



# The Lighthouse Toowoomba

*a centre for children's creativity*

Reading | Writing | Creativity

## Version 2

# Strategic Business Plan

**Note:** This is a dynamic document reflecting The Lighthouse's demonstrated responsiveness to community needs, evolving funding sources, and the latest research findings. The information presented here was last updated on: 22 June 2024.



# Key details

## Registration details

**Business name**

*The Lighthouse Toowoomba*  
*ABN 77322342176*

**Company number**

*The Child Writes Fund Limited*  
*ACN 16615584480*

**Registration Type and Date**

*27/10/2016: Australian Public Company*  
*05/11/2018: Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)*  
*01/06/2022: GST*  
*21/11/2023: Deductible Gift Recipient Status (DGR Item 1)*

## Contact details

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## Online and social media details

**Website**

*<https://www.thelighthousetoowoomba.org/>*

**Instagram**

*<https://www.instagram.com/thelighthousetoowoomba/>*

**Facebook**

*<https://www.facebook.com/ToowoombaTheLighthouse/>*



## Contents

Key details.....	2
Registration details.....	2
Contact details.....	2
Online and social media details.....	2
Executive Summary: .....	6
Excerpts from the Letters of Support .....	8
The Lighthouse Toowoomba .....	11
Organisation Chart Outline.....	18
Referred to as ‘The Trial’ .....	19
Impact Statement 22-02-2022 to 12-03-2024.....	20
Overview:.....	21
A deeper dive into the ‘Why’.....	22
Hands-On Operations .....	24
Precinct Spaces .....	25
The Finances .....	31
Financial Plan:.....	31
Digital technology.....	32
Information Management:.....	33
Key people .....	34
Why Us?.....	36
A problem .....	36
A solution.....	36
What outcomes will we achieve:.....	37
Quantitative Outcomes .....	37
Qualitative Outcomes.....	39
SWOT Analysis .....	42
Risk management .....	46
Clear Monitoring and Evaluation.....	46
Risk assessment .....	46

Laws to comply with: .....	47
Timelines .....	49
Conclusion:.....	52
Appendix 1: Contributions to Date .....	53
Appendix 2: The State of Literacy in Australia’s Children.....	54
Appendix 3: Organisational Structure .....	58
Appendix 4: The Rabbit Hole .....	62
The Rabbit Hole Publication .....	62
The Child Writes Program .....	62
Appendix 5: Amber to Green – Youth Hub.....	63
Podcast   ‘If only someone asked us ‘why’!’ .....	63
Podcast   ‘Our World’ .....	63
Art (Therapy).....	63
Tutors.....	63
Workplace ready.....	63
Adapt Mentorship - Youth Hub Partnership.....	64
Appendix 6: Twinkles Program Expanded .....	65
1. One-Way Library .....	66
2. Twinkles Book Club .....	66
3. 1-For-5 Program.....	67
4. Educational Support Dog .....	67
5. Social Media (TikTok) Campaign – Read to Lead.....	67
6. The Living Library Program .....	67
Appendix 7: Adapt Mentorship - Youth Hub Partnership .....	68
Appendix 8: The Write Gallery.....	69
Appendix 9: BEAM Creative App Overview .....	71
Defining the Problem.....	71
Where do we come in? .....	71
Where can we effect change? .....	71
What the BEAM App Offers .....	73
Appendix 10: Capital Campaign: ‘Keep the Light Burning Brightly’ .....	75
Appendix 11a: 5 Year Budget (Version 1).....	77
Appendix 11b: rPPP Budget (Version 2) .....	82
Budget under rPPP Headings.....	87
Appendix 12: Memorandums of Understanding – Partnerships .....	88
Memorandum of Understanding: Emerge Youth.....	89
Memorandum of Understanding: Newtown State School .....	91

Memorandum of Understanding: Adapt Mentorship .....	93
Memorandum of Understanding: Momentum Mental Health .....	95
Memorandum of Understanding: First Nations Arts and Culture Collective .....	97
Memorandum of Understanding: Book Links Qld .....	100
Memorandum of Understanding: You Belong .....	102
Memorandum of Understanding: iNSPIRTEK .....	104
Appendix 13: Letters of Support.....	106
Letter of Support: Garth Hamilton MP, Member for Groom .....	107
Letter of Support: Robyn Haig – Director, Regional Development Aus .....	108
Letter of Support: Rory Mather .....	110
Letter of Support: Aunty Barb Walker, Co-Founder, Secretary FNACC.....	112
Letter of Support: Matt Ottley / Tina Wilson .....	114
Letter of Support: Executive Regional Director, Dept of State Development and Infrastructure ..	116
Letter of Support: Sandy Pottinger.....	117
Letter of Support: Toowoomba Regional Council Mayor McDonald .....	119
Letter of Support: Cheryl Moggs Co-Founder FNACC.....	120
Letter of Support: Mercy Services .....	121
Letter of Support: Book Links .....	123
Letter of Support: Adapt Mentorship.....	124
Letter of Support: Emerge Toowoomba.....	125
Letter of Support: Jason Callcott Newtown State School Community Hub Leader .....	127
Letter of Support: iNSPiRETEK .....	129
Letter of Support: Chelsea Baker.....	131
Letter of Support: Catholic Care Social Services.....	133
Letter of Support: David Janetzki MP .....	135
Letter of Support: Trevor Watts MP .....	136
Letter of Support: Inner Wheel .....	137
Letter of Support: Momentum Mental Health.....	138
Letter of Support: Queensland Police Service.....	139
Letter of Support: Toowoomba International Multicultural Society .....	140
Letter of Support: Tim Hunter, Author .....	142
Letter of Support: Cr Rebecca Von Hoff .....	143
Letter of Support: Mater Dei Primary School .....	144
Letter of Support: Jessica Ritchie, International Award Winning Author .....	145
Letter of Support: Jasmine Barui .....	148
Letter of Support: Jen Munt .....	150
Letter of Support: Flexi School Toowoomba .....	152
Letter of Support: Rosemarie Dawes, Chiselhurst Kindergarten .....	155
Letter of Support: Lifeline Darling Downs & South West Qld .....	157
Letter of Support: Ruben Fitton.....	158
Letter of Support: Toowoomba Hospital Foundation .....	159
Letter of Support: Wilsonton Early Years Network .....	160
Thank you! .....	162

## Executive Summary:

The Lighthouse Version 2 is poised to redefine Toowoomba's cultural landscape as a vibrant and inclusive community precinct, expanding upon the established success of The Lighthouse Version 1. With a strong emphasis on nurturing creativity and literacy, our precinct aims to serve as a hub for empowerment and artistic expression, uniting a diverse array of community organisations, social enterprises, and creatives under one roof.

At its core lies The Lighthouse's mission to ignite a passion for literacy through storytelling, fostering resilience, empathy, and empowerment among individuals of all ages. By providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for exploration and learning, we strive to cultivate resilient, empathetic, and creatively driven individuals equipped to thrive in today's world.

Having tested the concept for three years with a contribution valued at over \$1,500,000 (as of April 2024).<sup>1</sup> We fully acknowledge generational change happens gradually and we need to provide a longer-term plan for nurturing engagement with all our stakeholders: our target youth groups, community partners, school, volunteers, and staff.

Our application for significant funding via the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program will enable us to be proactive, implement long-term planning, develop and deepen relationships, and maximise the impact of partnerships supported by a larger employee base ensuring huge consequential benefits for the children in our community.

The Lighthouse embodies a broad collaborative effort to engage with our community on multiple levels, forging partnerships with local organisations and networks to enhance literacy skills and promote creative and cultural diversity. Through purposeful programs and initiatives, we bridge the gap between indigenous arts, cultural heritage, and contemporary storytelling, ensuring every child can unleash their innate creative potential.

As a not-for-profit entity, our commitment builds on individual enrichment with the goal of broader community flourishing. By fostering a collective spirit of collaboration and cooperation, we aim to establish The Lighthouse as a dynamic precinct where creatives, social enterprises, and community services converge to address the diverse needs of our region.

In a region where access to educational and cultural resources can be limited<sup>2</sup>, especially for the most disadvantaged, our community precinct serves as a catalyst for positive social change, empowering individuals from all walks of life to pursue their passions and dreams. Through strategic partnerships, innovative programs, and state-of-the-art facilities, we create an environment where imagination thrives, and every voice is valued.

Join us in reimagining the possibilities of creativity and literacy. Together, we will build a brighter and cohesive future for the Toowoomba region, where collaboration and innovation thrive. We seek to provide every individual in the community with the opportunity to flourish.

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<sup>1</sup> [Appendix 1: Contributions to Date](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Appendix 2: State of Literacy in Australia](#)



References: Infographic of Core Sources underpinning WHY

- <https://grattan.edu.au/report/reading-guarantee/>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2024/mar/04/does-children-toddlers-kids-watching-tv-impact-development-learning>
- <https://www.afr.com/policy/health-and-education/reading-fail-how-australia-can-prevent-an-illiteracy-tragedy-20240205-p5f2dh>
- <https://www.education.gov.au/supporting-family-school-community-partnerships-learning/family-school-partnerships/parent-engagement-learning#toc-parent-engagement-and-involvement>
- <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2372732219893385> 'How Reading Motivations and Engagement Enable Reading Achievement: Policy Implications'

## Excerpts from the Letters of Support

The invaluable support and generous in-kind contributions from The Lighthouse over the past two years have played a pivotal role in our growth and in expanding our reach to make a meaningful impact and our partnership with the Lighthouse holds immense promise for further enriching the lives of young people in our community.

