



## Summary – Recent Philanthropic Investments

To mark the inaugural Roundtable of the Investment Dialogue for Australia's Children (the Investment Dialogue), philanthropic Dialogue Members are announcing approximately \$65 million dollars of recent investments aligned to the Investment Dialogue's vision. These investments have been initiated by philanthropy since the Investment Dialogue commenced.

This funding commitment complements the announcement made by Government in the May 2023 Budget to tackle entrenched disadvantage. The investments listed below recognise that philanthropy is at the start of our collaborative journey to work differently and to work together in support of the aims of the Investment Dialogue.

These investments:

- Seek to improve outcomes for children, their families and/or communities
- Fall into one of four focus tiers of the Investment Dialogue:
  - Projects and Programs focussed on children, family or community
  - Place – community-led processes and growing capacity and capability
  - Policy and Systems level reforms
  - Data and evaluation

In addition to the above initial description, the recent investments also:

- Have due-diligence and community authorisation embedded in their selection process by individual funders;
- Are supported by at least one philanthropic Dialogue Member and have a line of sight for multiple investment partners; and
- Reflect the advantages and strengths that philanthropy brings to the Investment Dialogue around innovation, independence, building evidence and investment flexibility.

These investments are in addition to several other ongoing, longer-term commitments that philanthropic Dialogue Members have made in support of these areas.

### Projects and Programs

The following recently funded projects and programs reflect philanthropy's strengths in its ability to invest in innovation, capacity building, and trialling of approaches that build the evidence base for improved outcomes for children and families and that have the potential to inform scaling or embed learnings.

- \$2.15M to **support innovations that develop and support high impact, evidence-based programs for a strong child development system** including early detection of infants' development delays, increased focus around connecting supports throughout a child's formative early years and expansion of additional pilots.
- \$6.8M **to act early** and support brain health and wellbeing programs including \$1.6M in funding for brain building programs that help those that nurture our children understand more about the impact of trauma on children's brain development and adopt trauma-informed support practices.

- \$13.3M to strengthen **holistic learning, wellbeing and education outcomes**, including \$5.2M to support **First Nations-led** independent schools, \$6.4M for initiatives that provide digital access and wrap-around supports for remote learners, as well as \$1.65M to support early identification of learning difficulties, literacy and creative story development support for children and young people.
- \$8.9M to **accelerate the delivery of integrated solutions** including \$7.1M to expand integrated child and family centres including refining for expansion school-based hubs, and \$1.1M to enhance the skills and collaborative network behind the delivery of this work nationally. This also includes integrated support models for at risk young people.
- \$5.48M to **support cultural identity, empowerment and transition employment pathways** for youth including Indigenous young people.

## Place

Philanthropy's early investment in the development of local leadership and capacity to drive community-led solutions continues to grow.

- **Working with community to find solutions that respond to local needs and aspirations**, philanthropy has recently invested **\$7.5 million** to support the expansion of community-led, place-based initiatives and community readiness in emerging place initiatives. Funding includes support for innovative First Nations-led approaches to community development and integrated education, health and employment services designed, delivered and evaluated by First Nations communities. Philanthropic partners are also developing a framework to guide amplified philanthropic investment in place initiatives.

## Policy and System level reforms

Investments in projects and community-led place initiatives need to be accompanied by reforms that enable adjustments to be made so that supports can effectively meet the needs of local communities.

- **\$18M** investment has been recently committed to helping with workforce initiatives such as bursaries, supporting the strategic convening, research and collaboration efforts of the Investment Dialogue, and supporting the capacity building of organisations to support their efforts to enable systemic change.

## Data and Evidence

Informing local decision-making, and learning from the data, evidence and community voices about what works, needs improved access by community leadership to, co-ordination and capability around using, data.

- \$2.9M investment in **integrated data solutions to help inform organisational and community decision-making and improve access to and capability around using data**. This funding will contribute to delivering improved data capacity, evidence-based decision-making and impact measurement.

**Note:** *Accompanying these investment announcements are two in-depth case studies on SNAICC and Inklings investments that are available on the Investment Dialogue website. In both these cases, philanthropy and government are already collaborating by providing complementary funding to these initiatives. While the Investment Dialogue is still in its early stages, these investments and case studies represent examples of projects that speak to the type of work that the Dialogue seeks to support. They illustrate the foundation from which we build this new collaborative initiative.*