Playgroup Queensland

Remote Community Provides Perfect Canvas for Quality Learning Experience

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Yarrabah Djenghi Playgroup

- Facilitated playgroup
- Twice a week
- Funded by Communities for Children (DSS)
- Limited infrastructure

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In the beginning…

- Mission Australia's Communities for Children Cairns identified the need with community leaders
- PGQ tasked with finding solution
- Evidence-based focus
- Participants were from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander families

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Program goals

- Increased number of children reaching developmental milestones
- Improved family functioning
- Improved child wellbeing
- Improved child, adult and family wellbeing
- Community empowerment
- To work with and listen to community

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Unintended outcomes

- Presenting at ECA conference
- Facilitator leaving community
- Co-designed (i.e. Playgroup Queensland and community leaders) program evaluation tools
- PGQ asked to present how we deliver 3a strategies into these playgroups
- A platform for families to have a voice

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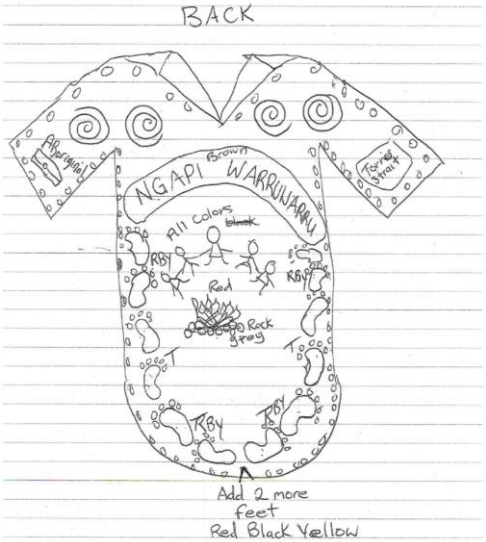
T-shirts



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Challenges meeting the outcomes

- Lack of infrastructure
- Weather
- Animals (horses and dogs)
- Consistency of staff
- Staff recruitment
- Reliance on community partners
- Data collection

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Quality education in a challenging environment

- Playgroup delivery aligns with the EYLF
- Delivered 3a strategies
- Supported parent-child interactions
- Supported school readiness
- A safe space to share culture
- Make use of environment to challenge child development

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Facilitators

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Evaluation tools

- Yarning and informal conversations supported group outcome surveys
- Families provided with written surveys
- Co-designed survey tools with community leaders
- Worked closely with Deakin University
- Amended membership form

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What we've learned

- Would not have worked without open, honest and trusting relationships with all stakeholders
- Flexibility to meet program requirements
- Can deliver quality education opportunities in challenging environments in a culturally appropriate manner

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