



Polly
Farmer
Foundation



Annual report 2024

Our story and prospectus



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Acknowledgement of Country

The Foundation's head office is located on the lands of the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation. We acknowledge the Whadjuk ancestors for looking after us and the work we do with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Because we work across Australia, we would also like to acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional owners of the land and waters across our Country. We pay our deep respects to Elders past, those stewarding us in the present, and the young leaders we connect with every day who are strong in identity and culture. The past is not just the past, it is bound up with us in the present and connects and guides us in our work every day.

WARNING: This document contains images of and refers to deceased people.

Chairperson's Report 2024

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire Polly Farmer Foundation team, it is my pleasure to present the Chairperson's Report for the year ending 2024.

2024 was a momentous year for the Foundation, marked by many achievements and milestones, including the official opening of Polly House, our 'forever home' at 29 West Parade in Perth. Named in honour of our founder, Polly Farmer, our new 'home' will be central to our Vision, enabling us to expand our reach and continue to deliver positive outcomes for generations to come.

We were also honoured to receive the WA NAIDOC 2024 Program of the Year award. This recognition of our impact reinforces the importance of the work we do and the positive change we're facilitating. To be acknowledged for an Award like this from the Aboriginal community and NAIDOC Committee means so much to us.

The Follow the Dream Careers Expo, held at the RAC Arena, was an outstanding success. Over 400 students and 30 stallholders came together to explore career opportunities and pathways. The Expo was a vital moment for students to connect with potential employers, mentors, and educational institutions. Building on this success, we are excited to announce that this year, in 2025, the Expo will move to Optus Stadium, promising to be bigger and better than ever.

In 2024 we were proud to release our independent Impact Evaluation report undertaken by the Innovation Unit, now known as ThirdStory. The report evaluated the Follow the Dream program across our five pillars of Belonging, Capabilities, Experiences, Academic and Empowerment. The findings reaffirmed the importance of our holistic academic support and will guide us as we continue to refine and expand our services and importantly measure the outcomes we are contributing to.

We are delighted to report that over \$140,000 in Alumni scholarships were granted to support our students in their chosen post-school educational journeys. These scholarships enable our graduates to continue their studies in 2024 and pursue their dreams, adding another way that the Foundation can meaningfully continue the legacy of our founder.

2024 also saw the Foundation launch our first program in Geelong Victoria, a place where the name Polly Farmer continues to be revered by so many. We are committed to making a difference in the Geelong community and look forward to growing the impact of our programs there.



We also launched our first Perth based Follow the Dream Primary program at Gilmore College in Kwinana. This program aims to support younger students in their educational journeys, setting them up for success in the years prior to high school and beyond. It's a critical step in ensuring that we are there for students at every stage of their educational development, and building pathways to successful educational outcomes.

On the leadership front, we welcomed Rebecca Davey as our new Company Secretary. Rebecca's expertise and dedication to the Foundation's Vision will be invaluable as we continue to grow, evolve, and strengthen our strong foundation of governance across all we do. We are also thrilled to congratulate Kim Farmer, Board vice chair, Patron, and daughter of Polly Farmer on her appointment to the WA Children's Court as a Magistrate. Kim's appointment is a recognition of her longstanding and distinguished career in the law, her exceptional leadership, and her ongoing unwavering commitment to justice.

As we reflect on these remarkable milestones, we would like to acknowledge the support of our staff, volunteers, and partners. 2024 has been a year of consolidation and achievement, and we are excited about what lies ahead.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us grow the work we do to support Aboriginal students and families across Australia. We know that *you can't be what you can't see*, and so every student's success lays a pathway for those who follow in their footsteps. We celebrate our achievements alongside those who support our work, and we look forward to our continued partnerships and success into 2025 and beyond.