We are proud to stand alongside The Lighthouse in its mission to create a harmonious and inclusive community for all. Their dedication to supporting First Nations Enterprise, youth and families as well as the willingness to collaborate with organisations like Adapt Mentorship speak volumes about their commitment to social justice and community building.

– Adam Wenitong, Adapt Mentorship

The impact of The Lighthouse extends beyond its physical space in Toowoomba. By providing a platform for book creatives, especially those from remote and rural areas, you bridge the gap between urban and regional communities, ensuring that all children have access to literature and opportunities for creative expression.

– Jenny Stubbs, Book Links

The Lighthouse is a truly inspirational centre that has worked at the grassroots, filling a vital gap for the entire community, using a service delivery model that has delivered on its commitments in ways that are transparent, low risk and impactful.

– Kate Venables, Catholic Care Social Services

The sheer dedication by the Lighthouse team to ensuring our most vulnerable young people have equal access to literacy and life skills workshops is received with such gratitude.

– Jen Shaw, Emerge Youth

I have observed The Lighthouse's tireless dedication to bettering the development of young people in need who often slip through the cracks of traditional support systems to ultimately create real generational change.

– Chelsea Baker, Artist

The plethora of communal community activities (such as art exhibitions, music concerts and festivals) have complemented the Australian Curriculum seamlessly, but most importantly have engaged our students.

– Wendy Ellem, Toowoomba Flexi School



Often, we take for granted the job of reading that we gave our children, not realizing that there are many less fortunate children who don't have the skill of family support to develop this skill.

– Wendy Orth, Inner Wheel

Their commitment to providing mentorship, support, and opportunities for growth to individuals of all backgrounds and abilities is such a blessing.

– Jen Munt, mother, Mrs Jam

The Lighthouse's unwavering warmth, support, and non-judgmental environment have illuminated the lives of children from diverse backgrounds.

- Jessica Ritchie, Transformational Brand Lab

The Lighthouse's dedication goes above and beyond any expectation, evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations and community groups.

– Jane Williamson, Mercy Community

The Lighthouse provides outstanding services, to schools and communities across the Greater Toowoomba region, creating programs that are rich in quality, insightful, inspiring, and extremely engaging.

– Matt Ottley and Tina Wilson OAM, The Sound of Picture Books™

The Lighthouse with its outreach to refugee children, especially through its Homework Club, has offered a warm and welcoming bridge to new discoveries.

To see tense, wary, closed little faces melt into smiles and hear the joy of laughter is a gift beyond price, that sadly comes at a price.

– Sandy Pottinger, Arts Reviewer

The staff of The Lighthouse were super supportive of our initiative, to showcase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, who reside in the south west of Queensland. The assistance and direction, when organising the exhibition within a very short time frame, was very gratefully appreciated by the Directors of the Collective and the Artists who had their works on display... The Collective looks forward to continuing our association with the wonderful staff at The Lighthouse.

– Aunty Barb Walker, Co-Founder and Secretary, First Nations Arts and Culture Collective

Kindergarten families have visited The Lighthouse for a variety of functions, such as book readings, creative workshops, or been involved in community projects with them such as The Hello Baby calendar. Every time we have visited parents always comment how fortunate we are to have this in Toowoomba. As an early childhood teacher, I am inspired by their creativity and passion!

– Rosemarie Dawes, Director, Chiselhurst Kindergarten

They have found a place in this community that is widely supported and their message around better literacy opportunities for our children is being spread to all levels of our community. Many more organisations are now more aware of this message and how they can support it and are assisting The Lighthouse to deliver on their commitments to ensure that this organisation experience longevity in our community.

– Jason Callcott, Community Hub Leader, Newtown State School

When I was in grade 6, I had the opportunity to participate in the Child Writes Program. This memorable experience was instrumental in nurturing my passion for creative pursuits, gifting me one of the best moments in my life I often look back on. I have been so fortunate to have had further interactions with The Lighthouse through The Sydney Writers Festival and Art exhibitions at the gallery meeting other industry professionals sharing and giving to our community. As well as beginning my tertiary studies at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music this year, I have continued to paint and write with exhibited work at art shows and galleries. The Lighthouse is a gift and anyone who has the experience to either visit an exhibition or be a part of a workshop offered will be changed for the better.

– Ruben Fitton, Student

The Lighthouse has been particularly supportive of our WEYN – Wilsonton Early Years Network in many ways. Every year we hold an Under 5s day where we bring our Wilsonton community together to create an inclusive and engaging event to support at-risk families. The children in this area are identified by the Australian Early Childhood Developmental Census as being at-risk or vulnerable in multiple developmental domains. This requires a whole community approach to gain better outcomes for the children. The Lighthouse has always supported our Under 5s day by generously donating hundreds of books which are given out to the children in attendance. The value of these book donations cannot be overstated, especially in our area which has such a diverse population, including a high number of Indigenous, migrant and refugee families.

– Paula Janz, Secretary, Wilsonton Early Years Network

The Lighthouse is a beacon for Toowoomba's artists. Adult authors, and emerging young artists have a place they can turn to when the way seems obscure. Without community services like these, artists struggle and wither, never finding the platform and tools to craft their visions into arts.

– Timothy Hunter, Freelance Writer and Editor

## The Lighthouse Toowoomba

### Who:

The Lighthouse Toowoomba is a dedicated precinct aimed at enhancing literacy levels by fostering a love for reading and the arts among children and families in our community. Our goal is that every child in Australia reads, writes, and creates with confidence.

### What:

Having experienced tangible results from our trial centre in regional Queensland, and drawing upon three years of successful initiatives here in the heart of the Darling Downs, the Precinct will allow us to increase our catchment and encompass:

- A children's creativity and literacy centre offering evidence-based innovative programmes proven to enhance literacy levels, free, or fee-for-service.
- An art gallery hosting exhibitions to support local creatives and provide access to creativity for the community.
- A One-Way Library distributing volunteer readers and donated children's books to families and organisations in need, onsite, and outreach to schools in low socioeconomic areas.
- BEAM Creative Application, supporting the workshop facilitators professional development and wellbeing.
- Creative workshop spaces for hire (heavily discounted if they meet the criteria for partnering with other organisations that increase children's wellbeing, self-efficacy, literacy or are targeted at equity groups).
- A dedicated youth hub, focusing on the challenges specifically for youth disengaged with the education system and the community (earmarked for collaborative community organisations already doing hugely influential work in the community)
- Offices are available, prioritising community and social organisations supporting children, youth, and equitable groups, establishing the centre as a hub for community engagement, learning, creativity, and literacy. Our goal is to ensure the precinct presents collaborative access to those organisations providing support to children.

### When:

The transition from The Lighthouse Version 1 to Version 2 is essential, with current support to conclude by the end of 2024, and in the face of a growing need. Major funding is required to continue building on this program from 2025 until 2029 to make a substantive impact on the literacy rates and engagement of the children in our community.

### Where:

126 Margaret Street in Toowoomba's CBD has been offered to The Child Writes Fund for a further five years, 2025 – 2029 and is being considered due to its availability, suitable floorplan, and central location, offering accessibility and visibility to the community. Toowoomba is Australia's second largest inland city after Canberra (181,821<sup>3</sup>) and is considered a prosperous agricultural and business hub for the Darling Downs, located 150km from Brisbane. However, there is also a substantial and problematic level of poverty and disengagement amongst young and minority groups<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> [Toowoomba Regional Council Estimated Resident Population for 2023 - ABS ERP 2023](#)

<sup>4</sup> <https://profile.id.com.au/toowoomba/seifa-disadvantage>

## Why:

Toowoomba has a continually increasing culturally diverse population<sup>5</sup> and a higher proportion of children (under 18) than other regional areas of Qld<sup>6</sup>. With 46% of the Australian population in our community having below functional literacy levels<sup>7</sup>, the growing need for initiatives promoting literacy and creativity is urgent. Extensive research demonstrates<sup>8</sup> the benefits of creativity and literacy, particularly in regional areas like Toowoomba. It is incumbent upon us to work with our communities' children and minority groups to change this statistic, especially where each dollar can deliver significantly outsized benefits.

## How:

The Lighthouse can substantially increase its reach with uniquely tailored programs to inspire literacy, having been inspired by the model described in the book 'Unnecessarily Beautiful Spaces for Minds on Fire' by the International Alliance of Youth Writers Centres<sup>9</sup>, we custom-designed a place-based appropriate model for the Toowoomba region. These centres exist all around the world, and this is the first in regional Australia.

A flexible, alternative pedagogical option is positioned to create unique and timely customised programs for children in crisis, ensuring we support the priorities of **Closing the Gap**<sup>10</sup> (5) Students achieve their full learning potential, and (6) Students reach their full potential through further education pathways. Our Twinkles outreach program with volunteer readers, and a priority of ensuring books in homes is relevant to (4) Children thrive in their early years.

Toowoomba Region compiled in profile.id<sup>11</sup>



<sup>5</sup> [Home | Toowoomba Regional Council | Community profile \(id.com.au\)](https://www.id.com.au/regions/toowoomba)

<sup>6</sup> [2021 Census data](https://www.abs.gov.au)

<sup>7</sup> [4228.0 - Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, Summary Results, Australia, 2006 \(Reissue\) \(abs.gov.au\)](https://www.abs.gov.au)

<sup>8</sup> [Appendix 2: State of Literacy in Australia's Children](https://www.iaaywc.org.au)

<sup>9</sup> [The International Alliance of Youth Writing Centres](https://www.iaaywc.org.au)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.closingthegap.gov.au/national-agreement/targets>

<sup>11</sup> [Home | Toowoomba Regional Council | Community profile \(id.com.au\)](https://www.id.com.au/regions/toowoomba)

The Lighthouse's model has abundant benefits for both the individual child's development and for the community. The Lighthouse Toowoomba intends to create and deliver workshops to enhance children's life quality, now and in their future, through creativity and literacy. Sparking a child's imagination, in collective and safe environments assists the child emotionally, socially, and cognitively (for example: problem solving skills, concentration, planning, competence, and self-worth to name a few). Further, the workshops for children aim at teaching practical skills in creativity and in communicating and expressing their creativity. This allows children to practise trial and error methods which are also crucial to a child's development.

