



NASCA
CULTURE EDUCATION COMMUNITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Acknowledgment of Country

NASCA acknowledges and pays respect to the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia. We honour and respect the cultural heritage, customs, and beliefs of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have spiritual, social, and cultural connections with their traditional lands and waters. We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to the communities on whose land NASCA works.

Always was. Always will be.

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Message from the **Chairperson**



As I reflect on another year as Chairperson of NASCA, my pride in our collective journey only deepens.

Having walked the path of a NASCA student myself, I am continuously moved by the opportunity to give back to the next generation of strong, proud, and capable Aboriginal young people.

This past year has been one of significant momentum and growth. Following our landmark 30th anniversary, 2025 has seen us build even stronger community-led partnerships and expand our impact across Australia.

A particular highlight was the 2025 NASCA Youth Awards which provided a powerful showcase of Indigenous excellence. Watching our young leaders take the stage reminded me that when our youth are connected to Culture and Community, their potential is limitless. Whether through our CareerFit initiative or our daily in-school programs, we remain unwavering in our mission to nurture identity and self-determination.

I look forward to the launch of our Young Men's Academy in Ballina, which will extend the life-changing support of our academy model to even more students.

As we look toward the future, NASCA remains a place where young people are seen, heard, and empowered to lead. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff, our strategic Board, and our generous partners for their continued trust and commitment.

Most importantly, I thank the young people who inspire our work every day.

It remains a profound honour to lead this organisation and to walk alongside the communities that continue to shape our shared legacy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chloe W.".

Chloe Wighton
Chairperson, NASCA

Message from the **Chief Executive Officer**



This year has been characterised not only by growth, but by consolidation — embedding the foundations established in recent years, strengthening organisational capability, and ensuring that every young person who participates in our programs experiences culturally strong, high-quality support.

Throughout the year, our focus has been on deepening the impact of NASCA's Academies while strengthening consistency and capability across regions. At the same time, we have invested in the operational systems, governance frameworks and leadership capability required to support sustainable growth. Meaningful and lasting change requires both cultural strength and organisational discipline, and 2025 has been a year in which we have deliberately strengthened both.

A key priority has been the continuous implementation of NASCA's renewed strategic direction across the organisation. This has ensured stronger alignment between our strategy, operations and program delivery, providing greater clarity of purpose and accountability at every level of the organisation.

We have also strengthened cultural governance and community voice in the design and delivery of our programs, reinforcing our commitment to ensuring that NASCA's work is guided by and accountable to the communities we serve.

Operationally, we have continued to improve the systems and structures that support program delivery. These improvements are enabling greater consistency across regions, stronger organisational oversight and enhanced support for the frontline staff who work alongside young people each day.

Developing leadership capability across the organisation has also remained a central focus. By investing in the development of our people, we are strengthening NASCA's ability to deliver programs with confidence, integrity and cultural strength.

Equally important has been the continued development of long-term partnerships that strengthen NASCA's sustainability and enable thoughtful, measured growth in the years ahead.

As the broader environment continues to evolve, NASCA remains steadfast in its mission. We recognise the complexity of the challenges facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, and we remain committed to working alongside them with respect, high expectations and a deep belief in their potential.

This work is made possible through the collective efforts of many people. I extend my sincere thanks to the NASCA Board for their leadership and stewardship, to our regional leaders and Academy teams who bring our programs to life each day, and to our partners and supporters who continue to stand alongside us.

2025 has been a year of strengthening the organisation — clarifying our direction, enhancing our capability and reinforcing the foundations that support our work. As we look ahead, NASCA is well-positioned to continue growing its impact, influence and sustainability, always in service of the young people and communities at the centre of our mission.

Alison Bentick
Chief Executive Officer, NASCA



30th Birthday Celebrations

In 2025 NASCA turned 30! We marked this milestone birthday with a vibrant, high-energy event held at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (NCIE) in Redfern.

The 30th Birthday event was an incredible day, successfully bringing together NASCA students and staff from across NSW, key corporate partners, and the local Redfern community.

The Traditional Indigenous Games (TIG) tournament was a highlight of the day. Teams included players from UGL, The Settlement, Gadigal Centre at the University of Sydney, LinkGroup / MUFG, Firetrail – Pinnacle Investments, Lendlease, Jumbunna Institute,

and our dedicated students. The event also hosted diverse stalls from Indigenous businesses and organisations, such as AFL, Kalkiri and Co, Kwaima Weaving, Mudbarramunja Art, Ribbon Ready, and Sydney Story Factory.