MANDY GADSDON

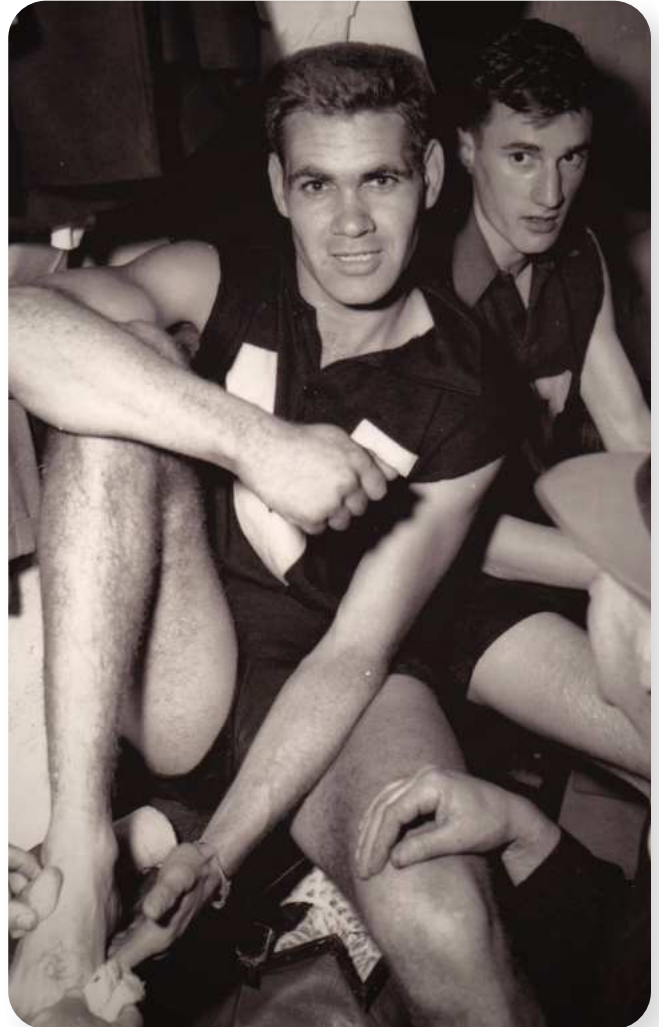
About the Polly Farmer Foundation

Founded in 1994 by Graham ‘Polly’ Farmer — a Noongar man from southwest WA and legendary AFL footballer — the Polly Farmer Foundation was established to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with academic aspirations.

Polly, a visionary ahead of his time, recognised education as a vital tool in Closing the Gap, helping to overcome inequality and create opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to achieve life outcomes equal to all Australians.

The Foundation’s journey began in 1997 with the launch of the Gumala Mirnuwarni Education Project — meaning “coming together to learn” in the local language — delivered in partnership with industry sponsors and the WA Department of Education across secondary schools in Karratha and Roebourne. Its success led to the creation of Follow the Dream in 2004, expanding the program to WA secondary schools and later to primary schools in 2010.

Today, the Foundation supports around **3,000 students** annually across over **150 schools nationwide**, continuing Polly’s enduring legacy of educational excellence through strong community partnerships.



Our Vision

We empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students through culturally responsive academic enrichment programs that build knowledge, confidence, and self-belief — supporting education and career aspirations.



How We Achieve Our Purpose



Student-driven participation: Students with a desire to learn and succeed are invited to join our Follow the Dream program on a voluntary basis.



Passionate champions: Program coordinators and tutors are committed to the success of our students, providing personalised support and mentorship throughout their education journey and beyond.



Community support: Families and local communities play an active role, encouraging student involvement through compact signing events.



Beyond the classroom: Students meeting attendance and academic targets can participate in career, leadership, and cultural camps to broaden their horizons.



Ongoing alumni support: Graduates gain access to career guidance and financial assistance through our alumni program.



Sustainable partnerships: Long-term, trusted relationships with leading corporate, government, and philanthropic partners ensure continued support and growth.

Introducing our CEO and Board

The Polly Farmer Foundation is led by our CEO and a diverse and skilled Board of eight members, with six identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including key leadership positions such as Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer. This composition reflects our commitment to Aboriginal leadership and perspectives.



◀ **Mark Wirtz** is an accomplished leader with extensive experience in education, training, and organisational development across corporate, government and not-for-profit sectors. Mark's career spans executive roles in Indigenous engagement, workforce development, strategic planning, and governance, including senior positions in the Resources Industry and the Department of Education. With qualifications in business, education, and leadership, coupled with a strong track record in stakeholder engagement and program delivery, Mark is dedicated to continuous improvement in driving positive outcomes for students and communities supported by the Foundation.

