



ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

Desert Knowledge Australia
Connecting people, knowledge, and opportunities.



**DKA ACKNOWLEDGES THE
ARRERNTI 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.**

**WE ACKNOWLEDGE ALL
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE AS
THE FIRST KNOWLEDGE
HOLDERS OF THIS LAND.**



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INTERIM CHAIR



Chris Fry

DKA BOARD 2021-22

DIRECTORS



Chris Croker



Dawn Ross



Gary Powell



Dr. Patricia Miller AO



Rede Ogden



Robert Campbell



Vanessa Elliott



38%
women
62%
men



63%
Aboriginal
People



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

CHRIS FRY

DKA in 2021-22, like all families, communities, and organisations, faced many challenges as the impacts of COVID-19 presented new challenges, and opportunities to respond. In many ways, the pandemic reinforced the importance and closeness of community and the relationships that make up a community, and DKA is determined to further build on those bonds in coming years.

It has also been a year of significant change, with our CEO of the past three years, Dr Dan Tyson, moving to Adelaide to be closer to family. The Board and I would like to acknowledge and thank Dan for his contribution to DKA and for the thoughtful and committed manner in which he led DKA. Dan brought much to the organisation, and we wish him well in his new career. Similarly, the Board and I are very pleased to have Jimmy Cocking join DKA as the new CEO. Jimmy has a deep and wide connection to Central Australia, and since joining he has already demonstrated his passion and drive for DKA.

This year the Honourable Chansey Paech has been appointed as Minister for Desert Knowledge Australia. The Board sees this as a significant development, as DKA has not previously had the overview of a Minister specific to DKA. The Board looks forward to continuing its close relationship with the Minister to further drive outcomes for Central Australia.

I would also like to thank the DKA staff for their many achievements over the past 12 months. These include the continued delivery of the Codes4Life program and Codes4Women program, their support in assisting remote communities responding to Covid, the strong progress made with the Alice Springs Future Grid project, and support in developing four Aboriginal businesses under the DKA Incubator program.

Finally, in stepping down as Chair of DKA, I would like to thank all Board members for their commitment and the manner in which the Board has operated. Of equal importance, I congratulate Sera Bray on taking on the Chair role, and I am excited about the future of DKA over the next few years under her stewardship.

Chris Fry

Interim Chair of the DKA Board





MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM CEO

JEANETTE ELLIOT

In 2021-22, DKA delivered meaningful and productive outcomes for Central Australia. We have drawn inspiration from our original purpose and objectives. We 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 their trust in me to sit as the Interim CEO after Dr. Dan Tyson was called by family back to Adelaide. Dan allowed staff at DKA the opportunity to expand their own knowledge, and grew a dedicated team who contributed to DKA's achievements in the past year.

In the financial year 2021-22, we have:

- Co-hosted Equal Futures: International Women's Day Fair 2022 at the Women's Museum of Australia, partnering once again with local organisations and building on the previous year's success.
- Participated in the "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" campaign. DKA and the Central Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Unit (CAAFLU) co-hosted a panel discussion to gain insights on a crucial issue that disproportionately affects our region: violence against Aboriginal women and children.
- Hosted the 2021 Knowledge Intersections Symposium attracting 110 participants, delivering 39 presentations covering enterprise, technology, Aboriginal language and history, mental health, education, and economics.
- Saw Spinifex Skateboards, Kere to Country, Stick Mob Studio, and Standley Chasm complete the DKAccelerator program, designed to provide operational support, boost digital capability, and support local entrepreneurs to accelerate the growth of their business.
- Continued to work with Consortium Partners on the Alice Springs Future Grid Project, which is now designing a pathway to achieving the Northern Territory's 50 percent by 2030 renewable energy target in Alice Springs, with lessons learned transferable to other grids. These lessons will be captured in the Alice Springs Roadmap to 2030 report, with publication expected next year.
- 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

I look forward to a promising 2022-23 working alongside the new CEO, Jimmy Cocking, and the DKA Team, where we continue to work with a renewed commitment to Australia's desert and arid lands.

Jeanette Elliot

DKA Interim CEO





DKA TEAM



Dr Dan Tyson
Chief Executive Officer
(Resigned March 2022)



Jeanette Elliot
Corporate Services Manager
(Interim CEO March – June 2022)