At a neurobiological level, this would also boost several 'feel good chemicals' (dopamine, serotonin, endorphin, oxytocin) which have been shown to enrich the child's life quality and potentials. In terms of advantages for the society and the broader community, there is ample research correlating helping others with improving wellbeing of the individual as well as in their social group.

Claudia Valenzuela, Clinical Psychologist, 7 July 2022

The  
**LIGHTHOUSE**  
GUIDING CREATIVITY

# Strategic Plan



**Vision**  
Every child in Australia can read, write, and create with confidence



**Mission**  
Providing a plethora of experiences so that children can find what lights them up, enabling them to shine.



**Purpose**  
Children become resilient, empathetic, and empowered members of the community.

**Our Values**

- Literacy
- Creativity
- Empathy

**Our goals**

1. Deliver inspiring, engaging programs that assist those in our local community.
2. Be a recognised, trusted, and respected leader in children's literary education.
3. Cultivate wonder and inspire creativity in all our spaces and programs.
4. Create clear systems and standards that allow team members and volunteers to thrive.
5. Create a sustainable organisation that pays rent, pays a team and allows us to run full-time programs.

**Support Our Work / Work With Us**

Volunteer...we can't do this by ourselves, all hands-on deck!

- Donate books to our library or art supplies
- Book your child/ren into a workshop
- Book someone to come and read to your community
- Commission a custom book written by children

## Confidence comes with experience...

Over the past three years, The Lighthouse has demonstrated, in a transparent and live trial, the depth of demand for a literacy-based charity within the Toowoomba region, having already served over 13,000 individuals, conducting 500 children's workshops, 180 adult workshops, and distributing over 10,000 books to children in need. The overwhelming community response underscores the necessity for a dedicated centre for literacy and creativity.<sup>12</sup> Below is leveraging from the experience of 2022 – 2024, and expanding on our potential reach with funding:

### Vision

To achieve the outcome of every child being able read, write, and create with confidence.

### Mission

To continue empowering children through creativity and literacy, in a safe and inclusive environment, providing a plethora of experiences so that children can find what ignites their passion enabling them to shine.

### Purpose

Children become resilient, empathetic, and empowered members of the community.

### Core Values

Literacy, creativity, empathy, and connections will remain at the heart of all initiatives.

### Non-negotiables

#### At all times The Lighthouse will:

- place children (including youth) at the core
- ensure priority and additional focus on minority groups in need of equitable support
- be based on extensive research and learnings to date
- continue to develop collaborative partnerships with other community organisations and services in the region (ideally have key organisations in the same precinct) – we do not feel the need to recreate the wheel
- approach all outcomes with the goal of increasing wellbeing, equity, self-efficacy, and resilience
- have focus on sustainability with consideration to revenue streams and staffing
- always ensuring consideration for all programs and events and workshops of the evidence-based *5 Ways to Wellbeing*<sup>13</sup>.



<sup>12</sup> [See documentation for Impact Statement 2024](#)

<sup>13</sup> [5 Ways To Wellbeing - Five Ways To Wellbeing Australia | Home](#)

**Funding Support = Scaling Impact:**

- Increase staffing to ensure sustainability for the organisation
- Identify preferred pathways to reach a broader audience within the region
- Create and distribute a 'how-to' manual to document the regional experience
- Enhance, build, and formalise community partnerships
- Extensive increase in "tried and tested" programs such as our Little Twinkles Outreach Program
- Build on the in-house experience of volunteers to support and drive a regular publication of children's writing from The Rabbit Hole
- Introduce a menu of new programs designed around specific community needs and in consultation with community collaborators
- A dedicated Youth Hub for teenagers who are disengaged with the education system and the community in general – key focuses on reengaging disengaged youth as a proven strategy to combat youth crime whilst increasing literacy and employability skills
- Reinvent The Write Gallery to become a community gallery utilising a tendering process to allow equitable access for creatives to run community exhibitions without the added pressure of sourcing income to pay venue hire

**Community Engagement:**

- Continue building strong relationships with the community, and stakeholders such as schools, libraries, support services, and cultural institutions.

**Universal Storytelling Approach:**

- Maintain the effective use of storytelling – multimodal opportunities - as a tool for empathy, confidence, empowerment.

**Deliver Inspiring, Engaging Programs:**

- Continue to develop and implement a diverse range of programmes catering to the needs of the local community, providing opportunities for children to explore and express their creativity through literacy-focused activities.



### **Leadership in Children’s Literary Education:**

- Strive to become a recognised and respected leader in children's literary education through innovative programmes, quality resources, and impactful community engagement initiatives.
- Continue working with University of Southern Queensland (UniSQ) with primary data as evidence to demonstrate increase in children’s self-efficacy when participating in alternative pedagogical programs.
- Dr Georgina Barton UniSQ report on Self Efficacy utilising primary data collected 2022-2024 is anticipated in June.

### **Partnerships:**

- Continue to forge partnerships with local schools and educational institutions to seamlessly integrate literacy programmes such as the Child Writes program, into their curricula and extracurricular activities, ensuring widespread access to literary education for all children.
- Building on partnerships such as the ones with Adapt Mentorship, Emerge, Book Links, Momentum Mental Health, the Community Hubs at Darling Heights, Newtown, Harlaxton, and the FNACC<sup>14</sup>.

### **Cultivate Wonder and Creativity:**

- Create an environment that sparks wonder and inspires creativity in children by incorporating interactive storytelling elements into programmes and hosting revolving exhibitions in the gallery to showcase local children's artwork and literary creations.

### **Foster diversity and inclusivity:**

- Develop an inclusive environment to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people are part of the planning for programs, events, initiatives, and exhibitions, contributing to Closing the Gap.
- Promote the space for diversity with our programs, especially with our workshop facilitators.



<sup>14</sup> [See Appendix 12: Memorandums of Understanding- Partnerships](#)



### Clear Systems and Standards for Team and Volunteers:

- Establish transparent systems and standards to support the professional growth and well-being of team members and volunteers, fostering a collaborative and thriving work environment.

### System and Technology Integration:

- Embrace technology for enhanced and efficient learning experiences and outreach including rolling out the BEAM creative App
- Implement the brand identity and communication review (currently in progress)
- Implement the system and standards review (currently in progress)

### Achieve Organisational Sustainability:

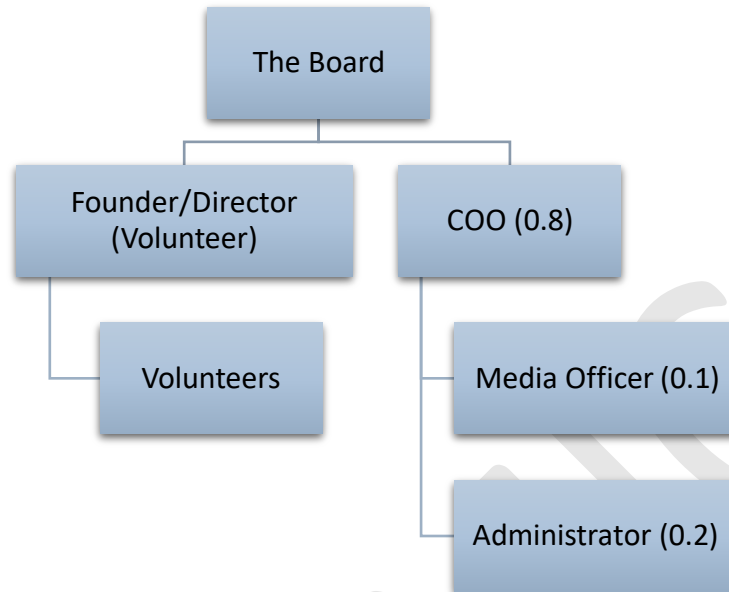
- Diversify funding sources - allocate staffing resources to seek additional funding (see below) plus BEAM Creative app sales, and sales of books and gifts in the Explorers Emporium to ensure sustainability 2029 and beyond:
  - Develop a Membership Strategy for adults and families.  
Example: \$52 per year, access to Write Monday, gallery events, and VIP sessions
  - Develop a Capital Campaign 'Keep the Light Burning Brightly'<sup>15</sup>
  - Identify Private Auxiliary Funds and Businesses to develop creative and innovative programs to support their ESG requirements
  - Develop a Fundraising Strategy – utilising the Pyramid Fundraising concept
- This shift towards financial self-sufficiency to cover operational costs, including rent, salaries, and program expenses, will also introduce more opportunities for including the community. If the centre is perceived as being 'owned' by the community, it will continue to receive the community's support.