- Appointed CEO November 2022

Mandy Gadsdon joined the Board in 2019 and has been our Chair since 2022. She has extensive leadership experience across a range of industries and is connected with the Yawuru people of the West Kimberley. Mandy has a strong governance background and is committed to equity of outcomes, believing the work of the Foundation directly contributes to this in the critical area of education.

- Member and Director since April 2019
- Elected Chair May 2022



◀ **Kim Farmer**, a Noongar woman and the daughter of Polly Farmer, joined the Board in 1997 and has served as Vice Chair since 2022. Kim is a magistrate for the WA Children's Court with extensive legal experience and is committed to continuing her father's legacy through the Foundation.

- Patron
- Member and Director since March 1997
- Elected Vice Chair May 2022

Ellery Blackman is a proud descendant of the Gangalidda, Wannyi, Butchulla, and Goreng Goreng peoples. He joined the Board in 2018 and was appointed Treasurer later that year, drawing on his extensive governance experience to guide the Foundation's financial stewardship.

- Member and Director since April 2018
- Elected Treasurer July 2018





◀ **Rebecca Davey**, appointed as Company Secretary in 2024, brings over a decade of legal experience and has served on various boards and committees, contributing significantly to the Foundation's governance.

- Member since May 2024
- Elected Company Secretary May 2024



◀ **Joseph Bin Omar**, a proud Bard and Nimanburr man from Broome and Follow the Dream alumnus, joined the board in 2023. He is currently a Senior Development Officer in the Aboriginal Health Policy Directorate at the WA Department of Health.

- Member and Director since May 2023



◀ **Pauline White**, appointed in 2023, is a former WA Department of Education secondary school Principal and current Board Chair of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority. She is dedicated to improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

- Member and Director since May 2023



◀ **Jeremy Abbott**, appointed in 2023, is an Indigenous entrepreneur and descendant of the Pini people in Western Australia. Jeremy has 18 years experience in Sales and Marketing across various sectors in Corporate Australia. He is the current founder and owner of commercial interiors business InteriorCo RBA. Jeremy aims to honour his family's legacy by empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students through the Foundation's programs.

- Member and Director since May 2023



◀ **Marty Skiadas**, appointed in 2023, is a descendant of the Worrorra people and passionate advocate for STEM learning, which drives him to mentor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. He is a valued Board member who strongly believes education is key to solving social inequity.

- Member and Director since May 2023

Together, our CEO and Board's collective expertise and dedication drive the Foundation's work to support young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in achieving their aspirations through education.

2024 highlights



\$140,000+ in scholarships to support alumni with tertiary studies



37 full time and part time staff



54 Casual staff



Follow the Dream **Impact Report** released



Winner **2024 WA NAIDOC Program of the Year** Award



75% of board members Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander



Annual Careers Expo with **350+** Follow the Dream students and **30+** leading career and employment exhibitors



2309 secondary school Follow the Dream students



603 primary school Follow the Dream students



296 Year 12 Follow the Dream students



150+ schools have the Follow the Dream program



72% Follow the Dream students achieve WACE or equivalent



1st **RAP** launched



73% Average attendance rate Follow the Dream



5 Innovation STEM workshops held



1st Victorian program launched in Geelong



Forever home at **Polly Farmer House**



1st **metro** Follow the Dream primary program



219,715 social media views



20+ years being celebrated by many programs



740+ registered Follow the Dream alumni



70+ Study, career and cultural camps and activities funded



23% PFF staff Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

Primary Follow the Dream update

New Opportunities through Follow the Dream

In 2024, the Polly Farmer Foundation proudly delivered 23 Primary Follow the Dream programs across Australia involving years 1 to 6 students from 41 schools. These activity-based education programs are fully managed by the Foundation and supported through the generous contributions of our corporate, government and philanthropic partners.

Four programs feature a STEM-focused curriculum designed for students in years 5 and 6, building curiosity and confidence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics from an early age.

A major milestone in 2024 was the launch of our first metropolitan Primary Follow the Dream program at Gilmore College in Kwinana, WA. This new program supports Year 5 and 6 students from four local primary schools and places a strong emphasis on STEM learning. It represents an exciting expansion of our reach and impact in metropolitan communities.

