

# ANNUAL REPORT

2021







Desert Knowledge Australia (DKA) is a statutory corporation of the Northern Territory, established in 2003 to encourage learning, socioeconomic development, research, and environmental sustainability in Central Australia. DKA is committed to developing opportunities to build a stronger and more connected desert and remote Australia.

In addition to its core operations, contributing to local community projects, and managing the Desert Knowledge Precinct, DKA works to establish and deliver projects of benefit to Central Australia through four strategic focus areas...

#### **RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Creating industry and community partnerships for environmental sustainability in Central Australia.

#### **DESERT LEADERSHIP**

Promoting positive social change, and growing new leaders.

#### **DIGITAL INNOVATION**

Building digital capability and growing technological opportunities for remote Australia.

#### **DESERT RESEARCH**

Generating practicable research outputs for desert and arid lands.





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# DKA BOARD

## INTERIM CHAIR



Chris Fry

## DIRECTORS



Chris Croker



Dawn Ross



Gary Powell



Dr. Patricia Miller AO



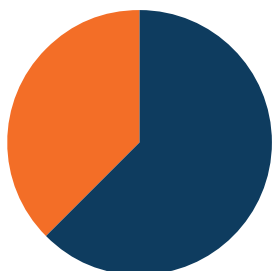
Rede Ogden



Robert Campbell

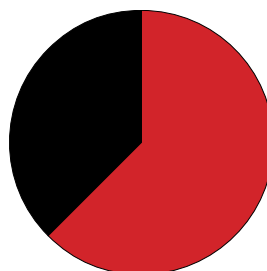


Vanessa Elliott



**38%**  
women

**62%**  
men



**63%**  
Aboriginal







# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

**Chris Fry**

In the financial year 2020/21, DKA has drawn on its core values to bolster its cultural, socioeconomic, and environmental focus; strengthening its existing flagship projects and establishing new pathways to advance Central Australia. We have made significant progress in the renewable energy space, worked towards positive social change, and expanded our operations to support enterprise development of Indigenous people in remote Australia.

I commend CEO Dr Dan Tyson and the DKA Team for their persistent efforts and dedication towards generating positive outcomes for Central Australia, responding to community needs and contributing to NT Government objectives during unprecedented times.

DKA has expanded Codes 4 Life deliveries and partnerships to build stronger communities; established Codes 4 Life: Women to address gendered violence and complement the Codes 4 Life vision; generated meaningful research outputs; supported the local community; and assisted with the NT's 50 per cent by 2030 renewable energy target. We have also continued to assist with the NT Government's COVID-19 response, by advocating for vaccine uptake in collaboration with local Aboriginal corporations.

It has been an honour to have held the role of the DKA Chair through the past financial year, and celebrate DKA's achievements together with our

valued stakeholders. I look forward to continuing my association with DKA as we develop robust practices for community-focused activities in 2021/22.

I thank resigned Director Jimmy Cocking for invaluable contributions during his term on the DKA Board, as well as his enduring support for DKA and Central Australia.

I welcome our newly appointed directors – Chris Croker, Dawn Ross, Gary Powell, and Dr. Patricia Miller AO – who joined the DKA Board in November 2020, and have brought with them fresh perspectives and ideas that have greatly contributed to DKA. I anticipate a promising FY 21/22, working alongside them and our continuing directors, Rede Ogden, Robert Campbell, and Vanessa Elliott.

I'm grateful to the Northern Territory Government; its Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade and Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities for supporting DKA's achievements over the past year. I also thank the National Indigenous Australians Agency; Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources; and the Australian Renewable Energy Agency for their support of DKA's flagship projects. I look forward to our ongoing collaboration as DKA contributes to the progressing Central Australian landscape in 2021/22.

**Chris Fry**  
Interim Chair of the DKA Board



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

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**Dr Dan Tyson**

In FY 2020/21, DKA leveraged the groundwork laid in the previous year to deliver meaningful and productive outcomes for Central Australia. We have drawn inspiration from our original purpose and objectives, and worked closely with the Northern Territory Government and local service providers that share our vision, to produce tangible economic, environmental and social benefits for the community.

I'm grateful for the guidance of our Board, and the perseverance and dedication of the DKA team, who have both had a direct and active contribution towards DKA's achievements in the past year. Together, we have swiftly adapted to changing times, and appropriately responded to community needs.

In the financial year 2020/21, we have:

- seen the Intyalheme Centre for Future Energy forge ahead with activities crucial to the delivery of the Alice Springs Future Grid project
- strengthened and expanded Codes 4 Life workshop deliveries, by outlining strategic focus areas to support a rejuvenated approach; and through formal and informal partnerships with local organisations working towards positive sociocultural outcomes
- established the pilot program Codes 4 Life: Women, based on the cultural methodology of Codes 4 Life, to address and develop prevention practices against domestic, family and sexual violence in the Northern Territory

- launched the DKAccelerator to support First Nations enterprises in accelerating the growth of their business through culturally appropriate, responsive, and contextual support
- sustained our research activities through applied research which has supported the framework development and delivery of DKA projects, including Codes 4 Life: Women and the DKAccelerator
- made meaningful contributions to and participated in local events and activities, ensuring DKA has had an active role in the community
- continued to promote the Desert Knowledge Precinct as a hub for knowledge sharing and collaboration, working together with Precinct partners and local organisations to host events and numerous visitors

These achievements put us in a strong position to progress our projects over the coming year, for the socioeconomic and environmental benefit of Central Australia.

I look forward to a promising 2021/22 working alongside the DKA Team, where we continue to work with renewed commitment to Australia's desert and arid lands.

**Dr Dan Tyson**  
DKA CEO

# DKA TEAM



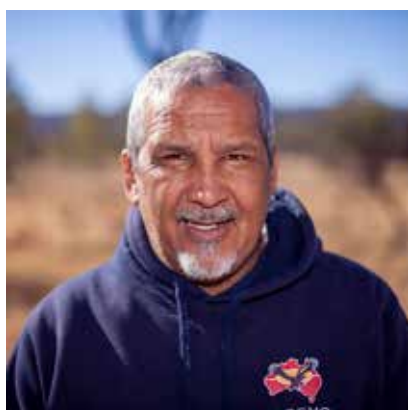
**Dr Dan Tyson**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Jeanette Elliot**  
Corporate Services Manager



**Kate Wiles**  
Coordinator/CEO Support



**Michael Liddle**  
Codes 4 Life Manager



**Nina Kolder**  
Business Development Manager



**Jamie Toyne**  
DKAccelerator Program Director



**Hannah Farrow**  
Intyalheme Project Manager



**Andrea Johnston**  
Intyalheme Communications Officer



**Tracy Jones**  
Communications Officer



## A PLACE FOR LEARNING, KNOWLEDGE SHARING, AND COLLABORATION.



The Desert Knowledge Precinct is a 73-hectare property, sitting on Arrernte bushland 9 km south of the Alice Springs town centre. It was established in 2008, and its management is underpinned by an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA). As landlord of the Desert Knowledge Precinct, DKA is responsible for its management and development.