The heart of the celebration was the attendance of NASCA students from Alexandria Park Community School, Dubbo College Delroy Campus, Orara High School, Wadalba Community School, Chifley College Senior, Kempsey High School and Melville High School, who brought incredible energy.

NSW Programs

NASCA's school-based programs are designed to improve the educational outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Our approach is grounded in strong evidence: educational achievement is a key driver of improved socio-economic outcomes and greater opportunities beyond school.

We deliver two core programs across New South Wales:

- All-Gender Academies (operating in 5 locations)
- Young Women's Academies (operating in 21 locations)

The All-Gender Academies support all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, while our Young Women's Academies are tailored to address the specific challenges faced by young Indigenous women—particularly those affected by historic underfunding and systemic inequalities.

Our programs are centred on increasing student engagement, improving academic performance, and supporting pathways beyond school. Most students begin working with NASCA from Year 7 and remain involved through to graduation and beyond.

NASCA participants receive intensive, wrap-around support that includes:

- One-on-one and group mentoring
- In-class academic support
- Transportation assistance
- Excursions and camps
- Cultural and wellbeing workshops
- Nutritious meals
- A dedicated NASCA space within schools, providing a culturally safe environment



In 2026, NASCA will expand its Young Women's Academies by launching two new sites at Casino High School and Kanahooka High School. This growth reflects our ongoing commitment to supporting more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young women through culturally safe, strengths-based education programs.

These new Academies will enable us to reach more young women in regional communities, providing tailored support that helps them thrive in school and beyond. Through culturally safe spaces and holistic support, our programs help young people feel connected, empowered, and confident in their futures.

NASCA Young Men's Academy

Following the success of NASCA's Young Women's Academy in 2025, Ballina Coast High School will also home NASCA's first Young Men's Academy. Expanding equitable access to culturally grounded, in-class support, this new Academy will provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young men with dedicated access to male mentors, positive role models and culturally responsive learning, empowering students to engage, grow and succeed.

School sites

NSW

26 SITES IN AND EXPANDING

Young Women's Academies

- Airds High School
- Alexandria Park Community School
- Ballina Coast High School
- Brewarrina Central School
- Canobolas High School
- Chifley College Senior Campus
- Coonamble High School
- Dubbo College Delroy Campus
- Dubbo College Senior Campus
- Dubbo College South Campus
- Kempsey High School
- Maitland High School
- Melville High School
- Muswellbrook High School
- Narromine High School
- Orara High School
- Singleton High School
- Toormina High School
- Wadalba Community School
- Wellington High School
- Wyong High School

All gender Academies

- Alexandria Park Community School (boys only)
- Glenmore Park High School
- Kingswood High School
- Tempe High School
- Thomas Reddall High School

New additions in 2026

- Casino High School
- Kanahooka High School
- Young Men's Academy at Ballina Coast High School





9 COMMUNITIES

- Canteen Creek - Owairtilla
- Epenarra - Wutunugurra
- Papunya - Warumpi
- Haasts Bluff - Ikuntji
- Laramba - Napperby
- Mount Allan - Yuelamu
- Titjikala - Tapatjatjaka
- Areyonga - Utju
- Finke - Apatula



Pathways



In 2025, the NASCA Pathways Program supported over 1,400 students through a comprehensive mix of in-school learning and real-world experiences designed to help young people plan confidently for their futures. Students participated in a range of structured pathway sessions including post-school planning, vision boards, Shark Tank activities, résumé writing, mock interviews and other practical workshops that encouraged self-reflection, goal-setting and future planning. These sessions supported students to identify their strengths, explore interests and build the skills needed to navigate their next steps beyond school.

Alongside in-school delivery, students engaged in a wide range of community, and corporate experiences that brought pathways to life. This included events such as Sticks to Stadium with the Penrith Panthers, cultural and native foods programs with the EMpower Foundation, TAFE visits, university residential stays, and industry tours across partners including UGL, QUBE, Nestlé HQ and Pet Food Factory, Geoff Richards Panel Beating, Western Plains Zoo, childcare centres and more. Students also participated in NASCA's annual CareerFit event and local community career expos, strengthening their exposure to diverse industries, education providers and employment pathways.



900

2025 Students

753

2025 Post-school
Plans Completed

550

2025 hours

Georgia takes on Nestlé

Georgia is one of our students from the Young Women's Academy at Wellington High School. Georgia wrapped up a valuable 3-day work experience at Nestlé, a deep dive into the corporate world, packed with all sorts of interesting activities and insights.



Getting hands-on and learning the ropes

After an intro presentation, Georgia quickly got stuck into some hands-on tasks. She helped out with making recipes for Nestlé's Infant Nutrition collection and got a solid overview of the company's various community programs, seeing how much they give back.