Our research shows that early participation in Follow the Dream significantly enhances school engagement, attendance, and academic achievement in later years. By introducing students to learning experiences that are hands-on, culturally responsive, and relevant to their interests, the program nurtures a love of learning from a young age.

Each Primary Follow the Dream program is underpinned by a dedicated program coordinator and tutors who work closely with students to:

- Strengthen literacy and numeracy outcomes;
- Celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and identity;
- Encourage family and community involvement in education; and
- Lay a strong foundation for a smooth transition into secondary school.

Through early intervention and meaningful support, the Primary Follow the Dream program continues to empower young students with the skills, confidence and motivation to succeed.



Case study

Michael Hicks – Growing with Follow the Dream

Roebourne District High School

Michael Hicks has been part of the Follow the Dream program at Roebourne District High School since Year 1, when it was known as the Afterschool Learning Club. Over the years, he has been a constant presence in the program, participating in everything from afterschool sessions to the current in-school STEM Excellence Classes. As he reaches the end of primary school, Michael's journey reflects the strength of long-term, consistent support.

Born in Perth and raised in Wickham, Michael lives with his father, stepmother, one sister and three brothers. He's proud of his Wickham roots and loves basketball, gaming, art, and riding motorbikes. His interests have flourished alongside the opportunities offered by the program.

"I've been part of Follow the Dream since Year 1, and now I'm in Year 6," Michael explains. "I really like the STEM sessions and going on camp to Perth."

These learning opportunities have helped open his mind to future possibilities. One experience that stood out to him was visiting the Rio Tinto Train Simulators. "Learning how to drive the simulators was fun," he says. "We also went to Perth for STEM camp and visited the Woodside Robotics Lab. I liked seeing how the robots work."



Michael's confidence has grown significantly throughout his time in the program. He's particularly grateful for the friendships and guidance he's found in FTD. "I like being in a group with my friends and having support from the FTD teachers. It helps me feel more confident," he says.

Looking ahead, Michael has clear aspirations. "I'm interested in coding because I want to make video games one day. When I'm older, I'd like to move to Perth and work there."

His Program Coordinator Sarah Cameron reflects on his development with pride: "Michael's confidence and ability to engage have improved immensely over the past six years. He's resilient, hardworking, and always willing to give things a go."

Now one of the senior students in the primary program, Michael is already showing leadership qualities. "He leads by example, always gives 100%, and is caring and considerate. He naturally engages with younger students and sets a positive tone in the group," Sarah shares.

As Michael prepares to transition into the Roebourne Secondary Follow the Dream program in 2025, he carries with him not only the skills he's developed, but also a strong sense of identity and ambition. His journey is a testament to the impact of early intervention, consistent encouragement, and the opportunities made possible by the Polly Farmer Foundation.

Secondary Follow the Dream update



Expanding our presence across Australia

Our Follow the Dream secondary program continued to grow and strengthen its impact in 2024, with 36 host programs now operating across Australia, supporting over 2300 students at 113 secondary schools. This year marked an exciting milestone with the launch of our first program in Geelong, expanding our reach into Victoria and reinforcing our commitment to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students nationally.

Among the year's many highlights were a number of outstanding experiences, including a STEM camp in Melbourne attended by 32 students, and the Dream Careers Expo in Perth, which brought together more than 350 students from across Australia. These activities provide vital exposure to future career pathways and broaden students' horizons beyond their local communities.

Academic outcomes continued to be strong in 2024, with 92% of our 296 enrolled Year 12 students eligible to achieve the WACE (or equivalent), and 72% of students successfully attaining it. This result significantly exceeds the overall WACE achievement rate of 43%* for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Western

Australia, highlighting the impact of the Foundation's targeted academic support and mentoring programs.

Participation in the Follow the Dream program also remains closely linked to improved school attendance. In 2024, Follow the Dream students recorded an average attendance rate of 73%, compared with 57%** for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students—further reinforcing the positive impact of the program on student engagement and educational outcomes.

We were also excited to release in 2024 independent research on the important impact Follow the Dream plays in building a sense of belonging at school, along with increased confidence, leadership and aspirations.