The Desert Knowledge Precinct was created by three key partners who share similar goals and values, all of whom have a presence at the Precinct:

- Desert Knowledge Australia (DKA),
- Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE), and
- the Centre for Appropriate Technology (CfAT).

In addition to its founding partners, the Precinct is also home to the DKA Solar Centre, the Desert Peoples Centre (a joint initiative of BIITE and CfAT, to support education and training for Indigenous Australians), and many tenant organisations.

In FY 2020/21, Indigenous Business Australia, Tangentyere Council, Desert Support Services, Paspalis Enterprises, CASSE Australia, and Ayeye Atyenhe Art were all long-term tenants at DKA's Business & Innovation Centre. The building was

the office base for Stick Mob Studio, an Indigenous graphic novel group, as they worked to create and publish their novels. Horses for Courses, Kere To Country, T.D. Williams and Next Projects also hot-desked out of the space during the year.

Across its partners' and tenant organisations' operations, the Precinct provides a space for many local groups to carry out important work, collectively contributing to the advancement of Central Australia.

It is the hub for sociocultural and economic development, research, technological innovation, Indigenous training and education, as well as Australia's only First Nations dual sector tertiary education provider (BIITE). The Precinct also houses a youth camp, providing a space to appropriately engage at-risk Indigenous youth on country.

Throughout the year, numerous visitors frequent the Precinct to collaborate with organisations based on the land; attend the various events, conferences and workshops held on-site; or to explore the famed DKA Solar Centre.

DKA celebrates the Precinct as a place for knowledge sharing and collaboration, which are values at the heart of all DKA operations.

**DKA acknowledges the Arrernte people as the custodians of the land on which the Desert Knowledge Precinct stands. We pay respect to their connection to country; and to Elders past, present and emerging.**

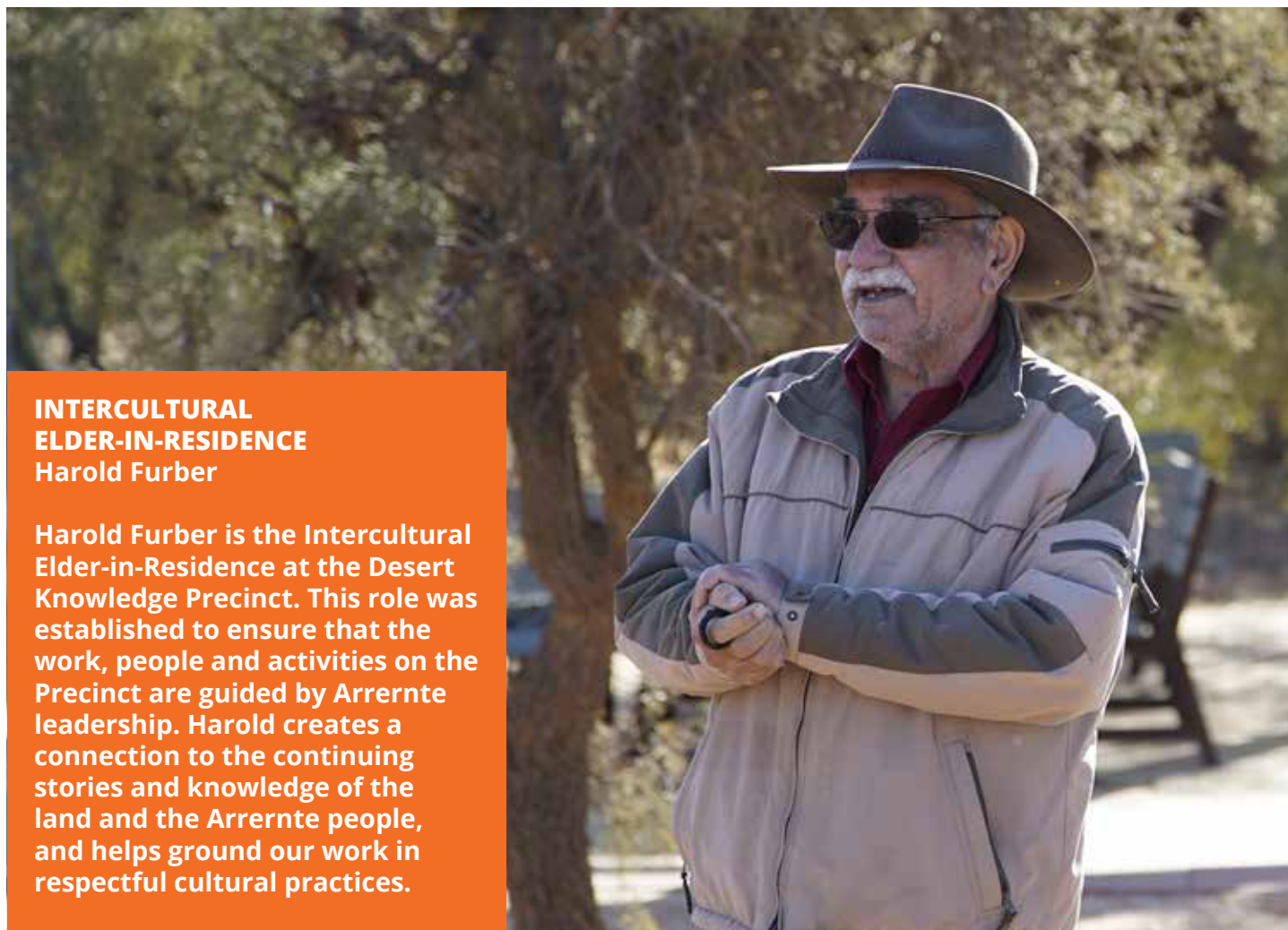
**DKA celebrates Harold Furber as the Precinct's Intercultural Elder-in-Residence, and commends his commitment to maintaining its integrity and purpose.**

**We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first knowledge holders of this land.**





**THE DESERT KNOWLEDGE  
PRECINCT IS A  
73-HECTARE PROPERTY,  
WHICH SITS ON  
ARRERNTÉ BUSHLAND.**



**INTERCULTURAL  
ELDER-IN-RESIDENCE**  
Harold Furber

Harold Furber is the Intercultural Elder-in-Residence at the Desert Knowledge Precinct. This role was established to ensure that the work, people and activities on the Precinct are guided by Arrernte leadership. Harold creates a connection to the continuing stories and knowledge of the land and the Arrernte people, and helps ground our work in respectful cultural practices.

## GENERATING AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE FOR RESEARCH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.



The Desert Knowledge Australia Solar Centre (DKASC) is the largest multi-technology solar demonstration facility in the world. Established in 2008, the site provides a space for different solar photovoltaic (PV) technologies to be installed, operated, and monitored under the same conditions.

It currently houses 40 installations from different manufacturers, and showcases live demonstrations of PV technology spanning many different types, ages, makes, models, and configurations. It also hosts two weather stations to benchmark the performance of the arrays, and to provide high quality solar resource data to potential developers.