Kate Wiles
Coordinator/CEO Support



Michael Liddle
Codes 4 Life Manager



Nina Kolder
Business Development Manager



Jamie Toyne
DKAccelerator Program Director



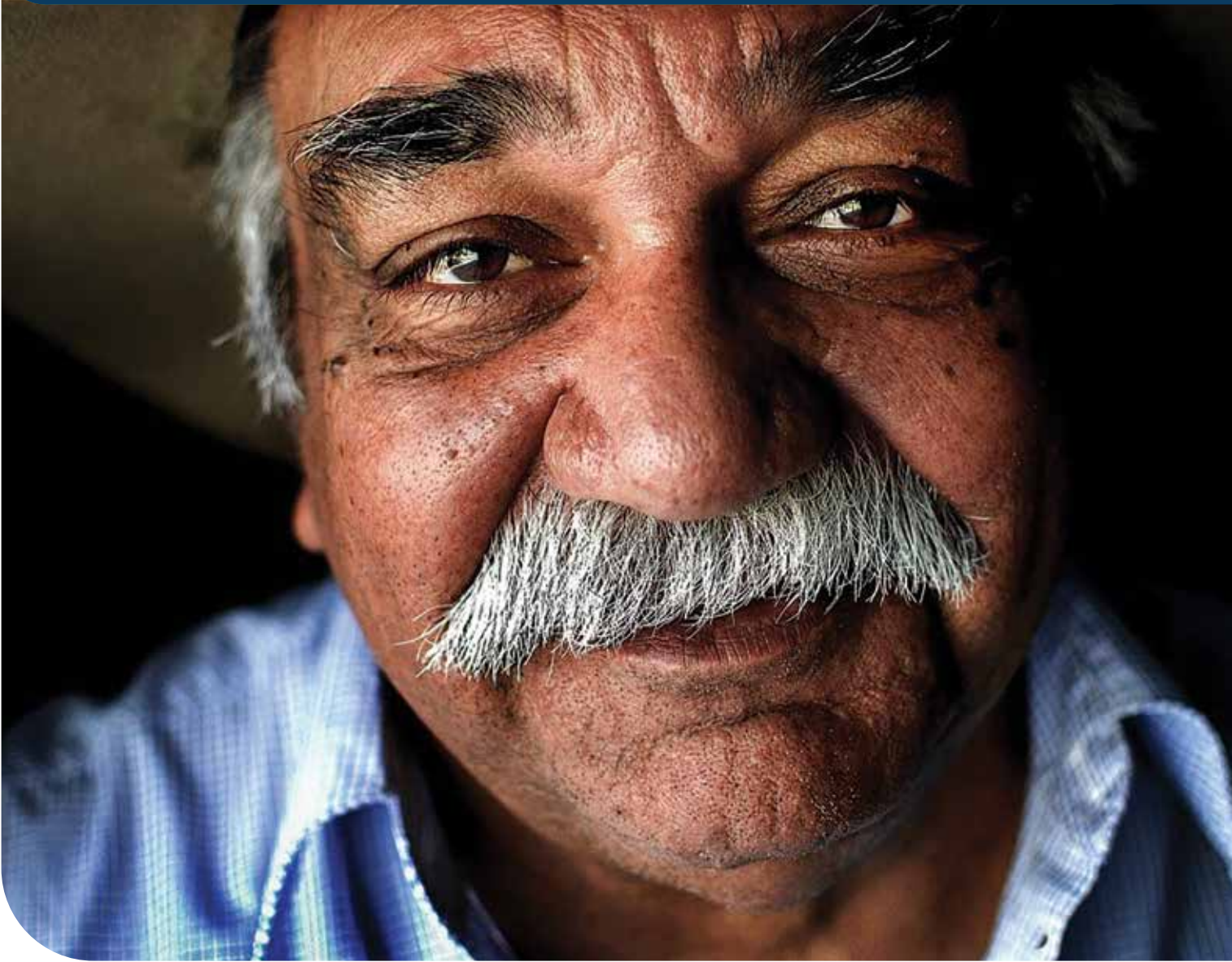
Hannah Farrow
Intyalheme Project Manager



Andrea Johnston
Intyalheme Communications Officer



Tracy Jones
Communications Manager



TRIBUTE TO MR FURBER

During the 2021-22 Financial Year, the Desert Knowledge Precinct partners – Desert Knowledge Australia (DKA, the Centre for Appropriate Technology (CfAT) and Batchelor Institute for Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE) and Ekistica paid tribute to and farewelled Mr H Furber and Mrs R Kunothe-Monks.

Mr Furber was part of the Stolen Generations, and a member and advocate for the NT Stolen Generations Aboriginal corporation: an adept football player who played for North Adelaide Football Club; and a well-known activist in the Aboriginal land rights movement. He held

prominent positions at many Central Australian organisations such as the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Tangentyere Council, Yipirinya School, and the Central Land Council; and dedicated himself to championing positive outcomes for Aboriginal people.

In addition to the numerous initiatives, projects and organisations he was involved in, Mr Furber invested over two decades of his life advocating for and contributing to the development of the Desert Knowledge Precinct. Its existence is a testament to his unwavering dedication towards ensuring positive outcomes for Alice Springs and remote Australia.



Photos courtesy of Paul Wiles at CAAMA

TRIBUTE TO MRS KUNOTH – MONKS

Mrs Kunoth Monks was an Arrernte Anmatjere woman, who enjoyed a successful and varied career. A strong Aboriginal rights advocate who firmly believed that Indigenous children should learn their traditional languages. She shot to fame as a teenager when she became the first ever Indigenous Australian female lead actor in the 1955 film *Jedda*. She worked at the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission and as an advisor to the Northern Territory Chief Minister Paul Everingham and as chair of the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education.

Mrs Monks was given a state funeral at the Desert Knowledge Precinct which was attended by hundreds of people. Michael Gunner the then Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, began his eulogy with her famous words from her 2014 appearance on the ABC TV's Q&A

//

Don't try and suppress me. I am not the problem. I have never left my country, nor have I ever ceded any part of it".

Mrs Kunoth-Monks was able to connect with people and galvanise people, give them strength of heart and spirit to do what was needed to make life a bit better for all.



CODES 4 LIFE

Codes 4 Life (C4L) program reconnects Indigenous men with their cultural identity, community, and responsibilities, by providing a safe space to listen and talk. The outcome of the project is to lead positive change in men's behaviour.