She also jumped into some pretty important mini-projects, like brainstorming ideas for OzHarvest's "OzTober" campaign, helping with efforts to cut down food waste and working on a significant project for Nestlé's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), focusing on how to attract and recruit Indigenous youth.

On top of all that, she lent a hand with a corporate brand and community programs website project, writing content and info on date labelling.

From school trip to real-world opportunity

Georgia heard about this fantastic chance after going on a NASCA career trip to the Nestlé office in Sydney.

Looking back at her experience, Georgia shared: "Being able to move around the building going from different sections and seeing the different workspaces and how big the building really was, was pretty cool. Also seeing how relaxed and chill the office space and staff are was kind of nice as I didn't have to act so differently to fit in which was very relieving."

When we asked her what she found most interesting, Georgia especially enjoyed "working on a social media food waste mini project," and loved "seeing the kitchen and what the cook and market Nutritionist did and what they looked at on their produce."

"One thing I'll definitely remember about my time at Nestlé is how welcoming and kind people were, as well as how different office jobs are to what I thought they were like." Her advice for other students thinking about similar opportunities is spot on: "trying to be as involved as possible and also to be confident in themselves and make the most of the opportunity."

Students' Enrichment Activities

Sticks to Stadium

The Sticks to Stadium kicked-started our Pathway events for the year, in March 2025 with students from our Wellington and Delroy Academies attending. Over three days, the young women experienced an inspiring introduction to the world of the NRL Panthers.

Highlights included:

- A visit to the Panthers training centre, where they received official gear, watched a training session, and met players
- A rehearsal at the Panthers Academy ahead of their game day role, proudly carrying a giant jersey banner onto the field
- An educational visit to the zoo, learning about career pathways and traditional Indigenous approaches to animal care
- A fun and active session at the cable park, followed by a behind-the-scenes stadium tour and the excitement of watching an NRL match from the sidelines.

The program provided a unique blend of sport, culture, and career education - empowering our young women and giving them memories to last a lifetime.

"I really enjoyed learning about the different pathways into the Panthers club and what I need to study to follow this kind of career. The activities were awesome too, especially kneeboarding, watching the training session, and seeing the game. "Destiny, year 10 Delroy.

CareerFit

The NASCA CareerFit Conference was held from 20–23 May 2025 at Sydney Central Hotel, bringing together 85 NASCA students from across NSW. The event aimed to support students in exploring career pathways, building confidence, and developing key skills for their futures.

Over four days, participants engaged in a dynamic program of workshops, cultural activities, and networking sessions. Highlights included career-focused sessions delivered by leading organisations such as Nestlé, TAL, Opera Australia, DLA Piper, Cummins, Firetrail and UTS. Students also took part in creative and cultural workshops at Eora TAFE and heard from inspiring First Nations mentors across a range of professions.

The program emphasised cultural pride, leadership, and real-world skills development. Through industry engagement and meaningful connections with professionals, students left with a greater understanding of their options and pathways beyond school.

The conference was made possible through the generous support of corporate and community partners, including Cummins, Firetrail Investments, and the PNI Foundation.

Canva Spark Day

The Canva Tech Experience Program provided our young people with the opportunity to learn from and interact with skilled Canva Staff members while experiencing first-hand what it's like to work in a leading technology company. By showcasing a wide range of roles and debunking common "tech myths," the experience encouraged our students to see themselves in future digital careers.



Native Foods and Cultural Program - Co-Facilitated by Em-Power Foundation and Edible Native Landscapes

68 students from our Western Region Young Women's Academies took part in a Native Food & Culture Program, proudly hosted and co-facilitated by Em-Power Foundation and Edible Native Landscapes.

This immersive, hands-on experience is designed to educate and inspire Indigenous students by strengthening their connection to culture, native foods, and entrepreneurship. Through a blend of cultural learning and practical skill-building, students gained confidence, creativity, and insight into careers across agriculture, food, and hospitality.

The program also emphasised the value of Traditional Knowledge systems and encourages pathways in STEM, business, and community leadership.

Goodooga Traditional Indigenous Games

The 2025 Goodooga Indigenous Games was a highly successful event, bringing together over 700 students from schools across New South Wales. The event provided a valuable opportunity for students to connect, compete, and celebrate culture through sport and community engagement.

This year, staff and students from Dubbo Senior College, Dubbo South Campus, Dubbo Delroy Campus, Narromine High School, Wellington High School, Coonamble High School, and Canobolas Rural Technology High School proudly participated in the Games. Their involvement highlighted the strong collaboration across schools and communities within the region.