The solar power generated by the site supplies approximately 40% of the energy consumed at the Desert Knowledge Precinct each year, providing clean energy and reducing the amount of electricity drawn from the grid.

The DKA Solar Centre website, which caters to approximately 10,000 users each year, hosts live, open-access data from the site's solar installations and weather stations. It is accessed by researchers, university students, industry professionals, and other interested individuals in Australia and around the world; contributing to industry research, a knowledge base, and technological advancements.

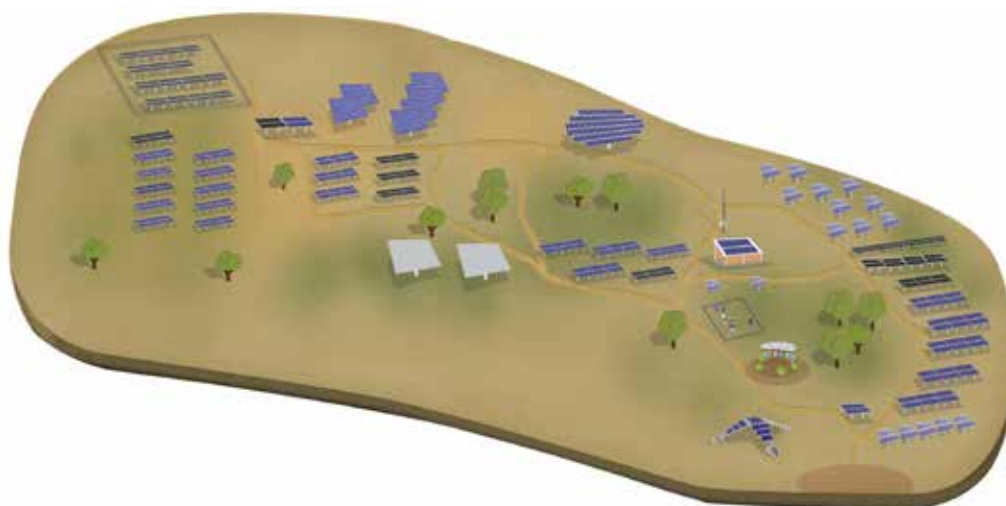
In FY 2020/21, datasets from the DKA Solar Centre contributed to at least 14 academic papers, comprising journal articles, conference papers, and PhD theses. Of these, five publications are ranked at

'Q1', the highest level on the SCImago Journal Rank (SJR) indicator, a measure of scientific influence and prestige. Topics have covered PV power forecasting, interconnected microgrids, solar power interval prediction, system monitoring, module maintenance, and more.

The Solar Centre is also open to members of the public, and often sees Alice Springs residents, local and interstate school groups, and industry professionals exploring the site. In addition, DKA occasionally hosts guided tours for events, and other groups visiting the Desert Knowledge Precinct. In the past year, some of these have included a school group from Sydney and Brisbane as part of the Edutourism program; and dozens of visitors for a DesertSMART EcoFair walking tour, part of National Science Week.

On 3 August, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley, visited the DKA Solar Centre. They were guided by DKA staff, who explained the site's history and purpose. Mrs Hurley expressed an interest in its carbon offsets, stemming from her dedication to causes which support sustainable living.

Established with \$3.1 million Commonwealth funding, the site is now commercially self-sustainable. DKA partners with engineering and technical advisory firm Ekistica to manage the Solar Centre's ongoing operations.





2020-2021

**456,505 kwh**

of solar energy generated, equivalent to...

**283 tonnes**

of avoided CO2 emissions



Until 2020

**5 million kwh**

of solar energy generated, equivalent to...

**3,227 tonnes**

of avoided CO2 emissions



## DESERT KNOWLEDGE PRECINCT ELECTRICITY SUPPLY SOURCES

**42%**

solar PV

**58%**

grid

## TOTAL SOLAR PV GENERATION

**74%**consumed  
on-site**26%**

exported

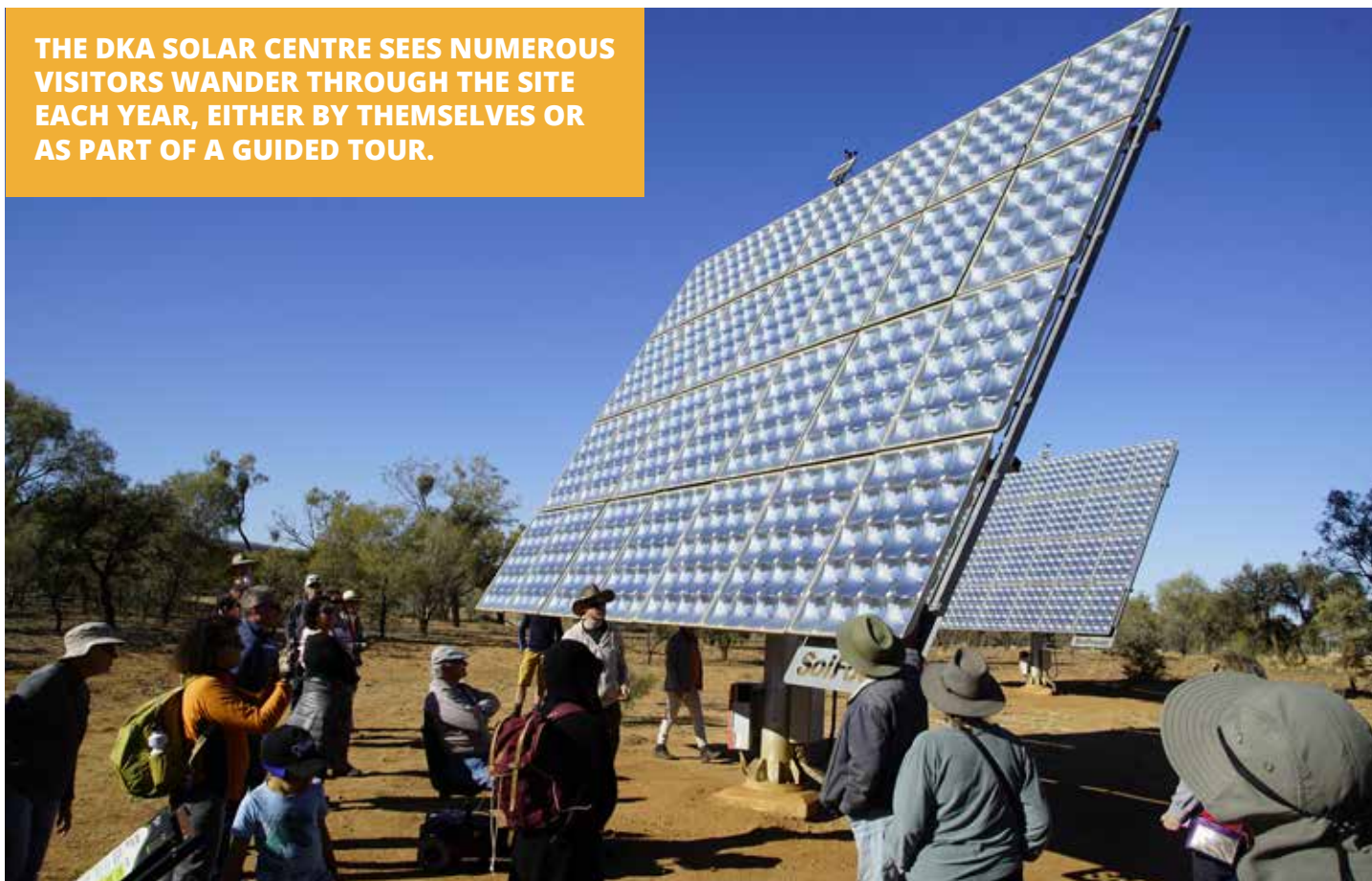
## THE DKASC WEBSITE

The DKA Solar Centre website hosts live open-access energy performance data from its arrays and on-site weather stations. The data is accessed by people from around the world for research, investment, technology development, education, and private use.