C4L delivered 6 workshops in four different locations: Mparntwe (Alice Springs), Tennant Creek, Alegareng (Ali Curung), and Atitjere (Harts Range). Over 140 individuals were involved with the program, including 13 Elders and six Indigenous co-facilitators, engaged casually. This accounts for

over 440 Indigenous males' engagement with C4L program since the start of NIAA-funded project.

This year, 21 stakeholders, were directly involved with the delivery of the workshops including the NT Police, Territory Families, Psychologists from Central Australian Aboriginal Congress and from Alice Springs Hospital, Tangentyere, St Johns Ambulance, Tennant Creek Women's refuge, and a Judge from Alice Springs Magistrates' Court. More female guest speakers were introduced to share their knowledge about the drivers and consequences of domestic violence.



Michael Liddle, Program Manager and creator of C4L:

//

Getting the Aboriginal men who have had no relevant experience around understanding westernised non-Aboriginal rules is the challenge of society. The C4L workshop focuses on revealing to the Aboriginal men that there are rules and guidelines around behaviour. If you break these rules, you'd end up in rehabilitation and correction centres. C4L highlights this in a good, approachable, calming, Aboriginal perspective, led by Aboriginal men, myself, and supported by Elders.

I'm constantly asking the men 'I need a response; how do we get out of this mess?' The question needs to be asked by Aboriginal men. There is not a program like C4L, which is facilitated by Aboriginal men, in the presence of true Elders. C4L gives them ideas to overcome issues like domestic violence, drunk driving, gambling, diabetes, life expectancy, youth crime..."

In addition to the structured workshops, the C4L team has extensively contributed to the COVID-19 pandemic response by actively communicating and translating the Department of Health guidelines and safety measures in remote areas of the NT.

C4L Program Manager, Michael Liddle, regularly visited the Youth Detention Centre in Alice Springs, and provided insight and assistance in designing its Elders' program.

Victims of Crime Northern Territory co-contributed to delivery of three workshops during the year. The program continues to create interest in communities across the Central Desert.

Evaluation of C4L

Codes 4 Life evaluation has been conducted by Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education. Findings from the interim report provided great insights into C4L's outcomes, and suggested recommendations for further development and improvement to progress the program.

Importantly, Codes 4 Life delivers on its intentions by:

- Connecting men with their Aboriginal culture and traditional male artifacts,
- Ensuring that Elders and the knowledge they bring to the program are respected,
- Challenging norms and values; and
- Encouraging learning.

It has been observed that C4L participants have several experiences, which produce a level of change in them.

The evaluation responses are based on evidence obtained during workshops from staff, Elders, participant evaluation forms, program reports and the evaluator observations.

Nina KOLDER, DKA Program Manager

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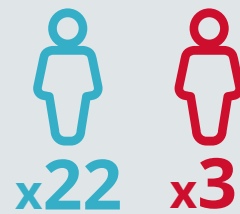
The final evaluation report, and the discussions following it have been incredibly valuable, first in acknowledging the work that C4L and each C4L team member does in such complex contextual times; second, in drawing recommendations to improve and to further the positive impacts of C4L'.



**MICHAEL LIDDLE,
PROGRAM
MANAGER AND
FOUNDER OF C4L**

Tennant Creek

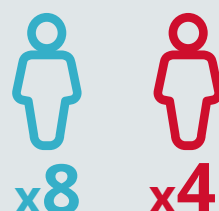
start date: 18/08/2021

**Harts Range**

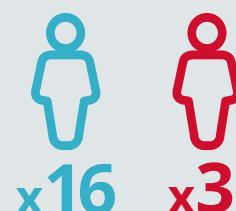
start date: 2/12/2021

**Ali Curung**

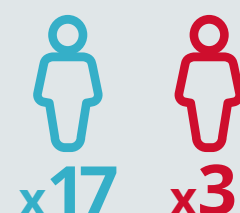
start date: 23/09/2021

**Alice Springs (DKA)**

start date: 12/04/2022

**Alice Springs**

start date: 28/10/2021

**Tennant Creek**

start date: 26/05/2022



 Participants  Elders

C4L next

Learnings from delivering C4L in the past few years, have been considered and recommendations are being implemented for the next financial year.

The Australian Government is funding an additional \$408,000 to deliver the program C4L in the 2022-23, and to establish the new findings into the plan, where summary recommendations below from the evaluation report would be implemented:

- continuing to deliver on C4L's foundation principles (rules, culture, safe spaces, challenging thinking, raising self-awareness)
- determining where participants are now
- greater focus on regional rather than remote delivery
- offering the C4L model to other organisations
- hearing the voices of women and children
- creating a peer support network
- developing a preventative program built on the same principles
- building in evaluation in from the start of the next iteration of Codes 4 Life; and
- presenting at conferences and in an appropriately targeted journal.

Proudly funded by the Australian Government.

DKA also acknowledges Victims of Crime NT for their financial support towards Codes 4 Life workshops.



DKA CO-HOSTED WITH CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL FAMILY LEGAL UNIT (CAAFLU), A SIXTEEN-DAY ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN. AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON 'PREVENTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST ABORIGINAL WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN DECEMBER 2021.