The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all participants and was marked by a positive atmosphere, strong sportsmanship, and a deep sense of cultural pride. Students represented their schools with respect, enthusiasm, and integrity throughout the competition, reflecting positively on their communities and school values.

The Goodooga Indigenous Games continues to be an important annual event that fosters connection, wellbeing, and cultural celebration. We look forward to returning next year and building on the strong foundations established in 2025.



Young Women Unite for Cultural Camp in Newcastle

Students from our Young Women's Academies came together with participants from NASCA sites in Wellington, Singleton, and Dubbo Delroy for a vibrant and culturally enriching week in Newcastle. The camp was hosted at Winanga-y Dreaming with Kristy and Rob Faulkner, whose leadership and cultural knowledge helped create a deeply meaningful experience for everyone involved.

The week began with a day of weaving, icebreakers, and bonding activities, giving students the chance to connect with peers from other academies. This was followed by an energetic visit to a trampoline and ninja park, and the day ended with a shared dinner that helped strengthen the sense of connection across the group.

Day two was dedicated to On Country experiences. Students explored culturally significant sites throughout the Newcastle area, taking part in hikes and listening to Dreamtime stories shared by Traditional Custodians. The girls were highly engaged, showing deep respect and curiosity as they learned about the stories, history, and land. That afternoon, back at Winanga-y Dreaming, they took part in traditional practices such as weaving, cultural art, and bush cooking. The day concluded with a fun and laughter-filled session of laser tag before settling in for the night.

On the final day, students explored the Gamilaraay (Gomerioi) language through interactive learning. They played language games, learned new vocabulary, and proudly sang "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" in language, while also learning to name various native animals.

The camp offered a powerful blend of cultural learning, personal growth, and fun. It fostered confidence, strengthened peer relationships, and deepened students' connection to culture and community, leaving a lasting impact on everyone who attended.

Women of Origin

Most of our Young Women's Academies from across New South Wales attended the Women of Origin excursion in Newcastle as a reward for outstanding school attendance. The trip offered an exciting mix of fun, education, and inspiration, giving students the chance to enjoy activities like go-karting, bowling, and laser skirmish, while also exploring future pathways during a guided visit to TAFE.

Throughout the excursion, students engaged in meaningful discussions about careers and further education, gaining valuable insights into the opportunities available to them beyond school. A major highlight was attending Game 3 of the Women's State of Origin, where they experienced the energy of a live professional sporting event and saw elite female athletes in action.

Students also had the unique opportunity to participate in a Q&A session with two Newcastle Knights NRLW players, asking thoughtful questions about their journeys, challenges, and advice for young people. This interaction offered powerful role modelling and encouraged students to dream big.

The experience helped build strong peer connections and confidence, as students stepped outside their comfort zones and embraced new opportunities. Overall, the Women of Origin excursion was not only a well-deserved reward, but also a deeply enriching experience that combined fun with future-focused learning.



Cooking for a cause - Nestlé/Oz Harvest

NASCA students joined Ozharvest and renowned Chef Sharon Winsor for a special day in the Kitchen, thanks to the Nestlé Aboriginal Youth Development Program.

The students rolled up their sleeves for a hands-on culinary experience, preparing meals using native Australian ingredients for vulnerable members of the community.

A powerful day of learning, giving back, and celebrating cultural connection through food and partnership.

The students also learnt about different opportunities through Oz Harvest culinary programs.



Dreamfest

NASCA Dreamfest saw a total of 97 students attend the camp, participating in a weekend packed with powerful cultural workshops and engaging activities. Students rotated through weaving with Yinarr Maramali, ochre artwork with Leonard Waters, and yarnning circles and artefacts sessions with Burruguu's Ted and Shelly Fields. Alongside the cultural programming, students also enjoyed high-energy activities, creating a well-rounded and memorable experience for all involved.



NASCA Youth Awards

The NASCA Youth Awards are designed to recognise young leaders who are actively shaping their communities and futures.



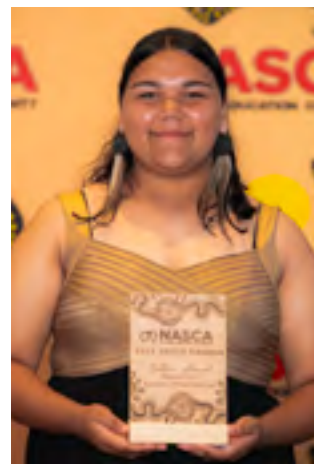
Khloe Vale



Ebony Lowther



Aaliyha Roberts



Kyshaya Fritz-Hoskins

Youth of the Year Award

This is the highest honour, celebrating a student who embodies all of NASCA's core pillars.