[dkasolarcentre.com.au](http://dkasolarcentre.com.au)

**9,381 website visitors**  
in FY 20/21

**THE DKA SOLAR CENTRE SEES NUMEROUS VISITORS WANDER THROUGH THE SITE EACH YEAR, EITHER BY THEMSELVES OR AS PART OF A GUIDED TOUR.**



## HELPING TO IDENTIFY AND COORDINATE THE REMOVAL OF BARRIERS TO FURTHER RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE ALICE SPRINGS POWER SYSTEM.



a flagship project of



DKA flagship project, the Intyalheme Centre for Future Energy, is leading delivery of Alice Springs Future Grid: a collaborative project focused on exploring the challenges and opportunities associated with the town's renewable energy future.

Future Grid is delivered through a series of innovative trials, models and investigations. These activities are informing what may need to change in the Alice Springs electricity system to accommodate increasing amounts of renewable energy, while also improving use of the current system. Future Grid will design a pathway to achieving the Northern Territory's 50 per cent by 2030 renewable energy target in Alice Springs, with lessons learnt transferable to other grids.

The Future Grid project, and accompanying website, was publicly launched in August 2020 with media releases published by funders the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and the Australian Government's Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (DISER). The launch attracted broad national attention from several industry news outlets. In addition to ARENA and DISER, Future Grid is supported by the Northern Territory Government though seed funding provided to Intyalheme.

The activities of Future Grid were kickstarted through a project execution workshop facilitated by Intyalheme and held at the Desert Knowledge Precinct shortly after public launch. It was attended in-person by Project Partners from across the Northern Territory, as well as an online contingent which primarily consisted of interstate stakeholders impacted by COVID-19-related restrictions. The workshop provided an opportunity for Project Partners to discuss deliverables and execution strategies. It was the subject of Future Grid's first Lessons Learnt Report; part of its knowledge sharing commitments to ARENA.

A second Lessons Learnt Report was produced to illustrate the complexities in developing a multi-level stakeholder partnership. Alignment of various legal structures and adherence to the needs of the various Partners was a significant challenge. The project brings together a diverse group of organisations which have historically tended to operate

independently. Along with DKA, Intyalheme and Ekistica – which comprise the delivery team – Project Partners include Power and Water Corporation, Territory Generation, Jacana Energy, the Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC), and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

To establish a baseline view of the knowledge, behaviours, and attitudes of Alice Springs residents towards renewable energy, a whole-of-community survey was conducted over the 2020 Christmas period. The survey was developed by market research company McGregor Tan, with input from Intyalheme, CSIRO, Jacana Energy, and ALEC. The results showed strong support for renewable energy, with over 90 per cent of respondents saying more energy from the grid should be from renewable sources. Some of the main findings have been published on the Future Grid website.

A major focus for the Future Grid project team has been the design and development of a residential Virtual Power Plant (VPP) for Alice Springs, which is expected to be the first in the Northern Territory when launched in FY 2021/22. A VPP is typically a collection of solar and battery storage systems that work together to provide a single source of energy. VPPs use smart technology to control the energy flow to and from the grid on demand. Relationships between Project Partners and systems which are being established through Future Grid will help ensure the project's impact and legacy.

Findings from Future Grid activities will ultimately inform the development of a roadmap for Alice Springs to reach the NT's renewable energy target. The size and nature of the Alice Springs electricity system means lessons learnt locally can be applied to larger grids, assisting with Australia's clean energy transition.

The Intyalheme team includes DKA staff Hannah Farrow (Project Manager) and Andrea Johnston (Communications Officer), who oversee project delivery and communications for the Alice Springs Future Grid project, working alongside other Project Partners.



## INTYALHEME HOSTS A PROJECT EXECUTION WORKSHOP WITH FUTURE GRID PROJECT PARTNERS.



## [alicespringsfuturegrid.com.au](http://alicespringsfuturegrid.com.au)

The Alice Springs Future Grid website's development and content creation was led by Intyalheme, with a core purpose of sharing knowledge. The site hosts project outcomes and other renewable energy information relating to Central Australia, helping to inform the industry, educate the community, and retain valuable historical information.



**ALICE SPRINGS  
FUTURE GRID**

## PROJECT MANAGER HANNAH FARROW ENJOYS DRIVING INTYALHEME'S NISSAN LEAF, AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE.



## INTYALHEME BRIEFS THE HON EVA LAWLER, MINISTER FOR RENEWABLES AND ENERGY, ON THE ALICE SPRINGS FUTURE GRID PROJECT.

## RECONNECTING ABORIGINAL MEN WITH CULTURAL IDENTITY, RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMMUNITY.



# Codes 4 Life

Arraty Angka - Straight Talk

The DKA flagship project's primary focus is to reconnect Aboriginal men with cultural identity, responsibilities and community, while simultaneously addressing substance abuse and unlawful behaviour. Codes 4 Life encourages participants to engage in self-reflection, and find strength in their role in the community.

In the financial year 2020-21, Codes 4 Life built on the previous year's efforts, and worked to enhance the delivery of programs for Aboriginal men's wellbeing. The team focused on improving knowledge about men's health, and increased awareness about the effects of substance abuse.

In addition to the program's core objectives, Codes 4 Life outlined three focus areas which strengthened deliveries in alignment with its strategic direction:

- **Accelerating the impact of partnerships:** To maximize the value that local service providers can bring to the program, the team worked closely with CASSE Australia and the Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre, which improved the scope of deliveries. Codes 4 Life also entered a formal partnership with Victims of Crime NT, which allows the program to expand its impact in four Central Australian localities, with a significant focus on breaking the cycle of violence.
- **Facilitating conversations about domestic violence:** Having addressed domestic violence and sexual abuse in past workshops, the team moved to highlight the primary and secondary impacts of these actions and their ripple effect. Codes 4 Life also collaborated with community safety groups, and examined the cycle of domestic violence with workshop participants.
- **Understanding the brain and human psychology:** To advance the program's competency and support more meaningful engagement with clients, Manager Michael Liddle completed a Mental Health Assessment & Suicide Prevention training by Indigenous Psychological Services. The team also collaborated with Don Dale Youth Detention Centre's psychologist to provide culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous youth.