DEVELOPING PRACTICES TO PREVENT DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Knowledge sharing conference

For the international '16 days activism against gender-based violence' campaign, DKA and the Central Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Unit (CAAFLU) co-hosted a conference on 'Preventing domestic violence against Aboriginal women and

children'. The event, in December 2021, was highly successful, with attendance at full capacity (over 70 signed-in), and a feedback survey demonstrating a satisfaction rate above expectation. The conference showcased experts' research, work, and programs in preventing or responding to domestic violence. It also highlighted Aboriginal women's voices and acknowledged efforts in building best prevention practices against violence to Aboriginal women and children.

The conference was opened with a Welcome to Country arranged with Lhere Artepe. 12 speakers were invited, taking part in three panel discussions.

**Attendee and guest speaker,
Dr Chay Brown, Equality Institute Research
and Partnership Manager:**

“

Thanks for organising. All the panels were great. I learnt a lot”.



Pilot Program in prevention of DV

Codes 4 Life: Women, a DKA pilot program co-designed by Aboriginal women and Elders, was created and delivered to raise awareness about, and develop practices to prevent domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV).

The workshop-based program was well received, and DKA met demand for extended and workshops in additional communities, including from Mabunji Safe House in Borroloola. However, the socio-geographic context in the financial year 2021-2022 encountered unprecedented circumstances, including emergency responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, and high personnel turnover in the Northern Territory.

The Northern Territory Government has expressed its support in continuing the delivery of DKA's project noting its primary success, with implementation of the new understanding from the pilot program, and of the updated reforms including the National Plan to end violence against women and children.

DKA is committed to working closely and in collaboration with other agencies to further develop and apply the 'Codes 4 Life: Women' model in the financial year 2022-23, in Central Australia.

Central Australian Family Violence and Sexual Assault Network (CAFSVAN) – Peer-support network

DKA is a member of Central Australia Family Violence and Sexual Assault Network, and has been actively involved in the discussions that informed

new reforms including a submission on the Draft National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032.

Nina Kolder, DKA Program and Business Development Manager:

“there is a lot to be done in the Northern Territory to prevent and reduce violence against women and children. However, there are many amazing people and services out there, doing invaluable work, and it is crucial that we collaboratively support each other, and share knowledge to make greater positive impact’.

International Women's Day 2022

DKA co-hosted the International Women's Day Fair, 'Equal Futures', at the Women's Museum of Australia in Alice Springs in collaboration with multiple local organisations. The event was designed to celebrate the women of Central Australia and the world. The family-friendly event featured food and market stalls, guest speakers, local musicians, artists, and other entertainment.



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

DKAccelerator

DKAccelerator is a program designed to respond to the sociocultural barriers of running a business in Central Australia by providing responsive and contextual support, and by working alongside entrepreneurs and their support network. It was undertaken by Desert Knowledge Australia (DKA) and funded by Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DIIT).

DKAccelerator supported four First Nations entrepreneurs in Central Australia to accelerate the growth of their business through intensive mentorship, project-based learning, peer-to-peer leadership, and digital technology innovation.

The program delivery was launched in May 2021. During the first six months, each business had unlimited access to two experienced entrepreneurs to support the development of their business. During the following six months, each business had continued access to the Business Innovation Centre and monthly coaching sessions. The analysis of data from the evaluation of the pilot program commenced in March 2022, and results have been compiled and presented in the final report to funder in July 2022.

The integrated evaluation demonstrated the project to be successful in building capacity within emerging Aboriginal enterprises. The project allowed flexibility and thorough research to ensure the design and

development of DKAccelerator responds to the challenges Aboriginal enterprises face in Central Australia. Although region-focused, the learnings from the program are transferable Australia-wide and could be implemented in other remote and regional contexts.

All businesses in the cohort reflected on their experience as highly valuable and transformative. They affirmed that the program helped them build confidence and momentum, and that they were able to acquire and develop skills in a culturally safe environment.

The key aspects that differentiate this program to many others already existing were:

- the responsiveness of the project-based learning approach,
- the opportunity to learn on micro-investment and on moving away from relying on government grants,
- the hands-on support and accessibility from an on-site experienced coach and a remote growth partner,
- the provision of a culturally safe and productive workplace for the duration of the program,
- the focus on building digital capability to start or grow their business.



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 more than 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.





A SODAR WIND MONITORING UNIT AT THE DKA SOLAR CENTRE IS PART OF THE ALICE SPRINGS FUTURE GRID PROJECT.



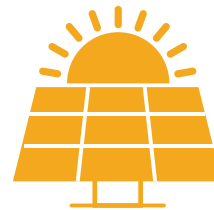
447,759 kWh

2021-22 Total solar energy generated



5.5 gWh

/5.5 million kWh
Total generation to 2021



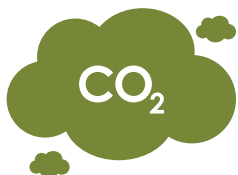
41%

DKA electricity from PV



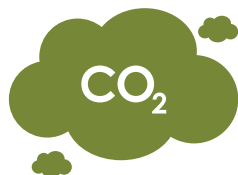
23%

exported



277 Tonnes

2021-22 avoided emissions



3,506 Tonnes

Avoided CO2 emissions to 2021



59%

DKA electricity sourced from the grid



77%

consumed on-site



ALICE SPRINGS
FUTURE GRID

ALICE SPRINGS FUTURE GRID STAFF WITH
THE SODAR WIND MONITORING UNIT AT
THE DKA SOLAR CENTRE. CREDIT: OFFICE
OF NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

THE DKA SOLAR CENTRE
GENERATES MORE THAN
HALF THE AMOUNT OF
ELECTRICITY NEEDED TO
POWER THE ENTIRE DESERT
KNOWLEDGE PRECINCT.