Khloe Vale
– Kempsey High School

Khloe is an exceptional young leader who integrates Culture, Education, and Community. Her recognition stemmed from her commitment to her Dunghutti culture as a Dance Leader, her academic discipline and service to her community through local volunteer work.

Education Award

This award honours the hard work, resilience, and dedication required for academic and personal growth.

Ebony Lowther
– Singleton High School

Ebony earned the Education Award for showing extraordinary dedication by successfully juggling three massive commitments: keeping up high marks in her regular high school subjects, managing the hands-on workload of a nursing School-Based Apprenticeship/ Traineeship (SBAT), and even tackling a university-level first-year nursing course at the same time.

Culture Award

This award recognises students who engage with their heritage, creating a strong sense of identity, belonging, and cultural understanding within their school and wider community.

Aaliyha Roberts
– Ballina Coast High School

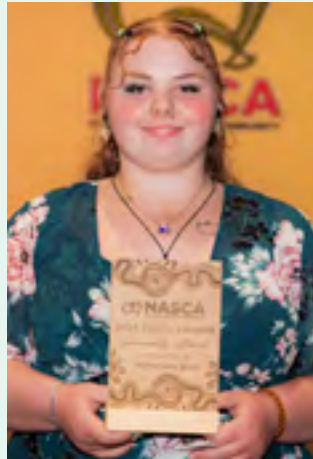
Aaliyha showed incredible strength and leadership in keeping her cultural connection strong, even after the devastating 2022 floods impacted her family and community. She makes her commitment visible by performing and promoting culture through dance workshops for local primary schools and the wider community.

Kyshaya Fritz-Hoskins
– Melville High School

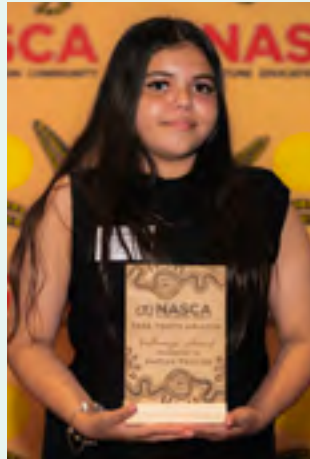
Kyshaya is a powerful role model who genuinely respects cultural identity and inclusion. Her commitment involves actively promoting understanding within her school, especially through a mentoring role in the cultural dance group, and consistently challenging cultural stereotyping.



Matahn Fernando



Kirra-Lee Moir



Kaitlyn Phillips

Community Award

This category celebrates students who build community connections, uplifting others through shared cultural knowledge, support, and active civic engagement.

Matahn Fernando – **Kempsey High School**

Matahn truly embodies community strength. She was recognised for her contributions, including volunteering at important local events, sharing her culture as both a Dance Leader and a Aboriginal artist, and using her talent in sport to build teamwork and pride.

Kirra-Lee Moir – **Canobolas High School**

Kirra was honoured for establishing strong connections with the Elders, learning traditional practices and ensuring that vital knowledge is passed down to the younger generation, fostering a strong, connected community.

Pathways Award

Focusing on future readiness, this award highlights students' proactiveness in developing robust post-graduation educational and employment journeys.

Kaitlyn Phillips – **Alexandria Park Community School**

Kaitlyn claimed this award for her proactive and mature commitment to post-school planning. Her dedication was demonstrated by her consistent and engaged participation in Pathways sessions and the CareerFit camp, ensuring she is well-prepared for her tertiary studies and career transition.

Social Impact

92%

2025 NASCA Graduation Rate

12,920

NASCA Sessions

95%

Year 12 Attainment Rate

1,994

Young People Supported

300

Pathways Sessions

90%

of Program Staff identify as Aboriginal

50,790

hours of Academic Support including 1:1 Mentoring - across all programs

3,500

hours of Cultural Connections - across all programs

4,000

hours of Extra Curricular



Northern Territory Program

NASCA has been delivering our school engagement program in remote Northern Territory communities for over 20 years.

The focus has been on the importance of staying connected to education as a vital pathway for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to ensure happy and healthy futures.

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In 2025, the program included a variety of intentional activities, enhancing young people's knowledge and skills around cooking and kitchen safety, understanding the importance of well-being and their mind / body connection, NAIDOC / Reconciliation week workshops that included On-Country excursions and future pathway discussions.

The communities visited were Canteen Creek, Epenarra, Haasts Bluff, Papunya, Areyonga, Titjikala, Laramba, Finke and Yuelamu.