In FY 20/21, Codes 4 Life hosted 10 workshops incorporating reinforced messaging, which were spread across six Central Australian towns and communities. The workshops had a combined attendance of 143 Aboriginal men, with 97%

reporting positive outcomes and cultural knowledge improvement. These deliveries supported the employment and meaningful engagement of 16 Aboriginal men, including the program's manager, co-facilitators, and Elders.

In addition to Codes 4 Life activities, Manager Michael Liddle sustained his commitment to the broader Central Australian community with his involvement in providing commentary and ideas around important topics affecting the region, such as water usage in the Barkly region; gambling, alcohol and drug use linked to stimulus payments; secondary cross-border alcohol sales, and other social issues affecting Alice Springs.

He also continued to assist the Northern Territory Government and local service providers with the NT's COVID-19 pandemic response by advocating for and promoting the distribution of vaccines at targeted locations and to the wider Aboriginal community.

**"We spent a lot of time going out to workshops to see what was working, what wasn't, what was needed to improve the workshop's reception, and how to get men to engage better.**

**We put in extra work, extra effort. We looked at workshop methods on the Internet; worked with specialist services; and increased engagement with local service providers such as St John Ambulance, the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities, and women's safety groups. We also broke down the invisible wall by bringing women in to speak at our workshops, because the issues we are dealing with are no longer men's business.**

**What has worked well is bringing in the Department of Territory Families, and having men's health conversations led by Central Australian Aboriginal Congress. These conversations have made men more aware of the need to be better fathers, and the need to practice better health."**

**MICHAEL LIDDLE**  
Codes 4 Life Manager





**NTARIA  
(HERMANNSBURG)**  
August 2020



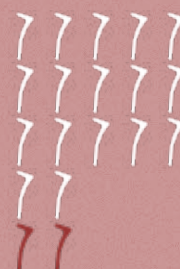
**ALICE SPRINGS  
- CAAAPU**  
September 2020



**TENNANT CREEK**  
December 2020



**FINKE**  
May 2021



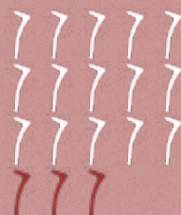
**NTARIA  
(HERMANNSBURG)**  
September 2020



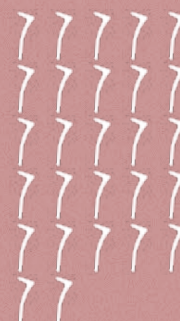
**ALICE SPRINGS**  
November 2020



**ALICE SPRINGS  
- CAAAPU**  
February 2021



**ALICE SPRINGS**  
June 2021



**ATITJERE**  
September 2020



**TI TREE**  
March 2021



7 Participants  
7 Elders

**PROUDLY FUNDED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT.  
DKA ALSO ACKNOWLEDGES VICTIMS OF CRIME NT (VOC NT) FOR THEIR  
FINANCIAL SUPPORT TOWARDS CODES 4 LIFE WORKSHOPS.**







# ARRATY AREYEL: LOOKING STRAIGHT

This painting was created by former Codes 4 Life Project Officer Wayne Scrutton, and is symbolic of the program's work. It depicts Aboriginal children (bottom), adult men (middle), and Elders (top).

Its significance is explained in the words of Manager Michael Liddle:

"The white feet represent innocence, babies, and children – who are quickly drawn to the vices in the middle circle. It is assumed to be good, but their feet get dirty by walking the track littered with alcohol, domestic violence, incarceration, welfare payments, a lack of education, and an inability to understand responsibilities.

They were once kids; now they are teenagers and young men, and no longer is the road to the circle up the top accessible. These people are caught up in 'the new culture'. They will no longer have access to, or an understanding of the knowledge that is held by senior lawmen in the top circle, which represents Elders and their wisdom, lore, culture and country.

It is so hard for them to get to the top circle because they lack the discipline that is required to get there. The circle in the middle is easy and good fun!

No longer is the journey about walking the track to learn about his identity. The learning stops at the middle circle, where all forms of distractions drown out the voice of culture, and stop him from learning about identity, about who he is. He has no willingness to learn because he has lost his way, and is now an individual creating his own journey.

Codes 4 Life continues to address the many social issues that are having a negative impact on the Aboriginal man's identity; working to reconnect him with identity, culture and responsibility."

**CODES 4 LIFE'S  
FORMER  
PROJECT  
OFFICER WAYNE  
SCRUTTON,  
AND MANAGER  
MICHAEL  
LIDDLE.**



## DEVELOPING PREVENTION PRACTICES AGAINST DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

# Codes 4 Life WOMEN



Codes 4 Life: Women is a DKA pilot program, created to raise awareness about and develop prevention practices against domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV). It was established following approval of \$150k grant funding from the Northern Territory Government's Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities. The funding comes under the 'Safe, Respected and Free from Violence Prevention Fund', which seeks to support localised projects that contribute to preventing violence against women.

Adopting a community-led approach, Codes 4 Life: Women has been co-designed by Aboriginal women and Elders, with the support of DKA. The program is delivered by Indigenous female leaders which include Main Facilitator Jessie Bartlett, and Co-Facilitators Sharon Burns and Marissa Gibson. All workshops are overseen by Aboriginal Elders, who provide support and cultural guidance.

Codes 4 Life: Women provides a safe and culturally appropriate space for Aboriginal women to share their knowledge and understanding of DFSV, learn about support services available, and build self-determination to break the cycle of DFSV. Workshops draw on themes relating to Aboriginal culture and identity: land, language, people, ceremony, and law, to host interactive workshop activities and discuss keeping culture strong in today's world.

In FY 20/21, Codes 4 Life: Women delivered six workshops spread across Alice Springs, Ti Tree and Papunya. These were attended by a total of 77

participants, and supported the engagement of 14 Aboriginal Elders.

Some workshops also hosted guest speakers from the Northern Territory Police, and Women's Safety Services of Central Australia (WoSSCA). These talks covered topics such as the range of mainstream and culturally appropriate services available, safe use of the Internet for younger participants, consent, privacy, mandatory reporting, and confidentiality.

All sessions were received positively, with participant feedback indicating an increased knowledge about culture, identity, DFSV-related services, and an increased likelihood to report or seek help for DFSV-related incidents.

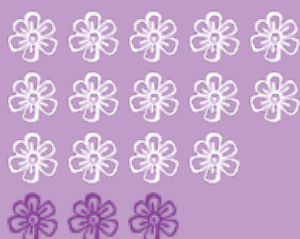
Codes 4 Life: Women, initially titled 'Respected Women: DKA Pilot Program', was renamed early in the financial year to acknowledge the strong cultural and methodological alignment to DKA's existing flagship project, Codes 4 Life. Its development has been strongly supported and guided by Codes 4 Life Manager Michael Liddle.