2024 also marked the 20th anniversary of several long-standing programs, including Mandurah and Sevenoaks, with many more programs in WA-based FTD programs set to reach this same milestone in 2025. These anniversaries are a testament to the enduring success of Follow the Dream and the sustained partnerships that have made this journey possible.

As we reflect on the year, we are proud of the transformative impact Follow the Dream continues to have on young people's lives—and excited for what lies ahead.

* DoE WA 2023/2024 annual report. ** DoE WA 2024 provided data

Case study

Jorja Sheppard – A Quiet Leader with a Bold Vision

Governor Stirling Senior High School

Jorja Sheppard, a proud Noongar woman, is currently completing Year 12 at Governor Stirling Senior High School. Since enrolling in Year 7, she has shown remarkable commitment to her education—travelling each day from Kelmscott to Midland to attend a school she believes offers unique opportunities.

“The reason I’ve made this effort is because of the amazing opportunities offered—first through the school’s football program, and then through the Follow the Dream program, which has been a constant in my high school experience,” she explains.

The Follow the Dream program has played a significant role in shaping Jorja’s secondary school experience. With consistent support, mentoring and access to academic resources, the program has helped her grow both personally and academically.

“Follow the Dream has truly shaped my educational journey, providing me with support, guidance, and opportunities I could never have imagined,” Jorja says. “It’s opened doors to camps, academic challenges and personal development that I wouldn’t have had otherwise.”

Two standout experiences for Jorja were STEM-focused tours to Broome and Melbourne. “These experiences were eye-opening and gave me a broader perspective on education and life,” she reflects. “They helped me see that there’s more out there, and that I could be a part of it.”



Practical support has also been key. Jorja recalls a turning point when she received a laptop through the Bankwest Repurposed Laptop Program. “It made such a difference—I could stay connected with school and access the resources I needed, especially when things got tough,” she says.

After-school tutoring which is held at Governor Stirling’s Maali Centre, gave her the academic boost she needed to stay on top of her workload. “That extra help really got me through,” she says. “It kept me on track and gave me the confidence to tackle anything that came my way.”

While Jorja doesn’t seek the spotlight, she’s widely recognised as a role model within the Follow the Dream and school communities. “I’ve been encouraged to step up and be a role model for younger students,” she says. “I try to approach everything I do with consistency and a strong mindset, so others can see what’s possible.”

Her Program Coordinator, Naomi Hullett, describes Jorja as “a quiet leader whose influence is felt throughout the Maali Centre.” Naomi adds, “Jorja doesn’t seek attention, but she leads through her actions. Her work ethic, integrity and calm presence make her someone others naturally look up to.”

Looking to the future, Jorja is excited to begin a traineeship with the Water Corporation—an opportunity she credits to the support and guidance she received through Follow the Dream. “I’m really excited about this traineeship,” she says. “It’s a great stepping stone for my future, and I’m incredibly grateful for everything the Maali Centre and Follow the Dream staff have done to help me reach this point.”

Alumni Follow the Dream update

Growing a Connected and Inspiring Alumni Network

The Polly Farmer Foundation's alumni network continues to expand, now comprising more than 740 registered members—most of whom are graduates from the past five years. The Alumni Program supports these young people beyond school, providing mentoring, post-school guidance, and access to career and professional development opportunities as they transition into further education, training, or employment.

In 2024, the Foundation awarded 30 scholarships totalling \$142,000 to alumni undertaking tertiary studies at TAFE or universities across Australia. Scholarship recipients pursued a wide range of disciplines including Education, Psychology, Science, Commerce, Engineering, Medicine, Nursing, Beauty, Law, and Social Work. These scholarships are particularly significant for students from regional and remote areas who must relocate to metropolitan centres to access higher education.

A major highlight of the year was the Follow the Dream Careers Expo, which has grown into a flagship event in our alumni engagement strategy. In 2024, the Expo saw record attendance, with more than 350 students from across Australia taking part. From modest beginnings, the event now features over 30 exhibitors representing the corporate, government, education,

and community sectors. It plays a critical role in building student awareness of the alumni program, encouraging registrations, and connecting young people with future career pathways.