Powering the Precinct

The solar power generated by the DKA Solar Centre supplied 41% of the energy consumed at the Desert Knowledge Precinct. Solar power generated but not used at the Precinct is exported to the grid, and if we are to take exports into account, the Solar Centre would have supplied 52% of the Precinct's total energy needs.

Generating knowledge

The DKA Solar Centre website was used by 16,000 people in 2021-22, who benefitted from its live, open-access data generated by the site's solar installations and weather stations. The website 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.

Alice Springs Future Grid's Wind Monitoring Study

In August 2021, a wind monitoring unit known as a SODAR (Sonic Detection and Ranging) was placed at the DKA Solar Centre, as part of the Alice Springs Future Grid project. The Future Grid project is exploring ways to overcome the barriers to increasing the amount of renewable energy in the Alice Springs electricity system, in order to progress the town towards the Northern Territory renewable energy target of 50% by 2030. One challenge, quite specific to Alice Springs, is that solar is the only commercially viable renewable energy resource. At least, that has historically been the case. However, improvements in wind technology may mean the wind resource in Alice Springs could be harnessed as another source of renewable energy. A second SODAR unit has been placed near Owen Springs Power Station, to diversify and reinforce data collection for the same study. Future Grid's Wind Monitoring Study gathered data from the two units over the course of a year. The analysis will help to establish the extent to which there is a business case for the use of wind turbines in Central Australia.

dkasolarcentre.com.au



ALICE SPRINGS
FUTURE GRID

INTYALHEME / ALICE SPRINGS FUTURE GRID

THE INTYALHEME STORY

INTYALHEME (PRONOUNCED *IN-CHAR-LUM*) IS AN ARRERNTÉ WORD THAT MEANS 'A FIRE FLARING UP AGAIN'. THE NAME REPRESENTS THE NEED TO "STOKE THE FIRE" BY WAY OF LEVERAGING LOCAL EXPERTISE GENERATED DURING PREVIOUS INITIATIVES, TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES PRESENTED BY THE TRANSITION TO A RENEWABLE ENERGY FUTURE.

ESTABLISHED WITH \$5 MILLION SEED FUNDING FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT, INTYALHEME'S ROLE IS TO ENHANCE RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPABILITY BY BRIDGING GAPS IN RELATIONSHIPS, KNOWLEDGE, AND TECHNOLOGIES. THE NT GOVERNMENT AIMS TO POWER THE TERRITORY WITH 50 PER CENT RENEWABLE ENERGY BY 2030. INTYALHEME CONTRIBUTES TO THIS GOAL BY LEADING COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS, SHARING EXISTING KNOWLEDGE AND GENERATING NEW KNOWLEDGE.

BASED IN ALICE SPRINGS, INTYALHEME IS A FLAGSHIP PROJECT OF DESERT KNOWLEDGE AUSTRALIA (DKA). IT IS GOVERNED BY A CONSORTIUM OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM DKA, THE NT GOVERNMENT, POWER AND WATER CORPORATION, CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY AND EKISTICA.

intyalheme.dka.com.au

The Intyalheme Centre for Future Energy (Intyalheme) is one of DKA's Flagship Projects, which designed and is now delivering the Alice Springs Future Grid project.

Future Grid is a \$12.5m collaborative project involving multiple organisations from across the Northern Territory and Australia, supported by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), the Australian Government through its microgrids program, and the Northern Territory Government through Intyalheme. Its core purpose is to identify and overcome barriers to further renewable energy penetration in the Alice Springs electricity system – a huge challenge incorporating technical, economic, regulatory and community factors compounded by geographical isolation.

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. The outcomes of the various activities will assist in designing 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.

Launched in the previous financial year, a major focus for the Future Grid team in 2021-22 has been the development of the Northern Territory's first Virtual Power Plant (VPP) named Solar Connect. 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



LYNDON FREARSON FROM CONSORTIUM MEMBER EKISTICA HAS LED FUTURE GRID AS PROJECT DIRECTOR, WITH HANNAH FARROW IN THE PROJECT MANAGER ROLE IN FY21/22



THE INTYALHEME CAR - A NISSAN LEAF ELECTRIC VEHICLE - WAS USED TO PROMOTE THE SOLAR CONNECT VPP



EDAN BAXTER AND HAYLEY MICHENER HAVE LED THE RECRUITMENT OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE SOLAR CONNECT VPP



to control the energy flow to and from the grid on demand. It has taken a significant effort not only to align Project Partner organisations which have historically tended to operate independently, but also to respond to changing Government policy in the renewable energy space. By the end of the financial year, the project had a full cohort of Alice Springs residents ready to participate, and confirmation of the energy management technology platform which would be used to create the VPP, amongst other technical and legal details.