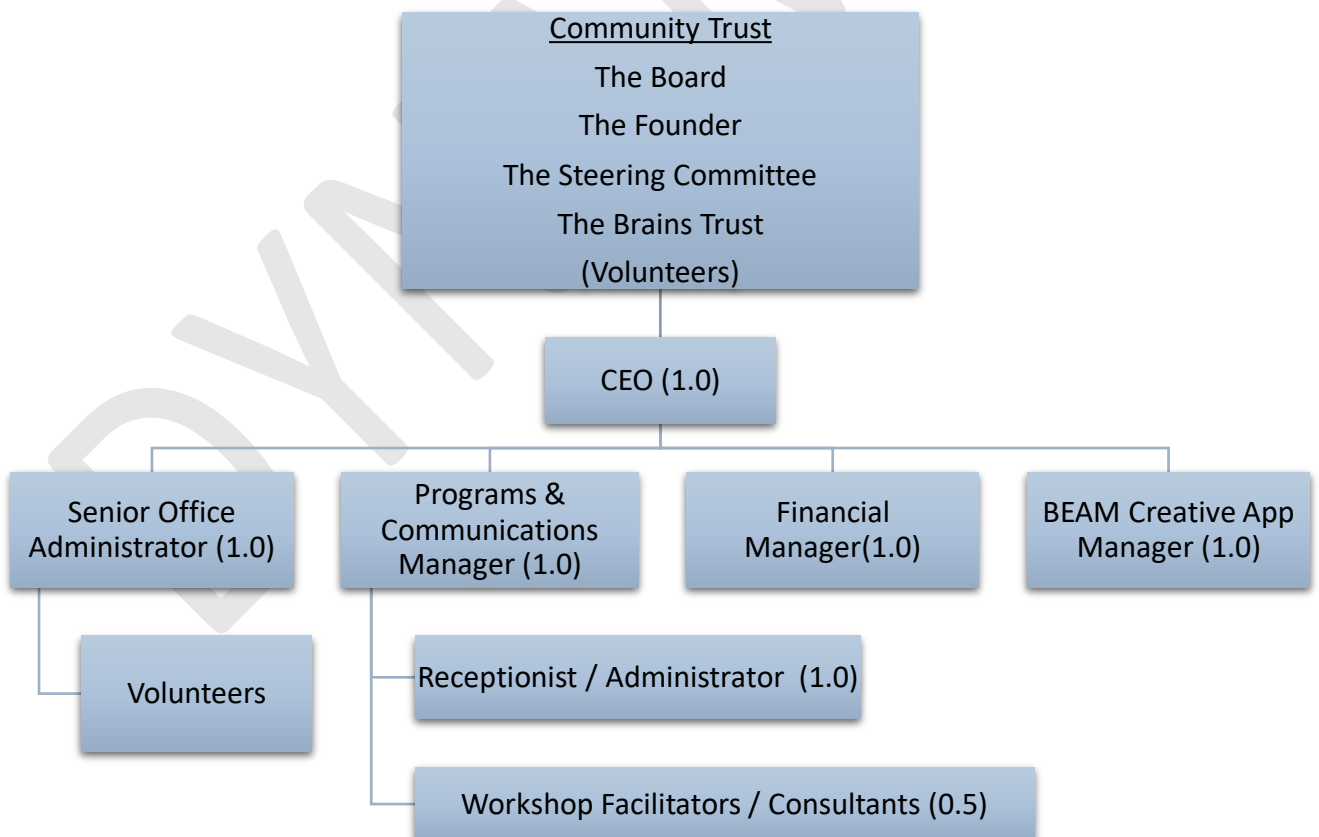
<sup>15</sup> [Appendix 10: Capital Campaign: 'Keep the Light Burning Brightly'](#)

## Organisation Chart Outline<sup>16</sup>

Version 1 (2022 – present):



Version 2 (2025 – 2029):



<sup>16</sup> [Appendix 3: Organisational Structure and Role Descriptions](#)

## Referred to as ‘The Trial’

Having been incredibly transparent to all and sundry over the last three years, indicating our intention to test the appetite and need for a centre like this from February 22, 2022 to now, has meant we have a ‘shovel-ready’ working strategy developed in direct response to community consultation and immediate needs. To meet the demonstrable growing demand, a substantial addition to the operation budget and site improvements needs to be made. The broadly available existing evidence bearing witness to programs promoting literacy show the potentially substantial qualitative and quantitative change to the literacy outcomes of children in regional Australia and it is unequivocal, so now it is **time to act!**

Currently, the site is utilised for only 20% of its available time, the constraining factor being the limitations to ability to ‘do’ with only 1.1 staff equivalent. Despite these human resource restrictions, our impact statement demonstrates our proven ability to devise and deliver desperately needed programs.

We see the potential of an exponential increase in support offered to our community with the implementation of this plan, effective immediately.



# The Lighthouse

GUIDING CREATIVITY

\$181,905



Value of books, 9061 we have rehomed

Amount of events in The Write Gallery

40



470



Amount of workshops we delivered to children



Amount of people we have worked with, 5,627 children

13,348



Volunteer hours

4756



\$233,066

\$136,581 received via Grants  
\$139,119 received via Donations



64%

Students from 53 schools out of 83 in the region have visited

As at Tuesday 12 March 2024



## Overview:

### Organisation Overview

The Lighthouse, inspired by and built upon the success of the trial, aims to instil confidence in every child within the community to read, write, and create. Through active engagement with local groups and agencies, we seek to bolster literacy skills among children, ensuring they can advocate for their own futures. Our precinct serves as a hub for enriching the visual literacy and cultural capital of Toowoomba, offering both commercial and educational opportunities by engaging joyfully with the community and the Australian arts industry.

### Legal Structure and Objectives

As a registered charitable organisation with the ACNC and listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations, we hold Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. Our constitution aligns with the promotion of literature, visual arts, and indigenous culture, emphasising the power of creative storytelling. Specifically, we champion children's literature and creative arts through programmes like "Child Writes – Create a Children's Picture Book."

### Target Market

Our centre caters to children and young adults, then individuals of all ages. By offering a diverse array of programmes, we tailor our services to meet the unique needs and interests of our audience, providing avenues for creative expression and personal development. Our target market naturally gravitates towards lower socioeconomic groups ensuring that Closing the Gap becomes a core outcome of our work.

### Unique Value Proposition

At the heart of our centre lies a collaborative and inclusive ethos. By uniting various community organisations and creatives, we are able channel the positive energy from a supportive environment where every voice is valued, and imagination thrives. Through strategic partnerships, innovative programmes, and user-friendly facilities, we empower individuals to explore their passions, forge connections, and contribute to positive social change.



## Constitutional Objective

The company's objective is to pursue the following charitable purpose:

- To promote literature and the visual arts as the eloquent link to creative storytelling, to incorporate the arts of Indigenous persons and the cultural heritage belonging to the rich tapestry of communities within the Toowoomba region. These undertakings are aligned with community cultural activities (such as art exhibitions, music concerts, festivals) and creative workshops, and
- To specifically promote children's literature and the creative arts by engaging children as creators of storytelling in purposeful programs such as "Child Writes – Create a Children's Picture Book" program, with the distribution of books in print and digital editions to locations where children are in crisis.



## A deeper dive into the 'Why'...

### Fostering Resilience, Empowerment and Community Connection

In 2021 the Australian Early Development Index<sup>17</sup> reported that approximately 13% of Toowoomba children were developmentally vulnerable in language and 14% developmentally vulnerable in communication. This is significantly above the state average of 8% for Language and 9% for communication.

Our regional community is acknowledged as a Refugee Welcome Zone and the increasing number of migrants and refugees have broadened our community's cultural diversity and linguistic backgrounds.

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data-explorer/?id=181626>

**Self-Efficacy and Advocacy:**

- We empower children to have self-efficacy and the ability to advocate for themselves is a fundamental goal. This includes providing support for those who may not naturally possess these skills and helping those who do to discover them and becoming masters of their own flourishing.

**Resilience as Gold:**

- Recognising resilience as a precious asset, especially for children navigating the challenges of the world. The goal is for children to not only acquire resilience but also to hold onto it throughout their lives.

**Role of Literacy and Workshops:**

- The workshops, centred around literacy, serve to achieve the broader goal of building durability and adaptability. Literacy is the tool through which safety, creativity, and advocacy are fostered.

**Role of Cultural Capital:**

- Providing a space for exhibitions increases the amount of cultural capital to be accessed by children in regional Queensland, whilst artists and illustrators can test the robustness, appropriateness, and impact of their exhibitions.

**Safety Fosters Creativity:**

- The concept that safety serves as a foundation for creativity implies that a secure and supportive environment is essential for children to explore and express themselves creatively.

**Advocacy Through Storytelling:**

- Storytelling is positioned as a powerful tool for instilling resilience, empathy, and advocacy. It is not just about storytelling itself but using it as a vessel to cultivate essential life skills.

**Building Well-Rounded, Thoughtful Individuals:**

- The overarching aim is to provide children with the foundation and self-belief to become well-rounded, literate, and thoughtful individuals. This involves equipping them with the tools to navigate their own life stories, akin to the hero's journey.

**Community Impact:**

- The vision extends beyond individual development to creating a community that produces resilient children. This highlights the interconnectedness of individuals within the community and the collective responsibility for supporting each child.



## Hands-On Operations

### Strategies for Achieving Stated Goals

#### Program Development:

- Conduct regular assessments of community needs and interests to inform the development of engaging and relevant programmes.
- Collaborate with educators, artists, and child development experts to design literacy-focused programmes that foster creativity and cater to diverse learning styles.
- Implement feedback mechanisms to continuously evaluate and improve programme effectiveness and impact.
- Create specific programs for teenagers in collaboration with other local youth organisations to target their literacy, employability, and life skills.