In June 2020, following the pilot program's preliminary success and local interest, DKA received an additional \$150k under the same grant award to continue the delivery of Codes 4 Life: Women in FY 2021-22. This involves the program's expansion to Borroloola, where it will be delivered at Mabunji Safe House in collaboration with Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Indigenous Corporation.





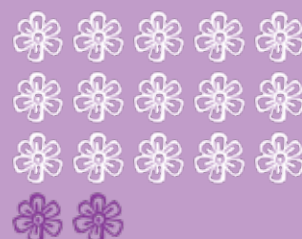
### ALICE SPRINGS November 2020



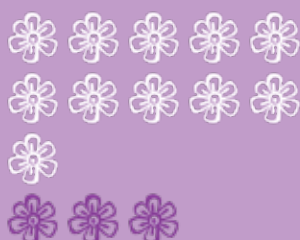
### ALICE SPRINGS November 2020



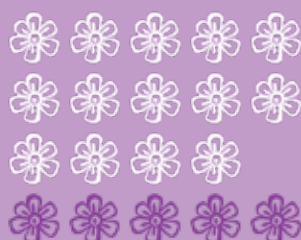
### PAPUNYA December 2020



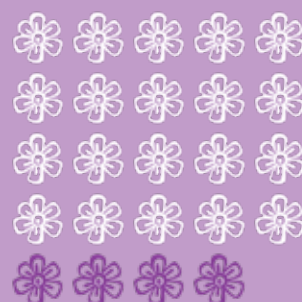
### TI TREE December 2020



### PAPUNYA May 2021



### TI TREE May 2021



## SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF FIRST NATIONS ENTERPRISES ACROSS CENTRAL AUSTRALIA.



DKAccelerator commenced in November 2020, following approval of \$326,000 in grant funding from the Northern Territory Government's Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade. It was established to research, design and pilot a program to support the development of First Nations enterprises across Central Australia.

The pilot program is designed to support local entrepreneurs accelerate the growth of their business through hands-on operational support, responsive mentorship, project-based learning, peer-to-peer leadership, and digital technology innovation. It has been modelled on leading business accelerator programs around the world, and adapted to respond to the unique sociocultural barriers faced by Aboriginal businesses in Central Australia.

DKAccelerator's development is underpinned by primary and secondary research, as well as consultations with key stakeholders, including local entrepreneurs and service providers in the Aboriginal Economic Development network. The program is designed to address economic barriers identified in the research, and fill gaps in the existing support network for First Nations enterprises.

Program delivery commenced in May 2021 and will run until November 2021. The DKAccelerator team works alongside the selected entrepreneurs and their support network. It includes four stages of development for entrepreneurs to progress through over the 24-week period: (i) discovery and planning, (ii) foundation and scalability, (iii) growth and acceleration, and (iv) automation and future planning.

The selected businesses are:

- Spinifex Skateboards; a skate brand and youth program on Eastern Arrernte Country
- Kere to Country; a disruptive social enterprise addressing food security
- Stick Mob Studio; a graphic novel group creating stories inspired by lived experiences
- Standley Chasm; a leading Arrernte culture tourism enterprise

Each business has access to a workspace at DKA's Business & Innovation Centre, as well as a \$10,000 'growth fund' to invest into building digital technology capabilities within their business. The entrepreneurs attend weekly coaching sessions and regular peer-to-peer leadership activities on-country, at their place of work, or at the Desert Knowledge Precinct, ensuring cultural safety and a productive workspace with access to digital technology facilities.

In addition, every entrepreneur has a designated day during each week of the program to work alongside their Business Coach and Digital Growth Partner, where they work towards their goals as a team and have 1-on-1 coaching sessions. The four businesses have found the program and its support invaluable thus far.

DKAccelerator is developed and led by Program Director / Business Coach Jamie Toyne, and supported by Digital Growth Partner Jane Arandelovic. In addition to supporting local enterprises scale their businesses, the pilot program also contributes to research outcomes, including testing theories on ways to empower emerging Aboriginal entrepreneurs, and cultivate entrepreneurship in Central Australia.



**THE DKACCELERATOR TEAM AND PARTICIPATING ENTERPRISES AT THE PROGRAM'S LAUNCH AT THE DESERT KNOWLEDGE PRECINCT.**



**ANGKERLE ATWATYE**  
**WERTE WELCOME**  
**STANDLEY CHASM**



**A DKACCELERATOR COACHING SESSION AT STANDLEY CHASM.**



## GENERATING PRACTICABLE RESEARCH OUTPUTS FOR DESERT AND ARID LANDS.

# DESERT RESEARCH

DKA places high importance on research of practicable value to the local community. In FY 2020/21, DKA undertook research activities to support the development of two new projects targeted towards the Central Australian region, DKAAccelerator and Codes 4 Life: Women.

DKAAccelerator's development is underpinned by thorough research to understand key barriers and challenges faced by First Nations entrepreneurs in Central Australia, as well as an analysis of current support services, and a feasibility study for the program's viability. Its research methodology involved gathering both quantitative and qualitative data through surveys, interviews, and an analysis of existing studies to gain an understanding of the sector's landscape. This was targeted to gain insight into both Central Australian businesses themselves as well as current business support services in the region.

Findings revealed that First Nations businesses face a variety of interconnected socioeconomic barriers; and are negatively impacted by a lack of appropriate support, dependence on government funding, and significant underutilisation of digital technology.

The DKAAccelerator pilot program is designed to respond to these challenges by providing culturally appropriate and responsive support, working alongside entrepreneurs and their support network to accelerate business growth. Entrepreneurs have

access to up to \$10,000 in a 'growth fund' to execute the identified opportunities, and receive intensive coaching to boost digital capability. The program provides contextual support through a goal-driven modelling approach to build business momentum, and responds to the unique socioeconomic barriers faced by Indigenous business in the region.

DKA conducted a literature review to support the development of Codes 4 Life: Women, a pilot program which aims to build prevention practices against domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) in the Northern Territory. The program is built on the model of existing flagship project Codes 4 Life, and is co-designed by Aboriginal women, leaders and Elders, with support from DKA.

DKA performed a review of existing studies by the Australian Government's key research bodies, and publications by the Northern Territory Government and local organisations. The analysis revealed a stark reality of reported case numbers as well as high levels of non-reporting, multifaceted problems responsible for high rates of DFSV in the NT, and factors contributing to the success of Indigenous programs.

Codes 4 Life: Women responded to these findings by ensuring the program's development and delivery was community-led to support higher engagement, working to increase awareness of support services, and engaging local stakeholders at workshops to build community cohesion and trust.



**THE DKACCELERATOR PILOT PROGRAM INCORPORATES HANDS-ON OPERATIONAL SUPPORT TO RESPOND TO BARRIERS IDENTIFIED IN ITS RESEARCH.**





Desert  
Knowledge  
Research  
Institute

## IDENTIFYING RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AREAS OF PEOPLE, PLACE AND KNOWLEDGE.

The Desert Knowledge Research Institute (DKRI) supports DKA's research activities by identifying research opportunities in the areas of People, Place, and Knowledge. Its mission is to recognise and grow the value of remote and regional Australia through high-quality applied research. DKRI aims to capitalise on the unique scientific and cultural knowledge of remote, arid, and desert regions.

