

# 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 km<sup>2</sup>. 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.

**Continued inside...**

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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 School  
Students and educators

**Contact:** John Haythornthwaite 03 9521 3990

[Jhaythorn@songroom.org.au](mailto:Jhaythorn@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](mailto:Banatjarl.manager@jawoyn.org.au)





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

## 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](mailto: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:** Noella Turland  
08 8943 9604



[Noella.turland@teamhealth.asn.au](mailto:Noella.turland@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

**Service delivery area:**  
Kalkaringi and Yarralin

**Eligibility:** Students  
attending Kalkaringi School and Yarralin School



**EON Foundation**

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

and their families.

**Contact:** Donna Donzow 0448 989 045

[Donna.donzow@eon.org.au](mailto:Donna.donzow@eon.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.

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

**Service delivery area:** Katherine

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

**Contact:** Travis Borsi  
08 7971 9801



[Travis.borsi@54reasons.org.au](mailto:Travis.borsi@54reasons.org.au)



## 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

**Eugenie Collyer Project Manager**

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Katherine Region Communities for Children Facilitating Partner is funded by the Australian Government and facilitated by The Smith Family.