Such a high-profile renewable energy intervention at the time of a national energy crisis attracted copious media attention. The announcement regarding technology provider SwitchDin attracted more than 150 instances of coverage across metro, regional and national newspaper titles, broadcast media, energy trade publications such as Renew Economy, Energy Magazine, PV Magazine and international title CleanTechnica. While most interest centered on the Solar Connect VPP, other coverage resulted from

announcements including the project's partnership with Charles Darwin University (CDU) to conduct inverter testing, a low socio-economic energy study, and the procurement of a large-scale battery to turn the Desert Knowledge Precinct into a microgrid for one of the project's trials.

Future Grid's Wind Monitoring Study was announced by then Northern Territory Minister for Renewables and Energy, Eva Lawler, in October. Two SODAR (Sonic Detection and Ranging) wind monitoring units were deployed in Alice Springs, intended to gather data for a year so the extent to which a business case exists for wind energy in the town can be determined. Currently solar is the only commercially viable renewable energy resource, which is one reason why increasing the amount of renewable energy in the Alice Springs grid can be considered more challenging than elsewhere.

Future Grid recognises the importance of sharing knowledge, and works with its knowledge sharing



PLENTY OF WORKSHOPS AND INFORMATION SESSIONS TOOK PLACE IN FY21/22, INCLUDING ENGAGEMENT WITH THE SOLAR AND BATTERY INSTALLERS OF ALICE SPRINGS – READY FOR DEPLOYMENT OF THE SOLAR CONNECT VPP

GROUNDING IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, THE ALICE SPRINGS FUTURE GRID PROJECT COULD BE THOUGHT OF AS MALE-DOMINATED; BUT THIS IS CERTAINLY NOT THE CASE, AS DEMONSTRATED BY A MONTAGE CREATED TO MARK INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IN 2022 – SHOWING THE STRONG FEMALE CONTINGENT INVOLVED IN DELIVERING THE PROJECT

partner, CSIRO, to deliver industry reports, workshops and presentations. In the past 12 months, various members of the team presented at three conferences, with multiple workshops and site visits supporting the effort to bring knowledge into the project from experts and trial results elsewhere, and share the knowledge generated by Future Grid. It's important to note every component of the Future Grid project has been tested elsewhere: the difference is Future Grid is conducting all interventions concurrently, finding out how they interface, and the extent to which the unique Central Australian environment determines the efficacy of interventions. Behind the scenes, the most significant effort to share knowledge was in the production of a large collaborative technical report on the development of the VPP, with publication expected in late 2022.

Underpinning efforts to inform, educate and engage the public, the team has put a significant emphasis

on describing the nuances of the unique challenges faced by the Alice Springs electricity system. A four-page feature in the April edition of Territory Q assisted the team in delivering this complex narrative to the people of the Northern Territory, supported by conversations, events, social media and other activities conducted on the ground in Alice Springs by the Arid Lands Environment Centre – Future Grid's community engagement partner.

Future Grid is governed by a Consortium with representatives from DKA, Ekistica, Power and Water Corporation and Territory Generation. Project Partners include Jacana Energy, the Arid Lands Environment Centre, CSIRO and CDU. DKA staff on the Intyalheme/Future Grid team in FY 21/22 were Project Manager Hannah Farrow and Communications Officer Andrea Johnston, supported by the broader DKA team and staff from Ekistica.

alicespringsfuturegrid.com.au



DESERT RESEARCH: PEOPLE, PLACE AND KNOWLEDGE



Desert
Knowledge
Research
Institute



DKA's research arm, 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, the Desert Knowledge Research Institute is assisting the Northern Territory Government's Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security to address and improve watersecurity in the NT, through a submission covering Alice Springs. This will contribute to the NT's Strategic Water Plan, which will set the agenda on water management through to 2050.

Talk ing Water: Kwatye Angkeme is facilitated by the Desert Knowledge Research Institute; working with:

- Alice Springs Town Council,
- Arid Lands Environment Centre,
- Central Land Council,
- Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation,
- NT Farmers Association,
- Northern Territory Government,
- Power and Water Corporation,
- and the people in the Alice Springs Water Control District.

A suite of community engagement activities was held through October and November 2021, to support a multi-level stakeholder response to 10 proposed directions for water security in the Northern Territory.

Dr Stephen Morton

DKRI Director



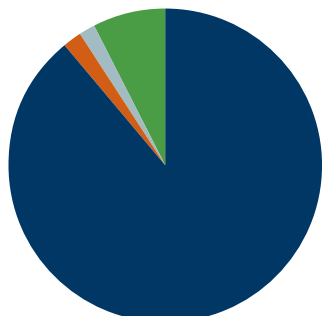
OUR PARTNERSHIPS

DKA understands that the best outcomes are achieved through building and maintaining strong partnerships and collaborations between government, business and the community sector and working towards common goals. DKA thanks all our partners for their support, and for sharing our vision for a stronger desert and remote Australia.