In the past year, DKA's research arm has worked to develop partnerships for potential research opportunities in FY 2021/22, to respond to various economic and environmental issues faced by the Central Australian region. DKRI participated in the Water in Northern Australia (WiNA) Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) bid, which was led by Charles Darwin University, and aimed to address the region's water resource, water quality and water systems challenges. Although the initial proposal was unsuccessful, DKRI will be part of a second bid in 2022.

The research body is also currently collaborating with the University of Canberra on an Economic Participation of Indigenous Communities (EPIC) CRC bid, aimed to empower Indigenous peoples in Australia to participate in, contribute to, lead, and enjoy the benefits of the Australian economy.

Another research opportunity for DKRI has seen discussions with the University of Melbourne for an Australian Research Council (ARC) bid to develop a Centre of Excellence for Indigenous Knowledges, which is intended to be a hub for research engagements with Indigenous knowledge holding communities across Australia.

In addition, DKRI holds the \$12.5m Alice Springs Future Grid project, designed to remove barriers to further renewable energy penetration in Alice Springs. The delivery of Future Grid is led by DKA flagship project, the Intyalheme Centre for Future Energy.

DKRI has 'approved research institute' and Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status.





**THEIR EXCELLENCIES EXPLORE  
THE DKA SOLAR CENTRE.**

## **DKA Hosts Their Excellencies, General the Honourable David Hurley and Mrs Linda Hurley**

DKA was honoured to host His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley, at the Desert Knowledge Precinct on 3 August 2020.

Their Excellencies were greeted at the DKA Solar Centre by DKA CEO Dr Dan Tyson and then-Intyalheme General Manager Tristan Simons, who explained the Solar Centre's purpose and history.

The group then convened at the Business & Innovation Centre where Their Excellencies learned about DKA's purpose and its projects, including Codes 4 Life and the Intyalheme Centre for Future Energy, as well as its newer initiatives and collaborative work.



**DKA CEO DR DAN TYSON DISCUSSES THE  
PRECINCT'S WORK  
WITH HER EXCELLENCY  
MRS HURLEY.**

## **THE GROUP CONVENES AT DKA'S OFFICES TO DISCUSS THE WORK OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN PROJECTS.**







**CODES 4 LIFE MANAGER  
MICHAEL LIDDLE SHARES  
INSIGHTS ABOUT THE PROJECT.**

## DKA Hosts the Honourable Ken Wyatt, Minister for Indigenous Australians

DKA and the Central Land Council were pleased to host the Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP at the Desert Knowledge Precinct on 26 November 2020.

The two organisations and the Minister for Indigenous Australians discussed the work of Central Australian projects, and the potential for Indigenous development and economic pathways.



**DKA AND THE CENTRAL  
LAND COUNCIL WITH  
THE HON KEN WYATT.**



## SUPPORTING AND MENTORING LOCAL ENTERPRISES.

Through an agreement with GTNT Group, DKA has provided working space and mentoring to Stick Mob Studio throughout FY 2020/21. Stick Mob is an Indigenous graphic novel group which creates and shares important stories through graphic novels. The stories are inspired by lived experiences, drawing on themes surrounding science, art and literature, with a strong focus on their cultural roots.

The team consists of:

- Declan Miller; Graphic Novelist & Creative Director
- Wendy Cowan; Artist/Educator & Strategic Director
- Seraphina Newberry; Graphic Novelist
- Alyssa Mason; Graphic Novelist
- Lauren Boyle; Scriptwriter

Stick Mob is based out of DKA's Business & Innovation Centre at the Desert Knowledge Precinct, where they are mentored by Artist/Educator Wendy Cowan and DKA CEO Dr Dan Tyson, as they work on their graphic novels and carry out business activities.

Dr Tyson provides mentoring support to Declan Miller on general business concepts covering operations and basic cash flow principles, as well as methods to locate appropriate funding sources and support business growth.

DKA Communications Officer Tracy Jones has provided communications and marketing support for the group's business and website launch, and contributes to Stick Mob's public communications activities.

The group is also one of four selected enterprises participating in the DKAccelerator program, where they receive hands-on operational support to accelerate the growth of their business.

Stick Mob launched in early 2021, with its operations focusing on three main areas: graphic novel creation, hosting studio workshops and online courses, and commission-based illustrative work.

### DKA CEO DR DAN TYSON AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER TRACY JONES PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR STICK MOB'S BUSINESS ACTIVITIES AND PROMOTION.





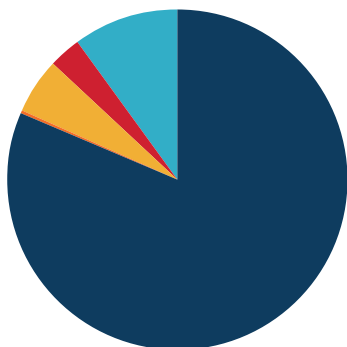


# OUR PARTNERSHIPS

DKA believes the best outcomes for Central Australia are achieved through strong partnerships, and collaborating with like-minded organisations to work towards a common goal. DKA thanks all our partners for their support, and for sharing our vision for a stronger desert and remote Australia.

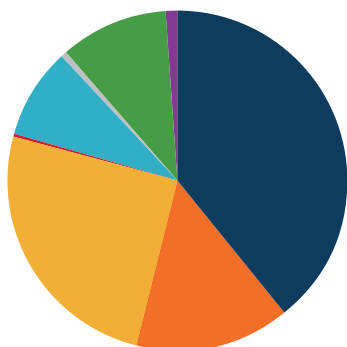


# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE



## INCOME

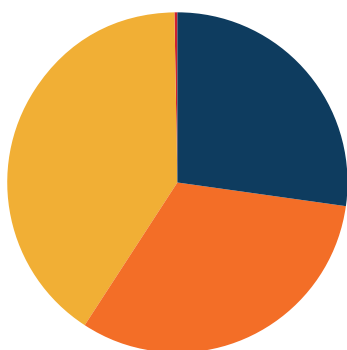
Grants	\$3,107,157
Interest	\$6,726
Rent	\$210,517
Solar Centre	\$109,265
Others	\$378,991



## EXPENDITURE

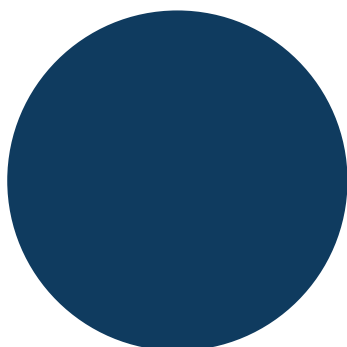
Employees	\$1,334,918
Depreciation and amortisation	\$505,306
Consultants	\$856,290
Media and marketing	\$11,680
Desert Knowledge Precinct	\$292,405
Travel and accommodation	\$19,531
Other expenses	\$340,983
Reversal of impairment expenditure	(\$37,592)

