromap Biginini Strongbala Wei" pilot is a cultural learning program that will be locally designed and delivered in the Katherine region alongside Indigenous cultural leaders. The program will be delivered to early childhood educators and service providers who work with Indigenous children aged 0-12. The program will also include the educating of young Indigenous mothers to gain cultural knowledge, work alongside and be mentored by cultural knowledge leaders to gain the confidence to support early childhood educators and those working in the children and family industries.

Community Partner:

Jawoyn Association
Aboriginal Corporation



Service delivery area:

Katherine, Banatjarl



Eligibility:

Early childhood educators and service providers working with Indigenous children aged 0-12.

Contact: Pip Gordon 08 7925 1053 / 0409 735 248

Banatjarl.manager@jawoyn.org.au



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SINGING TOGETHER

Singing Together is a school-based youth music and language program based in Jilkminggan. The program provides intensive music lessons to young people to develop their skills in playing and creating songs in Kriol and the community's heritage language, Mangarrayi. The program engages music industry mentors to strengthen the confidence of young people in their music skills and supports the creation of recordings and videos to share with their families and community to promote Kriol and Mangarrayi literacy.

Community Partner:
Jilkminggan Community
Aboriginal Corporation

Service delivery area:
Jilkminggan

Eligibility: Youth aged 10-
18 and Jilkminggan community members

Contact: Helena Lardy, 08 89774100;
Helena@jcac.com.au



RESILIENT CHILDREN MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS PROGRAM (RC-MHAP)

RC-MHAP is a collaboration between TeamHEALTH & Mind Blank supporting a culturally inclusive project tailored to engage children (aged 8-12) in a universal

mental health promotion model. RC-MHAP supports students to build early intervention knowledge and skills in mental health using performing arts workshops. The program is delivered during the school term to various town and remote schools.

Community Partner: TeamHEALTH

Service delivery area:
Big Rivers Region

Eligibility: School aged
children aged 9- 12

Contact: Jodie Abbott
0438062940
Jodie.Abbott@teamhealth.asn.au



THRIVING COMMUNITIES

A hands-on gardening, cooking, nutrition education & hygiene program based on establishing edible fruit, vegetable and bush tucker gardens in Kalkaringi & Yarralin schools. It will teach students to grow & harvest their own food. It will provide fresh, healthy food for school children & the community. Parents & carers will attend workshops to learn about the importance of nutrition in very young children.

Community Partner:
EON Foundation

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Service delivery area:
Kalkaringi and Yarralin

Eligibility: Students
attending Kalkaringi School
and Yarralin School and their
families.

Contact: Donna Donzow
0448 989 045
Donna.donzow@eon.org.au



Community Partner: 54 Reasons (formerly Save
the Children Australia)

Service delivery area: Katherine

Eligibility: Children
aged 0-5 years and
parents/carers

Contact: Tricia Wake 08 7971 9801
tricia.wake@54reasons.org.au



PLAY2LEARN

Katherine Play2Learn is an early intervention and prevention service that aims to improve early childhood development, family functioning and connection to communities in a supported playgroup setting. The program operates from a purpose-built venue in Katherine. It is a universal playgroup, open to all families in the Katherine area with children aged 0-5 years.



STORY WRITING IN REMOTE LOCTIONS (SWiRL PROGRAM)

The SWiRL program engages preservice teachers in co-writing stories with First Nation children and communities, focusing on themes related to First Nation knowledge and cultural beliefs. It aims to create literacy materials that resonate with First Nation children's spiritual connection to land and country. The program offers a culturally immersive experience in remote and rural communities in the Northern Territory, where preservice teachers spend up to four weeks collaborating with local elders, school leaders, teachers, students, and community members. The program creates culturally relevant literacy resources, guided by teacher educators, while gaining intercultural skills and understanding of First Nation perspectives. Notably, many preservice teachers subsequently return to remote schools in

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the Northern Territory, fostering continued engagement and support.

Community Partner: Victoria University

Service delivery area:
Urapunga Community

Eligibility: Students
attending Urapunga
School



Contact: Professor Marcelle Cacciattolo,
Marcelle.cacciattolo@vu.edu.au



KATHERINE COMMUNITY TOY LIBRARY

Katherine Community Toy Library will be a community resource that allows families to borrow a wide variety of educational toys, games, puzzles, and equipment for a small fee or membership. These libraries aim to encourage play-based learning, family togetherness, and the sustainable use of resources. They provide cost-effective access to a diverse range of quality toys for children of various ages and developmental stages. The library also serves to connect the community with local services, as well as hosts group play sessions.

Community Partner: Smile-A-Mile Fun Bus & Toy Library Inc.

Service delivery area: Katherine

Eligibility: Children and families

Contact: Sara Barker, Director,
toys@smileamile.org.au 0488 030 754



Get Involved

The Communities for Children Committee (CCC) provides guidance to the facilitating partner, The Smith Family, in the development, direction, progress of the Katherine Region Communities for Children Facilitating Partner program.

Membership is open to community members with an interest in the welfare of children including parents and carers, service providers, government agencies, local authorities and school personnel.

Interested? Get in touch!

Contact Us

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Katherine Region Communities for Children
Facilitating Partner is funded by the Australian
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