An important focus of the Alumni Program is creating opportunities for graduates to give back by inspiring and supporting the next generation. Many alumni contribute to our primary and secondary programs—acting as role models, assisting with delivery, and demonstrating the success of the Follow the Dream initiative. This reflects our core belief: *"You can't be what you can't see."*

To strengthen and refine the alumni offering, feedback was gathered in 2024 from both registered alumni and Follow the Dream coordinators. Key insights to be actioned in 2025 include:

- Developing a dedicated alumni portal with job listings, training, and scholarship opportunities.
- Hosting more localised events—such as program-based reunions and tailored professional development sessions—rather than large, city-based networking functions.
- Continuing strong engagement with senior students through initiatives like the Follow the Dream Careers Expo, to build awareness, increase registrations, and reinforce long-term connections with the Foundation.



Case study

Taleah Ugle – Passionate Journey Towards Equitable Health

University of Western Australia

Taleah is currently studying a Bachelor of Science at the University of Western Australia, majoring in Anatomy and Human Biology, with a second major in Indigenous Knowledge, History, and Heritage. Her ambition is to pursue postgraduate Medicine at the UWA Medical School in 2026, with the goal of contributing to equitable health outcomes for Aboriginal communities.

Throughout her tertiary studies, Taleah has received ongoing support through Polly Farmer Foundation alumni scholarships. “This support has been invaluable—both financially and personally,” she says. “It’s allowed me to focus on my studies while also giving back to my community through leadership and advocacy.”

Taleah’s connection with the Foundation began during high school through the Follow the Dream program at Albany Senior High School. As the first in her family to pursue an ATAR pathway, she often faced challenges studying at home due to distractions and limited academic support. “Follow the Dream played a crucial role in getting me through school,” she reflects. “The academic help, and access to university experiences like the UWA Health Careers Camp and Curtin IAES Camp, showed me what was possible and helped me create a pathway into higher education.”



Taleah has since become a passionate advocate for equity and representation, taking on numerous leadership roles at UWA. She served as the Women’s Officer for the UWA Student Guild and Co-Chair of the Referendum Working Group, where she was a panel speaker on the Voice to Parliament alongside prominent Aboriginal leaders such as Professor Fiona Stanley, Kate Chaney MP, Wanita Bartholomeusz, and Daniel Morrison-Bird.

In 2024, she joined the Youth Advisory Group for the *Aunty TJ TikTok* initiative—an innovative wellbeing campaign connecting with young Indigenous people to discuss mental health and the challenges of studying away from home, Country, and family. Her involvement led to an invitation to the Social and Emotional Wellbeing Forum, where she collaborated with Aboriginal leaders across the health and community sectors to explore strategies for improving cultural safety in mental health services.

Currently, Taleah is working as a part-time Research Assistant with the Kids Research Institute’s Healthy Skin team in the Infectious Diseases division, gaining hands-on experience in the health sector as she moves closer to her goal of becoming a doctor.

“Being part of the Follow the Dream alumni and receiving support from the Polly Farmer Foundation has made a lasting impact on my journey. I’m incredibly grateful for the opportunities, encouragement, and belief that have helped shape who I am today.”

Impact evaluation report

Celebrating Our Impact:

Findings from the Follow the Dream Evaluation

At the Polly Farmer Foundation, we believe in walking alongside young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students on their journey to success. Our latest independent evaluation confirms the power of that commitment.

The success and impact of the Follow the Dream program was recently evaluated across current students, alumni, family members and program coordinators. The findings showed that the FTD program model is not only effective, but transformative for students.

The impact evaluation focused on capturing student experiences during, and soon after, their participation in the FTD program and on whether the five core Follow the Dream elements had been satisfied, those being: Belonging, Capabilities, Experiences, Academic and Empowerment.



Key findings from the 2024 Impact Report include:



Higher attendance: Greater sense of belonging means FTD students attend school more often than their non-participating peers.



Academic success: Supported by our nurturing FTD framework, students consistently outperform their peers in literacy and numeracy, with more students achieving ATAR and completing Year 12.



Pathways beyond school: Substantial increases in student confidence and ambition have led to a significantly higher proportion of FTD graduates aspiring to enter university, TAFE, or gain meaningful employment.



Cultural strength: The FTD program strengthens identity, confidence, and pride in Culture — supporting not just a student's academic growth, but also their holistic wellbeing and connection with Community.