Each NASCA session is developed through the lens of our methodology, ensuring that all workshops and activities are related to the Northern Territory school curriculum and NASCA's organisational values:

- Cultural Pride and Inclusion
- Integrity
- Excellence
- Trust
- Collaboration



Academic support and in-class engagement

In 2025, NASCA provided 400 hours of in-class, one-on-one academic support to students. This initiative directly contributed to achieving the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) objective of improving literacy and numeracy outcomes for Aboriginal youth.

NASCA team members are embedded in classrooms during school hours, working in collaboration with teachers to support student learning. Key activities included:

- Modelling positive classroom behaviour
- Mentoring students in effective learning practices
- Assisting with literacy and numeracy tasks

By working closely with educators, NASCA delivers targeted, individual support to help students engage with the curriculum, address specific learning challenges, and make meaningful progress in their educational journey.

Sport and health education

NASCA delivered 250 hours of Sports and Physical Education activities across the nine communities. Students learned a broad range of skills through the medium of sport including:

- The importance of regular exercise & routine
- How to deal with competition
- How to cope with winning and losing.

Sports activities included elements related to teamwork, leadership, engagement, self confidence and pride. Sports programs also focus on key values such as:

- Fair play
- Honesty
- Respect for oneself and others
- Adherence to rules

NASCA also recognises the value of bringing variety and enjoyment to the school experience. Our sporting activities are broad and varied, ranging from traditional team sports such as soccer and basketball, through to Traditional Indigenous Games. All of the sports and games that are included in our program design allow for subtle changes to be made to enhance our program theme.



Community engagement and cultural exchange

NASCA delivered 300 hours of after-school programs targeting youth, alongside 80 hours dedicated to Community engagement activities, as well as 80 hours spent on the camp in Sydney, where NT students were able to engage with NASCA students from the local Redfern area. These engagements involved collaboration with recreation staff, local families, and key stakeholders. Engagements included cultural programs, recreational centre initiatives, and structured activities such as sports, Kids Club, and Community BBQ events.



NASCA also recognises the value of bringing variety and enjoyment to the school experience. Our sporting activities are broad and varied, ranging from traditional team sports such as soccer and basketball, through to Traditional Indigenous Games. All of the sports and games that are included in our program design allow for subtle changes to be made to enhance our program theme.



NT Camp 2025

During week 7 of Term 4, 23 young people and staff from Papunya (Warrumpi) and Areyonga (Utju) flew down to Sydney for a week long camp, participating in a variety of fun, educational based activities and experiences, along with learning and exploring what life is like outside of a remote Community.

DAY 1: After a big day of travelling from Community to Alice Springs, then on the plane to Sydney, the group were welcomed with dinner, followed by movie night.

DAY 2: We hit the ground running with a sports morning at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence with one of our Sydney Academies, Alexandria Park Community School, where young people were split into teams and showcased their skills in Traditional Indigenous Games and soccer. This was followed by a workshop led by Cummins, where we created Lego engines. After being fueled for lunch, we took on the Sea Life Aquarium where we immersed ourselves in the underwater world, identifying different sea life and creatures.

DAY 3: We were lucky enough to be invited into the AFL Sydney Swans HQ to tour their facilities and get a deep understanding of what the life of a professional athlete is like. From the field, to the recovery room and the SCG, we had a walk-through of what a training and game day looked like, followed by a meet and greet and signing session with the players. Go Karting was calling our name so we rallied for some fun on the track, followed by fun at Archie Bros Arcade later in the evening.

DAY 4: Sightseeing the city was first on our list on day 4 as we checked out Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera House by walking through Circular Quay. We hopped on the ferry to take us to the East where we tackled the coastal walk from Bondi Beach to Bronte and then cooling off with a surfing and water safety lesson!

DAY 5: We had to finish off the camp with a bang as we headed to Jamberoo Action Park. Young people took their water safety knowledge from surfing into the action rides, wave pools, water slides and rock jumping and had a blast.

NT Principals Quotes



Thank you to NASCA and the team, you are so incredible. We love having you out here in Titjikala each term. We receive such a positive response from both the community and the kids every time.

— Titjikala, Nanci

The NASCA program is an amazing way to capture and engage our students and their attendance. All of the workshops are amazing and it brings the kids and community so much happiness.

— Laramba, Sean

Thank you NASCA team for an engaging program, we are always looking forward to the next program out here at Canteen Creek.

— Canteen Creek, Natalie



NT Program Outcomes

Communities outcomes

80%

of students experienced an increase in confidence and cultural pride

73%

of students felt better informed to make healthier lifestyle choices

60%

of students developed important life-skills

43%

of students increased their school attendance during NASCA visits

Volunteer outcomes

100%

had an increased knowledge of Indigenous Culture and a desire to share that knowledge

100%

had increased confidence in combating racism

96%

had an increased desire to support Indigenous people

48

Total numbers of volunteers

1,115

Number of volunteering hours

35%

Percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Volunteers

\$59,252

money raised

Our Volunteers

Volunteer quotes

“

I was touched by the resilience in the community in Papunya. Those kids, Elders and families need so much support. Blessed to visit with NASCA and see the impact this program offers.