#### Community Outreach Initiatives:

- Establish partnerships with local schools, libraries, community centres, and cultural organisations to extend the reach of literacy programmes and engage with a wider audience.
- Organise community events, workshops, and storytelling sessions to raise awareness about the centre's offerings and promote literacy and creativity within the community.
- Offer outreach programmes targeted at underserved populations, including migrant and refugee communities, to ensure inclusivity and accessibility.

#### Fundraising Activities:

- Develop a comprehensive fundraising strategy that includes grant applications, corporate sponsorships, individual donations, and fundraising events.
- Cultivate relationships with potential donors and sponsors through personalised communication, donor appreciation initiatives, and strategic partnerships.



### Technology Integration:

- Implement digital tools and platforms to enhance programme delivery and engagement, including the current under-development App BEAM Creative and online learning resources.
- Explore innovative uses of technology to expand the centre's offerings and appeal to diverse audiences.

### Precinct Spaces

There is an adage in writing workshops 'show, don't tell'. By establishing a centre for creativity in the heart of the Toowoomba CBD, we are showing children, and the broader community, that literacy is incredibly important. The high visibility of a corner location, diagonally opposite Queens Park, enhances this concept. The Lighthouse Toowoomba – the name of the precinct, defined by its dynamic workshop spaces, modelled on 'Unnecessarily Beautiful Spaces for Young Minds on Fire', and inspired by the 100+ such centres around the world, and includes:

- The One-Way Library – accessible during office hours, supporting the Twinkles Book Club volunteer readers program, and processing substantial donations of children's books to be donated directly to children to ensure books in homes. Summarised as 'Need a book : Want a reader : Give a book!'



- The Write Gallery – a light filled gallery for exhibitions, events, workshops. Applications sourced nationally from interested illustrators and picture book makers, then artists, ensuring a dynamic and diverse cultural offering to class groups, families, and individual alike. Think of a very rustic version of GOMA!
- The Rabbit Hole<sup>18</sup> – the youth writer's centre! Following the remarkable success of over 100 such centres around the world, arriving in the space evokes a sense of wonder and what-will-be. It is 'classroom-esque' to be familiar enough, yet dynamic and every-changing so to continually delight. The quarterly publication *The Rabbit Hole* will showcase the children's writing, their podcasts, and their art.

<sup>18</sup> [Appendix 4: The Rabbit Hole – Youth Writers Centre](#)

- Amber to Green<sup>19</sup> - dedicated youth hub specifically catering for those disengaged in our community. This space will remain responsive to the needs of the partnership organisations<sup>20</sup>, ensuring smaller rooms for mentoring, a guarantee of anonymity, and a podcast studio.
- Creative spaces to support specialised workshops or tutoring, for example, dedicated time for the 'Reading, Writing, Hotline' Program for adults, and children who need help.
- Offices or desks for local organisations who work directly with those in need, for example, Adapt Mentorship (children engaged with Youth Justice), Emerge (children without homes), You Belong (programs for refugee and migrants)

## Creativity and Literacy

Our centre will offer a dynamic environment where children can engage in innovative programs specifically designed to enhance their literacy levels. Dedicated creative spaces centred around creativity, art, literacy, and podcasting.

Drawing from three years of successful trialling initiatives at The Lighthouse, our centre will provide a diverse range of activities and workshops tailored to ignite creativity and improve literacy skills in children of all ages. From interactive storytelling sessions to hands-on writing workshops, our programs will inspire a love for reading and writing while fostering critical thinking and communication skills. As we collaborate with the community new and exciting programs will continually be added in response to members of the community and needs.



<sup>19</sup> [Appendix 5: Amber to Green – Youth Hub](#)

<sup>20</sup> [Appendix 7: Adapt Mentorship - Youth Hub Partnership](#)

## Programs:

- **The Child Writes Program:** A collaborative process with children as they are guided through the process of writing and illustrating a children's book, through to the publication and distribution process, conducted over three terms.
- **Twinkles + Twinkles Outreach<sup>21</sup>:** Reading support initiative aimed at promoting the love of reading among children through dedicated sessions and outreach programs. Includes **The One-Way Library**, and **The Living Library<sup>22</sup>:** An ambitious initiative involving bringing elderly individuals from care homes to playgrounds, where they act as living "books," inviting questions and conversations from visitors. **Read to Lead<sup>23</sup>:** Production of a series of instructional TikTok videos demonstrating that there are no barriers to reading, with potential integration into the organisation's mobile application.
- **The Write Gallery:** Workshops inspired by artists, encouraging creativity and expression through various artistic mediums<sup>24</sup>.
- **Amber to Green (Youth Hub):** Specialised programs run in collaboration with current other organisations in the region (for example Emerge Youth, Adapt Mentorship<sup>25</sup>, Department of Youth Justice). The goal will be to tackle the teenager's life skills, goals, literacy, self-efficacy, and wellbeing. Support will be given to cohorts that are at risk and in high need such as those in the youth justice system, fall under the Department of Families and Housing care or have been earmarked by collaborative agencies as needing urgent support.



<sup>21</sup> [Appendix 6: Twinkles Outreach Program](#)

<sup>22</sup> [Appendix 6: The Living Library](#)

<sup>23</sup> [Appendix 6: Social Media \(Tik Tok\) - Read to Lead](#)

<sup>24</sup> [Appendix 8: The Write Gallery](#)

<sup>25</sup> [Appendix 7: Adapt Mentorship - Youth Hub Partnership](#)

- **Additional in-house program examples:**

- **HELLO Club** (Homework Empowers Learning and Literacy Outcomes): Utilises *Literacy For Kids* (LFK) program delivered on tablets and with volunteer support, to assist children with homework and literacy skills.
- **The Great Postcard Project:** A one-hour standalone workshop where participants use prompts to engage their senses, draw scenes, and describe them on postcards.
- **Writing for Expression:** Narrative therapy sessions focused on character building, emphasising expression over formal grammar and spelling, akin to a "First Draft" approach.
- **Babble:** Community, Craft, Conversation: Designed to improve children's conversational skills, particularly beneficial for Yazidi children and those learning English as a second language (ESL).

## The Write Gallery<sup>26</sup>

Our art gallery will serve as a vibrant space where local artists can showcase their talents and the community can immerse themselves in diverse and thought-provoking exhibitions. By supporting local creatives and providing access to inspiring artworks, our gallery will contribute to the cultural enrichment of Toowoomba while offering opportunities for reflection, dialogue, and artistic exploration.

The Write Gallery would continue to be a core creative space for the community. Ideally if we can cover the financial costs of the centre in other ways, we would like to offer the calendar of exhibitions for free under an EOI process. Priority would be given to exhibitions where artists can be actively involved, that show benefits to the community connections, collaborations, visual literacy, and include the 5 Ways to Wellbeing.



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<sup>26</sup> [Appendix 8: The Write Gallery](#)

## The One-Way Library<sup>27</sup>

The Lighthouse has to-date rehomed over 10,000 books to the children in the community. Through community donations we spearheaded a distribution network that proved to be invaluable to those without books in homes. Building on this success our One-Way Library will continue to provide access to children's books for those in need. Through community donations and a dedicated distribution network, we will ensure that every child in Toowoomba can discover the joy of reading and access quality literature regardless of their circumstances.



## BEAM Creative Application<sup>28</sup>:

The BEAM Creative app, developed in collaboration between The Lighthouse and iNSPIRETEK, will be a ground-breaking platform designed to revolutionise reading outcomes and educational experiences for students. By fostering heightened engagement and offering authentic learning opportunities, BEAM will play a pivotal role in transforming traditional education paradigms. With features empowering creatives to showcase their expertise and students to access high-quality educational content, BEAM will bridge the gap between professionals and students, enriching their learning journey and fostering a deeper understanding of various subjects. Building Strong Literacy Skills: through meaningful interactions and exposure to diverse perspectives, students develop strong literacy skills that are essential for success in school and beyond. Overall, BEAM Creative app revolutionises education by providing students with access to innovative learning experiences and empowering them to become active participants in their educational journey.

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<sup>27</sup> [Appendix 6: The One-Way Library](#)

<sup>28</sup> [Appendix 9: BEAM Creative App Overview](#)

## Literacy and Creative Emporium

Our 'Explorers Emporium' will offer a curated selection of books, plus those from all of our local authors, and resources aimed at encouraging lifelong learning and nurturing a passion for literature and creativity. From children's books to art supplies, our store will provide access to essential tools and materials that inspire creativity and support literacy development in individuals of all ages. Additionally, we will revert to our initial Emporium of not-of-found odds and sods gift line, perfect for the avid explorer who may never leave home!

## Creative Spaces Available

Our centre will feature versatile spaces available, providing a collaborative environment for workshops, meetings, events, and more. Whether hosting a creative workshop, community event, or corporate meeting, our flexible spaces will cater to diverse needs and foster collaboration, innovation, and creativity.



## Offices and Collaborative Spaces

In addition to creative spaces, we will offer secure and supportive offices to community organisations supporting children, youth, and equitable groups. By providing a dedicated space for these organisations to operate, we aim to strengthen community support networks and promote holistic development and social inclusion.

The Lighthouse offers collaborative office spaces for community organisations, and we currently work alongside:

- Adapt Mentorship
- Emerge Youth
- Mashed Theatre
- You Belong
- Our Place (psychologist)
- Blossom House (tutoring)
- Authors Kathleen Kelly, and Tim Hunter

Being on site means fast turn-around for projects developed in quick response to needs. These organisations and individuals serve as hubs for fostering collaborative initiatives and providing vital support to children and youth in the community. Through collaboration and shared resources, we will foster holistic development, community engagement, and positive social impact. Together, we will strive to empower individuals, nurture creativity, and build a brighter future for our community.

