

# Warlpiri Early Childhood Care and Development Project

AUSTRALIA

Project Brief FY 2016



EDUCATION

**Help provide Warlpiri children with the best possible start in life by supporting access to early childhood care and development programs.**

Access to quality early childhood care and education is critical for lifelong outcomes. However, early childhood care and development opportunities for children in remote Indigenous communities still lag well behind those experienced by most non-Indigenous Australians. By supporting this project you will help World Vision to facilitate programs designed to improve the health and wellbeing of children aged up to five years in Warlpiri communities through support provided by parents, carers and early childhood services.



**\$10,000 could support three workshops on the importance of early childhood education to empower parents and carers in remote Aboriginal communities in Central Australia.**

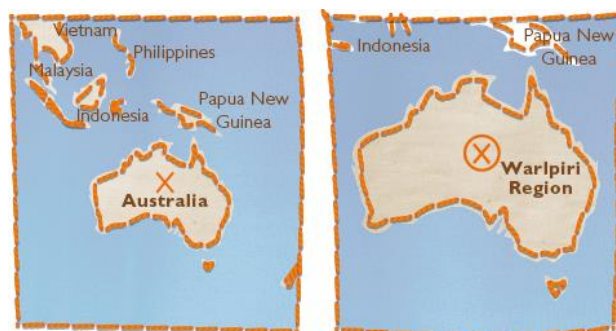
## Background

Indigenous Australian children do not experience the same health and education outcomes as other Australians. Children are vulnerable because of the intergenerational effects of past injustices, poor service provision in rural and remote locations and fewer mainstream employment opportunities for Indigenous families, among other challenges.

Children have the right to be healthy, to learn through play and other active stimulation, and to be cared for in a safe and secure environment. World Vision's international development experience and the growing volume of research into early childhood care and development confirm that these rights are crucial in determining lifelong outcomes.

For children to develop the cognitive abilities they need for a healthy future, a holistic approach to early childhood development is needed that includes the right nutrition, a safe environment and appropriate learning opportunities in their early years.

Early childhood programs that facilitate the transition from early years to school and support parents are critical in the development of remote, rural and urban Indigenous communities.



## Project overview

The Warlpiri are one of the largest Indigenous groups in Central Australia and live in a large area in the Tanami Desert and surrounding lands. The Warlpiri Early Childhood Care and Development Project is delivered in four Warlpiri communities.

World Vision has been working with Warlpiri communities for the last seven years. In 2014, the project was redesigned, and the project team worked with Warlpiri communities, partners and stakeholders to reflect on the project, review current evidence on early childhood, and consider the best way forward for children and their families in Warlpiri communities.

**Program length (Phase 2): October 2014 – October 2019**

*Front cover: This project is helping to increase early learning opportunities for children in Warlpiri communities. Photo: Lucy Aulich/World Vision*

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## Project goal

To improve the health and wellbeing of children aged up to five years in the four Warlpiri communities.

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## Key outcomes

Each of the four Warlpiri communities has identified outcomes that are critical to their children, families and community. While specific to each location, all four community implementation plans seek in different ways to:

- ensure communities are safer for children so they have the best chance to develop and are ready for future opportunities and learning;
- support early childhood services to provide culturally sensitive early learning opportunities for children;
- support the development of a trained local early childhood workforce;
- support communities to lead their early childhood agenda, and advocate for their children.

Moving forward, World Vision Australia may agree to change or modify these key focus areas for communities to better achieve the best results for Warlpiri children now and in the future.

### **Warlpiri women share breastfeeding knowledge**

*In June 2015, the project in partnership with the Australian Breastfeeding Association and One Goal supported the delivery of community breastfeeding mentoring training in Yuendumu. The focus of the training was to use and share Warlpiri and mainstream breastfeeding knowledge, and to teach a community mentoring approach that would equip participants with the knowledge and skills to share with other women in their community.*

*Fourteen people from two communities participated in the training, with seven receiving accreditation. Since the training, there has been demand from other community members in Yuendumu and Lajamanu for additional training sessions regarding breastfeeding and transition to solids.*

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## Project activities

- Increase community awareness about child safety.
- Increase community participation in child safety training.
- Support communities to develop, implement and monitor child safety plans.
- Support local students with early childhood training.
- Support families to learn about the health and development of young children.
- Support early childhood-focused family and cultural activities.
- Support the continued growth and development of Early Childhood Reference Groups (ECRG) in each community.
- Ensure community leaders are informed and skilled in advocating for their children.

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## Recent achievements

- Fourteen people participated in community breastfeeding mentoring training and seven received accreditation as community breast feeding mentors (see story left).
- A Child Protection Weekend Gathering was held where 30 Early Childhood Reference Group members from three communities came together for two days of workshops focused on child safety and health issues. The participants then shared their learnings and discussions with their communities.
- After many years of World Vision supported community advocacy and planning, the new government-supported Child and Family Centre was finally opened in Yuendumu.
- Representatives of the ECRGs from each community presented on their work in their communities at a National Indigenous Early Childhood Conference.

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## Beneficiaries

The Warlpiri Early Childhood Care and Development Project will provide early childhood development benefits to children aged 0-5 years, their parents and caregivers living in four Warlpiri communities in Central Australia.

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## Project sustainability

The project will build the capacity of local people to implement, support and govern early childhood services and activities needed for the healthy development of children under five.

It is not designed to “reinvent the wheel”. Instead, it will work closely with existing service providers and help strengthen local leadership. And by doing this, the project will help to foster a strong sense of community ownership for early childhood development that can be sustained into the future.

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## Project evaluation and reporting

Transparency is at the core of our programs and their delivery. Only then can we strategically assess the level of change achieved in the communities in which we work.

All of World Vision’s projects are assessed at regular intervals against implementation plans, budgets and progress towards their objectives. Evaluations help us identify what works and why, and are therefore a critical part of our programming approach.

Our partners will receive an annual project report outlining progress against key outcomes and activities undertaken. Project challenges and adjustments will be communicated. Project images and case studies are also often available.

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## Funding

We invite you to partner with World Vision Australia as we seek to fund \$1,881,000\* in FY16 from donors to support this project.

\*Estimated as at time of printing and subject to change.

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## Join us

Join World Vision Australia and Warlpiri communities to build and strengthen early childhood care and development opportunities, ensuring Warlpiri children grow up happy, healthy and strong. Thank you for your support.

## Contact us

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or your WVA representative