Critically, the evaluation praises the FTD program as “a best-practice model for Aboriginal education support”. Noting that it delivers outcomes for students through consistent, long-term investment and strong local partnerships. The voices of our students, families, and communities echo this sentiment, describing the FTD program as “life-changing”, “safe” and a place which they feel is like “a second home.”

This evaluation report affirms what the Foundation has always known — that with the right support and encouragement, young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people thrive.

Overall, FTD is successfully enabling young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to ‘follow their dream’.

Quantitative data shows FTD students perform better, on average, than other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

72% of Year 12 FTD students achieved WACE in 2024 compared to 43% of all WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

[Department of Education WA]

Alumni of the program strongly consider that the program is part of what contributed to academic success, helping them finish school and pursue higher education opportunities.

96% [n=23] of alumni strongly agreed “FTD encouraged me to consider more ambitious and aspirational post-school options”



“I wouldn’t have gone to uni if it wasn’t for Follow the Dream.”

Follow the Dream alumnus

“Being able to graduate school, I attribute most of that to Follow the Dream. I know I wouldn’t have graduated school without that after-school tutoring.”

Follow the Dream alumnus



This research suggests that **the program does this by creating and enhancing students’ sense of belonging in and enjoyment of school, providing practical and necessary supports to grow life skills and solve immediate problems, and providing experiences** that enable students to see different futures for themselves.

75% [n=18] of alumni and 55% [n=71] of current students agreed FTD “is something that makes them enjoy school” more*

74% [n=97] of current students strongly agreed “I feel like I can go to Follow the Dream staff for help”

Within the program, **the role and value of personal connections that the students make with each other and with other adults are a key part of success**. We heard that seeing and meeting other young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were succeeding in their life paths was strongly encouraging for current students.

“I really like the community [FTD] provides, the ability to connect to culture and learn from other Indigenous people.”

Follow the Dream alumnus

Ultimately, alumni said that FTD was part of what gave them the confidence and inspiration they needed to go on to succeed, and they **credit the program, in part, for them being able to live lives they feel empowered in**.

100% [n=24] of alumni strongly agreed FTD helped them follow their dream

88% [n = 21] of alumni strongly agreed FTD helped them be a more confident person

*Response options for this question were “more”, “about the same”, or “less”

2024 highlights in pictures

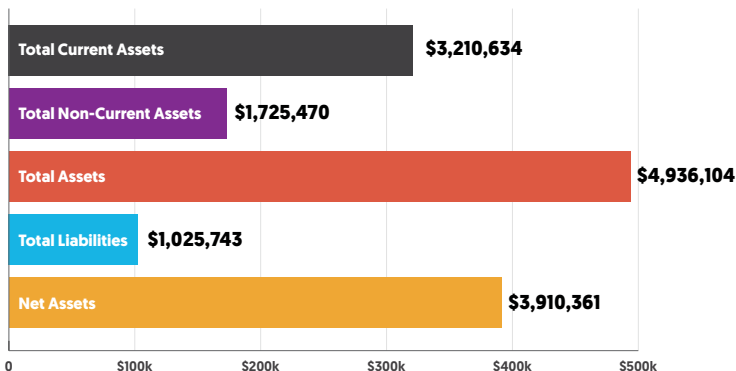


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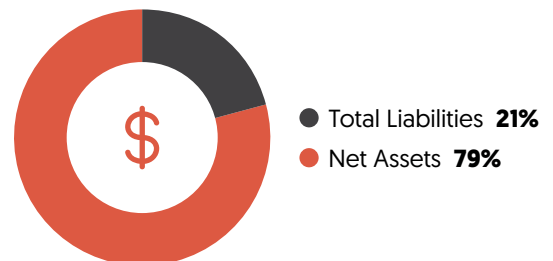