## The Finances

The Lighthouse is seeking a total funding of \$8,850,000 million over a period of 5 years to support its operational and developmental activities. This funding will be crucial in covering expenses related to property renovations, program development, staffing, marketing, and technology integration. With this financial support, we aim to establish a sustainable and impactful community precinct that empowers children, promotes literacy, and fosters creativity.

### Financial Plan:

Please note that we have 2 versions of the budget included in this business plan. Version 1<sup>29</sup> is very in-depth and detailed 5-year plan. Version 2<sup>30</sup> of the budget has been developed to align with the specific requirements of The Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, ensuring that the allocated funds are utilised effectively and in accordance with the specified timeframe, which concludes by March 2026, Version 2 is seeking a smaller amount of \$8,450,000 by March 2026 due to some costs falling after the due date of the grant.. While Version 1 provides a comprehensive 5-year plan demonstrating our commitment to longevity, security, and community connections in Toowoomba, Version 2 focuses on meeting the immediate objectives outlined in the grant application. By presenting both budgets together, readers gain a holistic understanding of our project's long-term vision and strategic approach, as well as the targeted initiatives and expenditures required to achieve short-term goals within the grant period. This dual-budget approach underscores our dedication to responsible financial planning, sustainable growth, and transparent communication with stakeholders and funding bodies.

Below is Version 1 – however Version 2 uses the same substantiated figures under grant appropriate different categories.

### Income Projections:

- Grants: Securing up to \$1,250,000 annually through the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (rPPP) support and an initial \$500,000 to upgrade the fit out of the building. For example, we don't have an IT system, functioning air conditioning, disability access to more of our creative spaces, a dedicated youth space (shipping container office), accessible kitchenette for partners, carpark signage and security cameras. Currently, for our trial, we have utilised hand me down office equipment, borrowed a photocopier and work off our own personal devices. Even the phone line is the Directors personal mobile!
- Explorers Emporium – develop a reputation for supporting local authors by stocking their books, as well as regionally produced or created bespoke educational resources, and a very quirky gift line.

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<sup>29</sup> [Appendix 11a: 5 Year Budget \(Version 1\)](#)

<sup>30</sup> [Appendix 11b: rPPP Budget \(Version 2\)](#)

### Expense Estimates:

- Employment Expenses: Allocate up to \$866,778 annually for salaries in the organisational structure outlined (includes an increase of 2% per year)
- Leasing the precinct for \$260296.20 with a fixed 3.5% rental increase per year plus GST. This lease will include outgoings enable budgeting to be easier to be predicted accurately.

### Funding Strategies:

- Grants: Actively pursue government grants, private foundation grants, and corporate sponsorships to secure funding for programs and operations.
- Detailed Capital Campaign<sup>31</sup>
- Memberships and Sponsorships: Implement membership campaigns, donor cultivation events, and fundraising initiatives.
- Program Fees: Generate revenue through program fees charged for workshops (fee-for-service), classes for adults, and events hosted at the precinct.
- Merchandise Sales: Offer branded merchandise, artwork, and other creative products for sale to visitors and patrons.
- Hire of spaces as available for micro-businesses to operation their own program, with priority for those whose goals align with the centres.

### Monitoring and Adjustments:

Regularly review income and expense statements to track actual performance against budgeted projections. Adjust funding strategies, program offerings, and operational expenses as needed to ensure financial sustainability and achieve organisational goals.

By implementing this comprehensive financial plan, The Lighthouse can effectively manage its finances, diversify revenue streams, and achieve its mission of fostering creativity and literacy in the community.

## Digital technology

Incorporating cutting-edge digital technology is integral to the success of The Lighthouse. Two key systems that will significantly enhance our operations and offerings are the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) platform and the BEAM Creative App.

### CRM System:

Our current CRM system SupporterHub has worked well for the current size of our organisation. We would consider a different system however if we were to grow larger. The CRM chosen will serve as a centralised database for managing interactions with our clients, tenants, stakeholders, members, volunteers, and program participants.

By leveraging CRM software, we aim to:

- **Streamline communication:** Maintain detailed records of interactions, preferences, and engagement history to personalise communication and strengthen relationships.

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<sup>31</sup> [Appendix 10: The Lighthouse Capital Campaign](#)



- **Improve efficiency:** Automate routine tasks such as email campaigns, event registrations, and donation tracking to free up staff time for more strategic initiatives.
- **Enhance data analysis:** Generate insights into stakeholder demographics, preferences, and behaviours to inform targeted outreach efforts and program development.
- **Foster collaboration:** Enable cross-departmental collaboration by providing access to real-time data and analytics, facilitating more informed decision making and coordinated efforts.

### BEAM Creative App:

The BEAM Creative App<sup>32</sup>, currently being developed in collaboration with iNSPIRETEK, will revolutionise how we deliver educational content and engage with our audience. Key features and benefits include:

- **Interactive learning experiences:** Provide students with access to engaging and interactive workshops, resources, and activities developed by professional creatives.
- **Profile creation:** Empower creatives to establish profiles showcasing their expertise, interests, and available workshops, facilitating seamless connections with potential students.
- **Workshop planning and delivery:** Enable creatives to plan, schedule, and deliver workshops directly through the app, streamlining administrative tasks and enhancing accessibility for students.
- **Real-time feedback and evaluation:** Facilitate communication and feedback between students and creatives, allowing for continuous improvement and refinement of workshop content.
- **Integration with CRM:** Seamlessly integrate app data with our CRM system to track student participation, engagement levels, and feedback, enabling targeted follow-up and personalised communication.

### Information Management:

To ensure the effective management of information within our digital systems, we will implement robust data governance practices, including:

- **Data security protocols:** Implement encryption, access controls, and regular audits to safeguard sensitive information and prevent unauthorised access or breaches.
- **Data quality management:** Establish standards for data accuracy, completeness, and consistency, and conduct regular data hygiene checks to maintain data integrity.
- **Compliance with privacy regulations:** Adhere to relevant data protection regulations, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs), to protect individuals' privacy rights and ensure lawful data processing.
- **Staff training and awareness:** Provide comprehensive training and resources to staff members on data management best practices, security protocols, and compliance requirements to foster a culture of data stewardship and accountability.

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<sup>32</sup> [Appendix 9: BEAM Creative App Overview](#)

## Key people<sup>33</sup>

### Organisational Structure

Role	Key Responsibilities	Salary 1-5 years
<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>	Strategy Review Lead Partnership Initiatives Operations Human Resources Grants and Funding Data and Evaluation	\$145,000 - \$156,953 <i>Full Time (1)</i>
<b>Programs &amp; Communication Manager</b>	Program Creation & Content Development & Management Media Management Lead Fundraising Initiatives	\$115,000 – \$124,480 <i>Full Time (1)</i>
<b>Financial Manager</b>	Financial Management Grants and Funding	\$115,000 – \$124,480 <i>Full Time (1)</i>
<b>Senior Office Manager</b>	Property Maintenance Facility Management Tenant Management Health and Safety Compliance	\$80,000 – \$86,595 <i>Full Time (1)</i>
<b>BEAM Creative Application Manager</b>	App Development Sales and Support	\$115,000 – \$124,480 <i>Full Time (1)</i>
<b>Administrator / Receptionist</b>	Administration Reception Website Management Event Support	\$80,000 - \$86,595 <i>Full Time (1.5 – 2.0)</i>
<b>Workshop Facilitators / Consultants</b>	Term time facilitators 5 Facilitators/Workshops per week @ 8 weeks per term (4 terms per year)	\$88,462 – \$95,754 <i>Part time (0.5)</i>

<sup>33</sup> [Appendix 3: Organisational Structure and Role Distribution](#)

## Sources of governance, advice and support – our ‘Community Trust’

Support type	Skills and experience
The Board	6 members - providing governance and oversight to the organisation, setting policies and strategic direction.
Steering Committee	A diverse steering committee comprising representatives from partner organisations, community leaders, and local government officials will oversee the project. This committee will ensure that all voices are heard and that the project aligns with community needs.
“Brains Trust”	This community advisory group provide ongoing feedback and guidance, representing various community sectors, and will evolve to include youth, educators, artists, and First Nations groups.
Volunteers	Duties will be allocated based on the Volunteers superpowers



## Why Us?

### A problem

In our regional town of Toowoomba, we face multifaceted challenges regarding literacy and access to creativity and the arts. Both children and adults in our community struggle with literacy, as evidenced by a significant percentage of Toowoomba children being developmentally vulnerable in language and communication compared to the state average<sup>34</sup>. Moreover, there is a pervasive lack of access to opportunities for creative expression and engagement with the arts, further exacerbating the issue<sup>35</sup>. Addressing these challenges is crucial for fostering a more vibrant and culturally rich community in Toowoomba.

### A solution

The Lighthouse has, since February 2022, tried and tested a variety of approaches to find the best fit to trigger an interest in literacy and learning in our community, therefore representing a unique and comprehensive solution to address the literacy and creative access challenges prevalent in our regional town. By establishing a vibrant community precinct dedicated to fostering literacy, creativity, and cultural engagement, we provide a holistic approach to empower individuals of all ages.



Our centre offers a diverse range of programmes and initiatives designed to inspire and nurture creativity, improve literacy skills, and promote cultural diversity. Through collaborative partnerships with local schools, educational institutions, and community organisations, we integrate literacy programmes seamlessly into curricula and extracurricular activities, ensuring widespread access to literary education. The Lighthouse serves as a catalyst for positive social change, bridging the gap between professional creatives and students through innovative platforms like the BEAM Creative app. By providing direct access to industry experts and fostering meaningful educational experiences, we empower individuals to explore their passions, build strong literacy skills, and contribute to the cultural fabric of our community.

