

6 May 2024

Ms Yvette Goss
The Productivity Commission

Email: childhood@pc.gov.au

Dear Ms Goss,

Submission to Productivity Commission Inquiry into Early Childhood Education and Care

Thank you for accepting our submission at a late stage of your process. We have been working with Deloitte Access Economics to finalise their evaluation of our Indi Kindi Program, and we are excited to take the opportunity to submit it to the Inquiry.

As you have noted in your draft report, the early years can have the greatest influence on life trajectories and where the return to investment is the highest. It is also one of the domains where the representation of Indigenous children, particularly in remote areas, is significantly behind those of non-Indigenous children, and is worsening.

The Deloitte Access Economics report validates the Indi Kindi mission that it is 'intended to contribute to and shape Early Years Policy by describing an innovative place-based intervention supporting Aboriginal children's development outcomes. Through sharing an exemplar approach to achieving outcomes, the intention is to support more children and families across Australia.'

This impact evaluation speaks to the power of the Indi Kindi model to disrupt conventional models of early-childcare for Indigenous children, through co-designing programs with Indigenous communities, employing only Indigenous staff as educators and addressing broader wellbeing outcomes through service delivery.

The following are the evaluation findings as they relate to the Terms of Reference for the inquiry:

- **Developmental and educational outcomes for Australian children, including preparation for school:** Since Indi Kindi started, the share of vulnerable children in Borroloola fell from 74% in 2012 to 42%. Borroloola now has strong preschool attendance compared to other communities, supported by a deliberate transition approach employed by Indi Kindi
- **Economic growth, including through enabling workforce participation, particularly for women, and contributing to productivity:** The Indi Kindi Program provides fulfilling and meaningful employment opportunities for Aboriginal women.
- **Outcomes for children and families experiencing vulnerability and/or disadvantage, First Nations children and families, and children and families experiencing disability the efficiency and effectiveness of government investment in the sector:** By placing children at the centre, Indi Kindi is able to have wide ranging impacts on the Indigenous Community in Borroloola, one of most disadvantaged communities in Australia. Impacts include health,



wellbeing and employment outcomes, including the intergenerational transmission of culture.

Please find the report attached. We would welcome the opportunity to appear before the Inquiry should your timeline permit.

Ms Paula Gelo from H/Advisors APA can assist with any engagement.

Yours Sincerely,

Ros Moriarty
Founder Co-Chair

Jo Shulman
CEO