Our finances

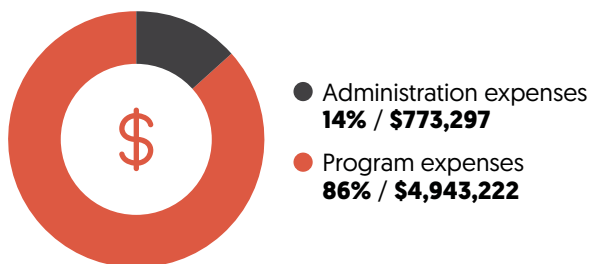
Assets, Liabilities and Equity



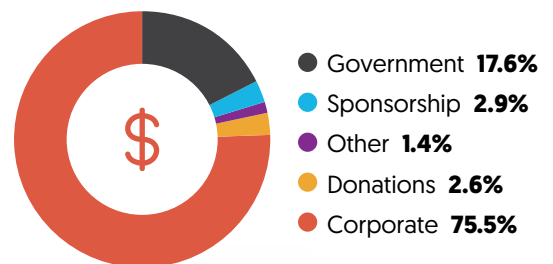
Assets v Liabilities



Program v Admin expenditure



Revenue



Picture captions from previous pages

Page 18 clockwise from top-left: Simon Thompson announces PFF first RAP, Alumni scholarship recipient Isaiah McKenna thanking alumni partners for their support, Dave Wilkinson with Geelong FTD program coordinators Kylie Clarke, Renae Carmichael and Georgia Pike, Celebrating alumni Ree Couzens' first art exhibition, Inaugural board members Ron Edwards, Fred Chaney and John Cunningham with Kim Farmer at the opening of the Polly Farmer House, Alumni Cassandra Dempsey celebrating her scholarship with her grandfather, legendary WA footy player Bill Dempsey.

Page 19 clockwise from top-left: Kim Farmer with students at Kwinana FTD primary program launch, PFF FTD winner 2024 WA NAIDOC Program of the Year, Hedland primary FTD students learning about bush tucker at Dampier with Ngurrangga Tours, FTD students attending Worley STEM workshop in Melbourne, Belmont FTD students at Perth Wildcats game compliments of Rio Tinto, Bridgestone STEM workshop students learning about force



Follow the Dream Programs

2024 Follow the Dream host program names, number of participating schools and commenced date

WA

Albany: 5 [commenced 2005]
Belmont: 4 [commenced 2004]
Broome: 1 [commenced 2004]
Bunbury: 7 [commenced 2021]
Carnarvon: 1 [commenced 2005]
Champion Bay: 1 [commenced 2004]
Cecil Andrews: 5 [commenced 2005]
Derby: 1 [commenced 2014]
Esperance: 5 [commenced 2004]
Fremantle: 6 [commenced 2006]
Geraldton: 1 [commenced 2021]
Gilmore: 6 [commenced 2005]
Governor Stirling: 4 [commenced 2004]
Hampton: 4 [commenced 2004]
Hedland: 11 [commenced 2003]
Kalgoorlie: 2 [commenced 2004]
Karratha: 8 [commenced 1997]

Katanning: 4 [commenced 2004]
Kununurra: 1 [commenced 2004]
Kwinana: 5 [commenced 2024]
Mandurah: 3 [commenced 2005]
Mt Lawley: 9 [commenced 2011]
Newman: 3 [commenced 2004]
Newton Moore (Bunbury): 7 [commenced 2004]
Northam: 5 [commenced 2004]
Paraburdoo: 1 [commenced 2018]
Roebourne: 2 [commenced 1997]
St Luke's (Karratha): 1 [commenced 2022]
St Mary's (Broome): 1 [commenced 2011]
Sevenoaks: 8 [commenced 2004]
Swan View: 2 [commenced 2004]
Tom Price: 3 [commenced 2002]
Wanneroo: 4 [commenced 2020]

NSW

Muswellbrook: 1 [commenced 2010]

VIC

Geelong: 2 [commenced 2024]

SA

Port Augusta: 4 [commenced 2006]

NT

Bradshaw (Alice Springs): 2 [commenced 2015]
Braitling (Alice Springs): 2 [commenced 2015]
Centralian (Alice Springs): 2 [commenced 2011]
Groote Eylandt: 4 [commenced 2007]
St Philip's (Alice Springs): 1 [commenced 2020]



Our thanks to our 2024 partners

Legacy Partners

RioTinto

BHP



Government partners



Corporate partners



MACHEnergy



Philanthropic and charity partners



Motorola Solutions
Foundation



Supporting partners



Community donors

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