Our commitment to inclusivity, collaboration, and innovation sets us apart as the premier destination for literacy and creative engagement in Toowoomba. Through our collaborative efforts and forward-thinking approach, we strive to create a brighter future where every individual can thrive creatively.

<sup>34</sup> [Australian Early Development Census \(aecd.gov.au\)](https://aecd.gov.au)

<sup>35</sup> [Creative-Together\\_march-2023.pdf \(arts.qld.gov.au\)](https://arts.qld.gov.au)

## What outcomes will we achieve:

This investment will enable the precinct to deliver multiple impactful outcomes to enrich the lives of individuals and strengthen community connections within the Toowoomba region. Numbers below are conservative, not because of our inability to deliver, rather, we fully expect to far exceed predictions. Our success with engagement of the community is by not treating the child as a number, and often the greatest long term positive outcomes are not measured on standardised scales.

Our comprehensive approach to program expansion, facility enhancement, and partnership development, lays foundations for the following key outcomes:

### Quantitative Outcomes

#### Improved Literacy Rates:

We understand literacy as the ability to narrate and navigate a one's real and reality. By expanding literacy programs and providing accessible educational experiences for children and adults, we aim to promote a lifelong love of reading and writing. Our program of engaging workshops, mentorship opportunities, and community events, participants will enhance their literacy skills and deepen appreciation for literature and storytelling. While growing literacy is at the core of every activity, with our partners such as Adapt Mentorship and Emerge Youth, we plan to provide a minimum of 1224 workshops for children, and 224 for adults in 2025. A 5% per annum growth target for programs will be set following analysis of participants' feedback. (See Qualifiable and Quantifiable Goals)

#### Enhanced Employability Skills:

Employability has multiple contributing facets. Our focus on bridging skills-to-employment is designed for individuals to acquire required in today's workforce. Through vocational training, career readiness workshops, and industry partnerships, participants gain valuable insights and experiences that enhance employability and job prospects. Workshops are already included in the above number. Specifically with regards to the Youth Hub, workshop design will focus on foundation literacy which is imperative to access employability skills. It is widely recognised the soft transferrable skills and general life skills assure greater opportunities to open career pathways.

#### Empowered Youth:

Disconnection and lack of agency are key challenges for many youth. Our Lighthouse dedicated Youth Hub will provide young people a safe and supportive environment to explore their interests, develop leadership skills, and access essential support services. The diverse range of programs and activities, including creative arts workshops, recreational activities, and mental health support services, will help empower young people to become confident, resilient, and engaged members of our community. In our region, there are 26 schools (8446 students) in the bottom quarter of the ICSEA scale. Our goal in 2025 to work with these schools to offer the suite of programs for uptake or negotiate tailor-made solutions, with 2 per term actively being engaged, with 100% by 2028.

### Increased Community Engagement:

Social cohesion, community engagement and meaningful dialogue are critical to building a shared sense of identity and belonging. Our precinct will serve as a vibrant hub of community activity, fostering connections and collaboration among individuals from diverse backgrounds. Partnerships with local organisations, schools, and community groups, will create innovative opportunities for engagement and dialogue, strengthening social cohesion and community ownership of The Lighthouse.

A community engagement mapping exercise conducted at the commencement of the project will establish a baseline against which we can benchmark and demonstrate a growth target of extending our engagement reach. (See Memorandums of Understanding and Letters of Support)

### Enhanced Facilities:

Infrastructure and space need to be flexible, usable and inviting. By investing in facility enhancements, we'll create inclusive and inspiring spaces where participants thrive and achieve their full potential.

### Sustainable Growth:

These programs, investments in infrastructure, relationships and engagement will be supported through strategic fundraising efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability and growth. By securing this financial support, and establishing collaborative partnerships, we can leverage community resources to establish a \$1.75m Capital Campaign in 3 years. (see Capital Campaign)



## Quantitative numbers and how they were calculated

		2023 - set recorded engagement figures		2025 estimated goals (5% annual growth going forward)			Notes and calculations
		TOTAL	\$\$ Worth	TOTAL	% change	\$\$ Worth	
<b>Engagement</b>	<b>Total Engagement Numbers</b>	8070		32280	400%		Minimum numbers calculation (conservative - under promise and over deliver) Estimated 4 times 2023 figures
<b>Events</b>	<b>Children's Workshops</b>	298	\$104,300	1024	344%	\$358,400	5 after school, 9 twinkles reading*, 10 youth, 8 NDIS/Homeschool/Other per week , 8 weeks per term, 4 terms per year
	<b>Adult Workshops</b>	88	\$30,800	224	255%	\$78,400	2 Writing/Author sessions, 5 adult workshops per week, 8 weeks per term, 4 terms per year - fits promotional strategy plus potential volunteers
	<b>Exhibitions / Events</b>	22		48	218%		12 month long exhibitions per year + 4 events running under each exhibition
<b>Demographics</b>	<b>Adults</b>	4785		19140	400%		Estimated 4 times 2023 figures
	<b>Children</b>	3285		13140	400%		Estimated 4 times 2023 figures
<b>Gallery</b>	<b>Gallery Event</b>	3819		3600	94%		Estimated min 300 visits per month
<b>Books</b>	<b>Books in</b>	6688	\$100,320	13376	200%	\$200,640	Estimated 2 times 2023 figures
	<b>Books out</b>	7190	\$107,850	14380	200%	\$215,700	Estimated 2 times 2023 figures
<b>Volunteers</b>	<b>Volunteer shifts no.</b>	378		1300.32	344%		Based off children's workshop increases
	<b>Volunteer hrs</b>	588.15	\$16,468	2023.236	344%	\$56,651	Based off children's workshop increases

\* 8 weeks of workshops per 10-week term

We do however ever strongly believe that our success with engagement of the community is by not treating the child as a number, and often the greatest long term positive outcomes are not measured on standardised scales.

## Qualitative Outcomes

Toowoomba can be described as a 20-minute city where everything is a merely a short drive. This may sound like a nirvana to a reader from a larger capital city, yet for many, with its non-existent public transport system, this convenience becomes irrelevant. It is a city where two schools can catch a glimpse of each other, peering across from one side of the valley – The Toowoomba Anglican School with its boarding school cohort sourced from massive properties, and day students from the affluent east of Toowoomba, abundant resources, extra-curricular activities, scoring 90% on the ICSEA scale<sup>36</sup>; whilst Rockville State School scores 3%, has families living in cars, KinCare, foster care,

<sup>36</sup> [ACARA - Data Access Program](#)

and the largest percentage (48%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children of our regions schools. This amplifies the distinct disadvantage children experience in our region, something perhaps hidden within the vast scale of suburbs in capital cities where the 'never the twain shall meet' yet feeds into the community's superpower – these children are not invisible.

The story of one:

Examples of the diversity of children in our community demonstrating the need for the dynamic and creative responses and programs...

Sonny\* is only 8 years old, attending one of the local schools. He is a remarkable young boy who lives with his formidable aunt through the KinCare (indigenous foster care program). Despite the encouragement from his classroom teacher and an indigenous teacher aide, Sonny isn't engaged in the school program, finds it challenging to concentrate, struggles with the day-to-day NAPLAN driving curriculum, but his endearing nature shines through when we meet him for the first time. In a heartening discovery by a workshop facilitator as he participated in an outreach program hosted by The Lighthouse, when he is given a blank piece of paper and a selection of felt-tip pens, he transforms into an artist who can simultaneously draw and engage in a conversation. Throughout the project, Sonny not only created captivating drawings, but also actively participated in group discussions, comfortably holding eye-contact with the facilitator, and engaged in meaningful conversations. This artistic talent, perhaps hidden in the routine of school life, surfaced as a beacon on his potential abilities! Thanks to the collaboration, Sonny's sense of worth has flourished. The school recognised his artistic strengths and ingeniously have channelled them into an educational framework, enriching his learning experience. Sonny is now experiencing the transformative power of being seen, heard, and listened to – a journey culminating in an invitation to participate in a group market in the gallery, having received art resources that had been donated to the centre, meaning he can experience the thrill of realising an income from his creation, connecting him to the community. This unfolding narrative is a testament to the impact of recognising and nurturing an individual's strength even within a group setting.

Tom\* is attending a private school and is not categorised as belonging to a low socio-economic cohort, so initially doesn't conform to societal expectations of what a child in crisis looks like. He attended a workshop at the gallery with all classes in his year level, a formidable and cheerfully rowdy gaggle of over 60 children in one space at one time. As his peers frantically manoeuvred around the space seeking inspiration from the exhibition of paintings and drawing in chalk on the floor, he sat there, quietly. This was particularly unusual, and the teachers gathered on the other side of the room to observe him, for Tom had an aggressive tic, and here he was sitting perfectly still, listening to the classical music playing loudly to dampen the sound of the other children.

Katie \* came to the very first workshop offered at The Lighthouse. She has felt as though she is on the periphery and is now what we commonly describe as 'a tricky teen' struggling to communicate her emotional state. Observing Katie has meant we discovered the importance of assessment of the attendance rate can be as important an indicator to the success of a workshop as it was to measure for an increase in their self-efficacy. Additionally, positive feedback came from a relative, who shared that the weekly workshop is 'so important' to Katie and she is bereft in the school holidays and counts down the days until term starts again.