# CASH FLOW



## CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Receipts from government grants	\$2,225,468
Other operating receipts	\$2,581,872
Payments to suppliers and employees	(\$3,305,752)
Interest received	\$6,726

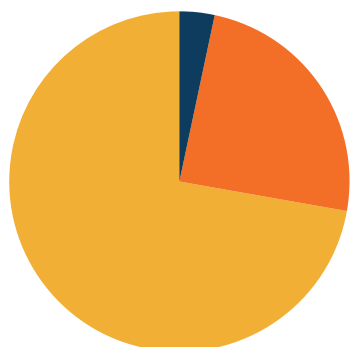


## CASH FLOW FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES

Proceeds from financial assets	(\$354)
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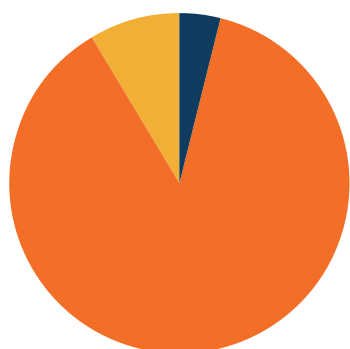


# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION



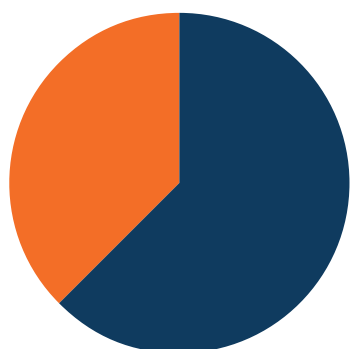
## ASSETS

Trade and other receivables	\$532,106
Total bank	\$3,775,826
Property, plant, equipment, and intangibles	\$11,072,963



## LIABILITIES

Employee benefits	\$114,618
Grants received in advance	\$2,537,523
Trade and other payables	\$248,932



## EQUITY

Issued capital	\$7,808,935
Retained earnings	\$4,653,212



**DKA PRODUCES A PANEL DISCUSSION FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, TO PROMOTE AWARENESS ABOUT DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY. THE PANEL WAS HOSTED BY ALEX BARWICK, WITH SPEAKERS FROM CHILDREN'S GROUND AND CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CONGRESS.**



**DKA PARTNERS WITH VICTIMS OF CRIME NT TO EXPAND CODES 4 LIFE DELIVERIES, AND ADDRESS DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE REGION.**



**DKA MEETS WITH WHITE RIBBON TO DISCUSS WAYS TO BOLSTER WOMEN'S SAFETY.**



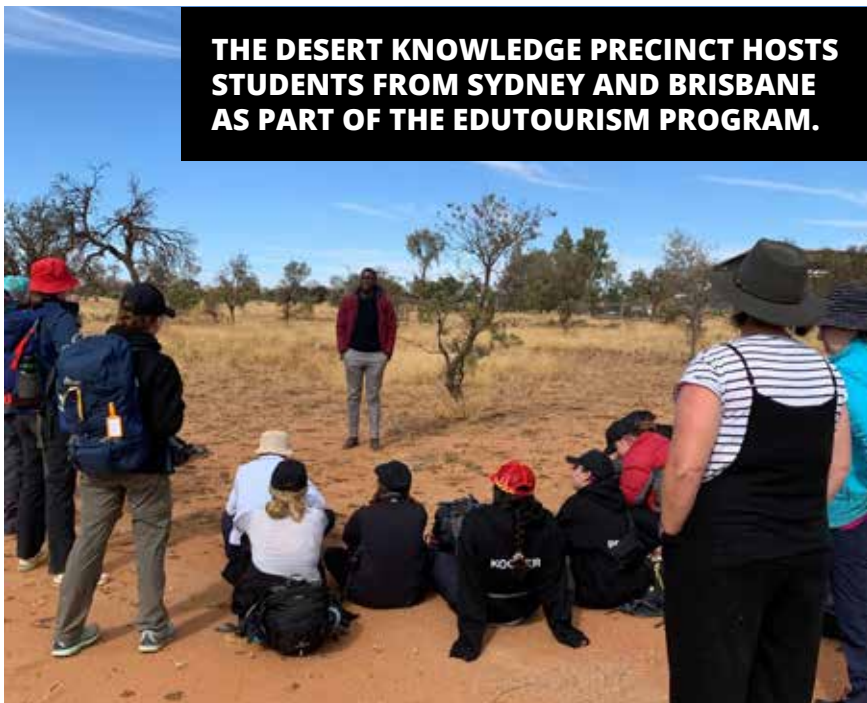
**DKA CO-HOSTS THE EQUAL FUTURES EVENT FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2021.**



**DKA CEO DR DAN TYSON  
DISCUSSES HIS POSITION  
AS CENTRAL AUSTRALIA'S  
INNOVATOR IN RESIDENCE AT  
OCTOBER BUSINESS MONTH.**

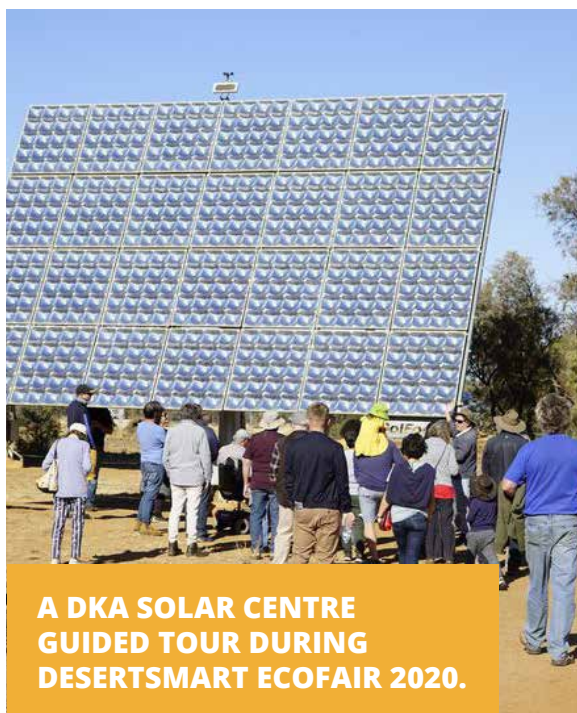


**THE DESERT KNOWLEDGE PRECINCT HOSTS  
STUDENTS FROM SYDNEY AND BRISBANE  
AS PART OF THE EDUTOURISM PROGRAM.**



**DOZENS OF VISITORS JOIN THE DESERT  
KNOWLEDGE PRECINCT WALKING TOUR FOR  
DESERTSMART ECOFAIR 2020, ORGANISED  
BY THE ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE  
AS PART OF NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK.**

**INTYALHEME HOSTS A  
COMMUNITY INFORMATION  
SESSION ABOUT THE RECENTLY-  
LAUNCHED ALICE SPRINGS  
FUTURE GRID PROJECT.**



**A DKA SOLAR CENTRE  
GUIDED TOUR DURING  
DESERTSMART ECOFAIR 2020.**





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