— Papunya, Jayden

This was a life changing week. I learnt so much from the kids and seeing how connected they all are to one another and their country.

— Laramba, Ryleigh

Unreal experience volunteering at Ikuntji school. Grateful for the opportunity NASCA gave and connections I made in community.

— Haasts Bluff, Oscar

”



The NASCA Board



Chloe Wighton
Chairperson

Chloe is a NASCA alumnus. She attended NASCA Dubbo Academy as a student from 2008 until her graduation in 2011 and has been a Board member of NASCA since 2014. She is a Wiradjuri (Galari) woman from Gilgandra, New South Wales, and is currently the Managing Director of Bila Group, servicing the infrastructure industry with a multidisciplinary approach to heritage advice led by Indigenous knowledges.

Chloe has worked across Indigenous strategy in higher education, media, and for the national campaign calling for constitutional reform. She also works alongside her family in running Chemrose, supplying the first Indigenous GECA-approved cleaning range. She is passionate about the continuation of Wiradjuri culture, particularly the preservation of cultural materials and knowledge.

Chloe's strong advocacy in the community led to her being awarded the Sister Alison Bush Medal University of Sydney's Alumni.



Tracey Dennis
Board Member

Tracey Dennis is an immensely proud Biripi woman, who has achieved many firsts in her family. She continually strives for those changes that are needed to become a successful woman and role model for her children, family, and community.

For the past 35 years, she has dedicated her life and leadership capabilities to the education, employment, training, and economic development arenas, to understand and develop best practice models when providing guidance, advice, and support to Traditional Owners, their families, and communities.

Tracey's career has been built on 'a hands-on' experience as a CEO, Senior Executive, and Program Manager, leading many Aboriginal Affairs Policies and programs across Governments, corporate, and NGO sectors.



Carlos Barrios
Board Member

Carlos is a proud Torres Strait Islander and Filipino man, passionate about securing education and economic opportunities that lead to positive intergenerational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

He is currently a Senior Product Manager at Macquarie Bank and sits on the Macquarie RAP Working Group and the Macquarie Sports Advisory Committee. Carlos has a Bachelor of Business Accounting Major and Laws (first class honours) is a graduate of the University of Technology in Sydney and is a Chartered Accountant (CA).



Lachlan McDaniel

Board Member

Lachlan McDaniel belongs to the Galari Clan of the Wiradjuri Nation. He is currently the Indigenous Higher Degree by Research Coordinator at the University of Technology Sydney, where he is also undertaking a PhD. Lachlan's Ph.D. explores his passion - the revitalisation of Wiradjuri Cultural practices and their significance.

Lachlan has studied at a range of tertiary education institutions in Australia and abroad. He completed a Bachelor of Arts/Laws (BA/LLB) at Macquarie University in 2010. This degree included an international exchange to study Canadian First Nations History, Law, and Politics at the University of Calgary. He completed a Continuing Education Certificate in Indigenous Governance at the Native Nations Institute of the University of Arizona in 2013.

Lachlan completed his Graduate Certificate in Wiradjuri Language, Culture, and Heritage from Charles Sturt University in 2024.



Mark deWeerd

Board Member

Mark is a proud Gamilaroi man from Walgett (NSW) who has spent the past 30 years in Aboriginal affairs, working across both the public and private sector at a national, state and local level. During his time as a Commonwealth Public Servant, he was awarded a Public Service Medal for "outstanding public service in implementing the Council of Australian Governments' Whole of Government Indigenous Trial in the Murdi Paaki region". Mark also spent 10 years at the National Rugby League as General Manager, Indigenous Strategy advancing Rugby League's commitment to First Nations peoples on and off the field, delivering groundbreaking initiatives that were developed through co-design and implemented through partnership. He returned to the Public Service in 2021, joining the NSW Department of Planning & Environment before launching his own bespoke management consultancy, Kyma Group in 2024.