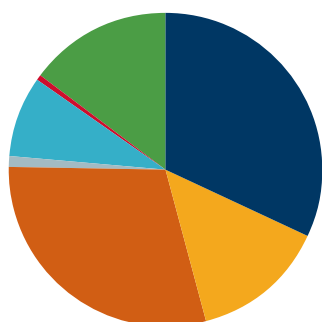
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE



INCOME

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Grants | \$5,146,015 |
| Interest | \$3,929 |
| Rent | \$106,951 |
| Solar Centre | \$96,127 |
| Other | \$423,818 |

Total income \$5,776,840

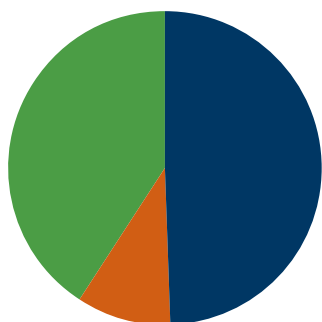


EXPENDITURE

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Employees | \$1,116,752 |
| Depreciation and amortisation | \$488,882 |
| Consultants | \$1,024,059 |
| Media and marketing | \$36,958 |
| Desert Knowledge Precinct | \$288,537 |
| Travel and accommodation | \$20,988 |
| Other Expenses | \$510,358 |
| Reversal of Impairment Expenditure | \$0 |

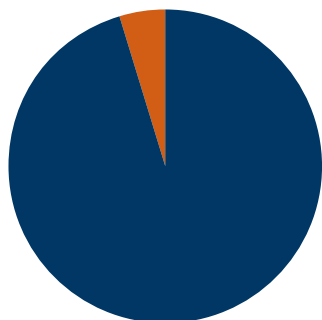
Total expenditure \$3,486,534

CASH FLOW



CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Receipts from government grants | \$3,181,678 |
| Other operating receipts | \$624,910 |
| Payments to suppliers and employees | -\$2,611,309 |

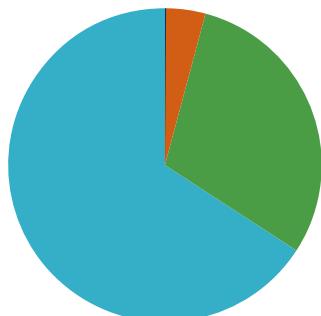


CASH FLOW FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES

| | |
|--|---------|
| Interest received | \$3,929 |
| Proceeds from financial assets | -\$190 |
| Sale/(Purchase) of property, plant and equipment | 0 |

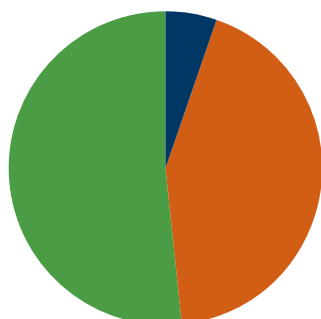


STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION



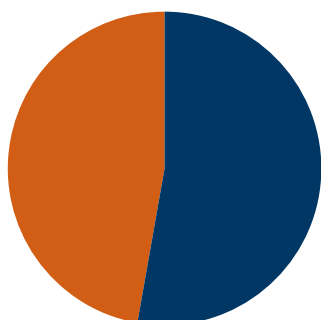
ASSETS

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Term deposit | \$21,330 |
| Trade and other receivables | \$657,337 |
| Total bank | \$4,823,318 |
| Property, plant, equipment, and intangibles | \$10,584,081 |



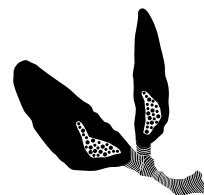
LIABILITIES

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Employee benefits | \$72,642 |
| Grants received in advance | \$573,186 |
| Trade and other payables | \$687,785 |



EQUITY

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Issued capital | \$7,808,935 |
| Retained earnings | \$6,943,518 |



Desert Knowledge Precinct

DKA ACKNOWLEDGES THE ARRERNTPEOPLE 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.

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, 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, and all work 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 2021/22, Indigenous Business Australia, 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. Kere To Country and 15 hot desk 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.

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, and the heart of all DKA operations.



BUSINESS AND INNOVATION CENTRE (BIC)

CORKWOOD ROOM

DKA's engagement with the community is strengthened by being a hub for meetings and strengthening collaborations within the Desert Knowledge Precinct (DKP) for the broader desert region.

The Business and Innovation Centre (BIC) is a world-class venue for meetings, workshops, conferences, and other events. It provides a culturally safe space for organisations and groups to meet, share knowledge, opportunities, and resources for growing positive community impact. The BIC has five function rooms that are hired out to facilitate connections and collaborations within and across communities. The welcoming environment provided by the BIC is enhanced by being located on Arrernte country surrounded by corkwoods and ironwoods, the venue is purpose-built and allows connection with people, knowledge, and the land where it stands.

The Irrante Cafe is conveniently located at the Precinct for staff and visitors to step out from meetings and gatherings to take the short stroll to grab a coffee or bite to eat. The cafe is open to the public and also provides catering.

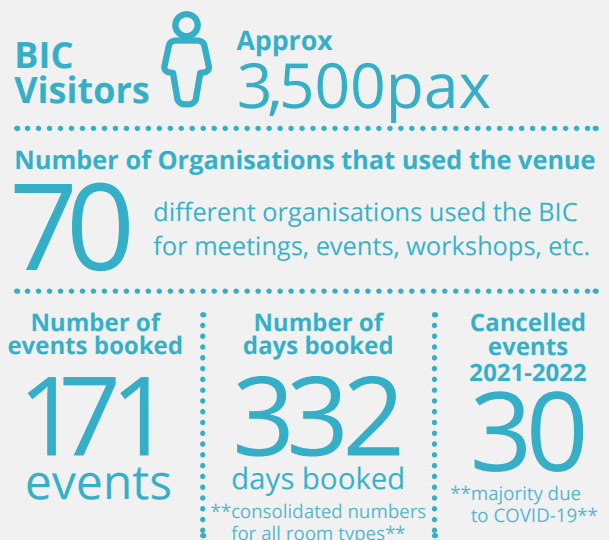
The BIC was the venue for several major events in 2021-22. Some were "hybrid events", for example the StickMob Book Launch. Organisers used the BIC's high-end video conferencing facility, achieving a mix of both virtual and in-person attendees. This showcased the capacity of the BIC to conduct events that not only reached the local participants, but also people from around the world. It was a proud moment to celebrate the successes of StickMob's young artists from their humble beginnings; the DKA Accelerator Program assisting on their start-up and to finally launching their great works to the world.

Other significant events in the BIC in 2021 were: Preventing Violence Against Women Conference, the

Knowledge Intersections Symposium, Ayeye Atyenhe Art Launch, Alice Springs Future Grid Business at Sunset networking event, and the DKP Christmas Party.

The BIC had an average of 3,500 visitors in the 2021-22 – this includes organisations from around the Territory and Australia, such as: NPY Women's Council, Central Land Council, Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Children's Ground, Dementia Australia, Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation, Chamber of Commerce, NTIBN, GAMSANT, SeedMob, CRANAPlus, Territory Families, Casa Services Limited, and many others.

Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the BIC continues to provide a safe space for visitors, making sure protocols are followed to help protect our community. By doing so, the BIC continued to be a popular venue for collaboration, creating a safe and productive hub for individuals and organisations to conduct their work.





LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO, JIMMY COCKING

I am proud to be the new CEO of Desert Knowledge Australia. I have lived in Mparntwe – Alice Springs for 14 years. Through my work in the NGO and local government sector, I have learned a lot about the desert country and established networks across Australia.

I look forward to activating these networks and finding opportunities to partner and collaborate with people across the country for the benefit of desert people.

It's an exciting time to be coming into the role as the CEO of Desert Knowledge Australia. We have a number of new Board members, a renewed relationship with the Northern Territory Government, and a new Minister for Desert Knowledge. The new Federal Government is committed to renewable energy, tackling climate change, sustainable water policy, and improving the livelihoods of First Nations people.

The challenges we face at DKA are long-standing but not insurmountable. The need to build a critical mass for both DKA and the Precinct. The need to transform unsustainable business models and

create sustainable income for DKA. The need to establish partnerships and build collaboration that delivers benefits for desert people. The need to grow value and our relevance for the local and regional communities DKA was established to serve.

My job is to lead our team to make the most of the opportunities to overcome the challenges we face. We have a strong and dedicated core staff. We have important projects and programs to deliver, including Codes 4 Life and the Alice Springs Future Grid project. We have world-class facilities to promote and fill with people. We have partnerships to be strengthened and new ones to develop. We have a nationally and internationally recognised First Nations Cultural Centre to establish on the Precinct.

The NT Government has supported DKA in refreshing its strategic plan and developing a new Precinct Masterplan. We are working to change our business model to aggregate research funding through the Desert Knowledge Research Institute. We are working to transition to a model of auspicing and engage with the NT Government to facilitate outcomes in remote communities, including in telecommunications, water, economic development, and climate adaptation.

This strategic work in the short term will form the backbone of the work we do in the future. We have a busy time ahead, which is welcome: the time is right for building collaboration and partnerships that deliver for desert people.

In 2023, we will celebrate 20 years since the Northern Territory Government created the Desert Knowledge Australia Act 2003 (NT). I am proud to be a part of the DKA team at this moment, recognising that we have much to do; but also understanding that we are not alone and that through connecting people, knowledge, and opportunities for the desert and its people, we can create lasting positive change.

Jimmy Cocking

DKA CEO





A MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING CHAIR, SERA BRAY

I am proud to be the new Chair of Desert Knowledge Australia. I want to thank Chris Fry, who has held the interim Chair role for the past few years. We have a focused and highly skilled board committed to supporting and driving the strategic direction for DKA. It is a time of change for DKA with new Board members, a new CEO, an NT Minister for Desert Knowledge Australia, and a new Federal Government.

We have a large body of strategic work to get done in the short term, and I am confident that our team will deliver this promptly, setting the course for DKA for the next 5-10 years. While we have some challenges to overcome, there are many opportunities for DKA to realise its potential. I look forward to working with our CEO, Jimmy Cocking, Board, and the team to make the best use of the Precinct for desert people and to support, facilitate and catalyse positive change.

Sera Bray

Chair





STICKMOB BOOK LAUNCH AT THE BUSINESS AND INNOVATION CENTRE



THE 2021 KNOWLEDGE INTERSECTIONS SYMPOSIUM HOSTED 39 PRESENTATIONS UNDER FIVE KEY THEMES: ENTERPRISE; LANGUAGE AND LEARNING; HEALTH AND WELLBEING; KNOWLEDGE SHARING; AND KNOWLEDGE INTERSECTIONS.



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER - BASED VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN PRODUCED BY DESERT KNOWLEDGE AUSTRALIA (DKA) AND THE CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN FAMILY LEGAL UNIT (CAAFU), WITH SUPPORT FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT AT THE PIONEER WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME.



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