Financial report

Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	4,756,975	4,834,156
Trade and other receivables	282,079	223,130
Total current assets	5,039,054	5,057,286
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	17,143	1,876
Right-of-use assets	84,085	149,265
Total non-current assets	101,228	151,141
TOTAL ASSETS	5,140,282	5,208,427
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	1,410,438	1,160,021
Employee benefits	301,978	305,743
Lease liabilities	74,292	101,920
Total current liabilities	1,786,708	1,567,684
Non-current liabilities		
Employee benefits	16,041	-
Lease liabilities	20,044	62,671
Total non-current liabilities	36,085	62,671
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,822,793	1,630,355
NET ASSETS	3,317,489	3,578,072
FUNDS		
Accumulated funds	3,317,489	3,578,072
TOTAL FUNDS	3,317,489	3,578,072

Auditor's report



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CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

16 October 2025

The Board of Directors
National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy
160/180 George Street
REDFERN NSW 2016

Dear Directors,

Re: Final report on the audit of National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy for the year ended 30 June 2025

We have now completed our audit of the financial statements of National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy ('NASCA' or 'entity'), for the year ended 30 June 2025 and are pleased to present our final report to the Directors and Management on the results of our audit which is attached to this letter.

The purpose of this report is to clarify any outstanding issues that may exist, outline the key findings of our audit and discuss independence issues as well as any matters that may impact on the future of the financial report and audit.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact me.

Yours faithfully,

StewartBrown
Chartered Accountants

Justin Weiner
Audit Partner



2025: A year of walking together

Our mission at NASCA is simple but powerful: to empower young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to thrive, from the classroom to the workforce and everywhere in between. But this mission doesn't belong to us alone. It belongs to the generous community that walked beside us throughout 2025.

To everyone who stood with our Mob this year, thank you. Because of you, we've been able to provide the wrap-around care that allows our youth to feel respected, valued, and ready to excel.

A shout-out to our supporters

We want to acknowledge the many ways you chose to get behind our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led programs this year:

- **Our Regular Givers:** you are the backbone of our community. By giving monthly, you ensured our programs stayed strong and our young people knew they could count on us being there

- **The Fundraisers:** from the Sydney Marathon to community events, your energy has strengthened our pride and made school a safer, better place for our youth
- **Our Volunteers:** to those who gave their time and heart through our Northern Territory program, your dedication provided the hands-on support that helps our young people excel. Whether in the classroom or on the court, you showed up for our kids.

Thank you for believing in our young people. Your generosity in 2025 has paved the way for a brighter future.



Our partners and supporters



Partner investment is vital to NASCA's sustainability, enabling us to support young people on their chosen pathways. We are grateful for a network that values our lived experience and expertise. As a culturally connected, outcomes-focused organisation, we ensure every investment delivers a magnified, evidence-based social return. We intentionally align with partners who share our vision and recognise the mutual growth these relationships bring.

Thank you to our donors and fundraisers for your vital contributions. Most importantly, thank you to our young people, Aunties, Uncles, Community leaders, and Ambassadors, you are our inspiration.

Government Partners

Aboriginal Affairs - DCA, National Indigenous Australians Agency and Department of Education

TIG Corporate Challenge

The Traditional Indigenous Games (TIG) Tournament continues to be a highlight of our corporate engagement. This year, students from eight NASCA sites taught and led games for teams from UGL, The Settlement, Gadigal Centre at the University of Sydney, LinkGroup / MUFG, Firetrail – Pinnacle Investments, Lendlease, Jumbunna Institute. We thank all our corporate and community participants for their spirit and for recognising the leadership of our young people.





**Claire Williams, Year 11 at
Thomas Reddall High School**

“This painting tells a story of generational connection between the women in my family, their journeys, kin and communities. The person in the painting is of my young sister as she represents one of the women in my family.

The meeting places around the painting represent all the generations of women, with the biggest circle being my close family, the second being my elders and the last being my ancestors and other great women in my family line. These are the meeting places that are connected using the lines which symbolise the connections between everyone.

The footprints also represent these women as they symbolise the paths they took in life and how they remained on that path even though they encountered various challenges.

In places you can see 6 dots which represent tribes, and symbols that represent family and they are the line, upside-down u and open circle.

The ochre my sister wears is what the elders put on me when I went to Warren. I wanted to include it as I felt it was important in showing the generations and bringing elements from my mob.”



Incorporation and Charitable Status

Incorporated under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006, INC 2546. Registered Charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission from 31 December 2012. ABN: 66 442 463 291

Tax Concessions and Fundraising

Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) and endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as: A Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR). An Income Tax Exempt Charity (holding tax concessions and exemptions relating to income, goods and services, and fringe benefits tax) Registered to fundraise under legislation in New South Wales, Registration number: 15744.

Publication details

Efforts have been made to ensure that all information in this annual report is correct. NASCA regrets any offence that errors or omissions may cause. Throughout this publication, the terms Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander are used wherever possible. In the interest of readability, we also use the term 'Indigenous'. No disrespect is intended by the authors.

Contact us

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