Samira \* has 6 siblings, and parents who don't speak English. They have never been read to, have no books at home, and have very limited resources despite being involved with the NDIS. Toowoomba has been recognised as a Refugee Friendly city, yet to be here without English is isolating for many families. Along with her sister, these two Yazidi teens, both with challenging physical issues, have 'discovered their voices' as they created a podcast series under the guidance of a volunteer mentor.

Adam \* has just turned 20. We met in the first week as he was engaged with one of our partner organisations. He had been involved with the Department of Youth Justice, and needed substantial support to secure housing, literacy skills, and he had a very diminished self-esteem. Some months he would be fully engaged, others he would slip back in with his old crowd. The death of a significant family member has propelled him to explore what a role of a young indigenous man in 2024 looks like, and he aspires of becoming a student to complete his Certificate IV – either youth work or community services. His literacy skills are at a level he can navigate day-to-day, but when we gave him assessed access to the Literacy For Kids program under the guise of 'practice', he struggled with Level 3 (which is in line with Year 3 at school). We haven't seen him for the last two weeks, despite organising for a tutor for one-on-one support. He doesn't not have stable at-home support. He will be back, and we must be patient.

\*The names of all the children have been changed.

These examples serve as a reminder that we often make the mistake of relying solely on low socioeconomic indicators to label children as needing assistance or intervention. We also can run afoul of the idea that one program delivered on one day at a time that fits the funding cycle or work calendar will fix everything for everyone. The truth is you can never accurately guess which children are neglected or abused or struggling in the educational setting bestowed upon them, nor can it be predetermined what solution is needed. The need to be flexible, creative, and to custom solutions by bringing together volunteers with superpowers into the space at a time that is mutually suitable can indeed mean substantial change in the wellbeing of the children.



# SWOT Analysis

## Strengths

- **Strong Community Engagement:** Established partnerships with local organisations and community groups enhance outreach and programme effectiveness, bolstered by three years of tried and tested initiatives.
- **Belief in value of the organisation:** Enhanced by experiencing firsthand a positive impact on children in the community.
- **Unique Value Proposition:** The integration of literacy and creativity programmes in a community precinct setting offers a distinctive and appealing experience, validated through successful pilot programmes and community feedback.
- **Dedicated Leadership:** Experienced founders and a committed team drive innovation and programme development, leveraging insights gained from extensive research and community interaction.
- **Diverse Revenue Streams:** Multiple income sources, including grants, donations, programme fees, and merchandise sales, contribute to financial sustainability, supported by a robust financial plan.
- **Collaborative Culture:** Emphasis on inclusivity and collaboration fosters a supportive environment for creativity and personal growth, demonstrated through collaborative projects and partnerships with local stakeholders



## Weaknesses

- **Financial Dependence:** Reliance on grants and donations for funding poses a risk to long-term sustainability and operational stability.
- **Limited Brand Awareness:** Despite local recognition, broader visibility and outreach efforts are needed to increase awareness and attract a wider audience.
- **Schools are not a general contact point (yet):** but rather, a teacher in an ambassadorial role who communicates with the decision makers on our behalf.
- **Resource Constraints:** Limited staff and financial resources may hinder the scalability and expansion of programmes and services.
- **Technological Infrastructure:** The development and integration of digital platforms, such as the BEAM Creative app, require ongoing investment and expertise.
- **Competitive Landscape:** Competition from other community centres and online learning platforms may challenge market penetration and programme differentiation.

## Opportunities

- Expansion of Partnerships: Further collaboration with schools, libraries, and cultural institutions can broaden reach and enhance programme impact.
- Digital Innovation: Leveraging technology, such as the BEAM Creative app, presents opportunities to extend programme accessibility and engagement.
- Community Events and Workshops: Hosting regular events and workshops can attract new participants, generate revenue, and strengthen community ties.
- Diversification of Revenue Streams: Exploring additional income sources, such as corporate sponsorships and fee-based services, can enhance financial resilience.
- Market Growth: Rising demand for literacy and creativity programmes, especially among children and families, presents opportunities for market expansion and programme development.

## Threats

- Economic Instability: Economic downturns or funding cuts may impact disposable income and reduce support for charitable organisations.
- Regulatory Changes: Changes in government policies or regulations may affect grant eligibility or fundraising activities, posing compliance challenges.
- Competition from Online Platforms: Increasing competition from online learning platforms and digital content providers may erode market share and programme demand.
- Staff Turnover: High turnover rates or recruitment challenges may disrupt programme continuity and impact service quality.
- External Factors: Natural disasters, public health crises, or socio-political unrest could disrupt operations and community engagement efforts.



## How we flip each weakness...

- **Financial Dependence:**
  - Diversify Revenue Streams: In the next five years, explore opportunities to generate income through fee-based services, merchandise sales, and corporate sponsorships to reduce reliance on grants and donations.
  - Financial Sustainability Plan: Develop a long-term financial sustainability plan that includes budget diversification, cost-saving measures, and fundraising strategies.
- **Limited Brand Awareness:**
  - Marketing and Outreach Campaigns: Invest in targeted marketing campaigns, social media outreach, and community events to raise awareness about the centre's offerings and increase visibility.
  - Community Engagement: Strengthen partnerships with local media outlets, schools, and community organisations to amplify outreach efforts and reach a broader audience. The superpower of regional centres is that city suburb silos don't exist. Additionally, in Toowoomba we are a reliable 20 minutes from any destination. A business owner is a parent, a volunteer, a donor. A teacher is a visitor to an art gallery, a workshop attendee, and a book donor. A reporter is an artist, a grandparent, and related to a teacher.
- **Resource Constraints:**
  - Volunteer Recruitment and Training: Develop a comprehensive volunteer recruitment and training programme to augment staff capacity and support programme delivery.
  - Grant Writing and Fundraising: Invest in staff training and professional development to enhance grant writing skills and fundraising capabilities, enabling the organisation to secure additional resources.
- **Technological Infrastructure:**
  - Digital Innovation Strategy: Prioritise the development and integration of digital platforms, such as the BEAM Creative app, by allocating resources and seeking external expertise.
  - Technology Partnerships: Explore partnerships with tech companies or educational institutions to access expertise and resources for app development and maintenance.
- **Competitive Landscape:**
  - Programme Differentiation: Continuously assess market trends and participant feedback to refine programme offerings and ensure differentiation from competitors.
  - Collaboration and Partnerships: Forge strategic partnerships with other community centres, educational institutions, and online platforms to expand reach and leverage complementary strengths.



## ... and mitigate each threat

- **Economic Instability:**
  - Diversified Funding Sources: Strengthen financial resilience by diversifying funding sources and establishing contingency plans to mitigate the impact of economic downturns or funding cuts.
  - Financial Planning and Risk Management: Conduct regular financial assessments, scenario planning, and risk analysis to identify potential vulnerabilities and proactively address economic challenges.
- **Regulatory Changes:**
  - Compliance Monitoring: Stay informed about changes in government policies or regulations affecting charitable organisations and adapt operational practices accordingly to ensure compliance.
- **Advocacy and Engagement:**
  - Participate in advocacy efforts and engage with policymakers to advocate for policies that support the charitable sector and promote funding stability.
- **Competition from Online Platforms:**
  - Enhanced Digital Presence: Invest in enhancing the centre's online presence, digital marketing efforts, and user experience to compete effectively with online learning platforms.
- **Value-Added Services:**
  - Offer unique value-added services, personalised experiences, and interactive content to differentiate the centre's offerings and attract participants.
- **Staff Turnover:**
  - Staff Retention Strategies: Implement staff retention initiatives, such as professional development opportunities, mentorship programmes, and competitive compensation packages, to reduce turnover rates and maintain a skilled workforce.
  - Succession Planning: Develop a succession plan and talent pipeline to ensure continuity of operations and programme delivery in the event of staff turnover.
- **External Factors:**
  - Business Continuity Planning: Develop and implement robust business continuity plans to mitigate risks associated with external factors, such as natural disasters, public health crises, or socio-political unrest.
- **Crisis Management and Response:**
  - Establish protocols and communication channels for crisis management and response to effectively address emergencies and ensure the safety and well-being of staff, participants, and stakeholders.

# Risk management

## Clear Monitoring and Evaluation

During the planning stage, a clear evaluation framework will be established. Throughout all activities data will be gathered which will be reviewed to track progress and impact. At regular intervals, data on program participation, outcomes, and community feedback will be collected and analysed to assess the effectiveness of initiatives and make necessary adjustments. And interim reports summarising achievements, challenges, and lessons learned will be provided to governing bodies.

At the conclusion of the funding, a comprehensive final evaluation of The Lighthouse Precinct project by an external evaluator will take place, summarising key achievements, outcomes, and impact on the community. This report will communicate findings to stakeholders, funders, and partners.

## Risk assessment

Risks that could impact our business and what we'll do to protect it.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Strategy
Financial Dependence	High	High	Diversify revenue streams, implement cost-saving measures, and establish a long-term financial sustainability plan.
Limited Brand Awareness	Medium	High	Invest in targeted marketing campaigns, social media outreach, and community engagement initiatives to increase visibility and awareness.
Resource Constraints	High	Medium	Develop a comprehensive volunteer recruitment and training programme, invest in staff training, and seek external expertise for grant writing and fundraising.
Technological Infrastructure	Medium	High	Prioritise digital innovation, allocate resources for technology development, and explore partnerships with tech companies for app development.
Competitive Landscape	Medium	Medium	Continuously assess market trends, differentiate programme offerings, and foster collaborations with other organisations to expand reach.
Economic Instability	High	High	Diversify funding sources, conduct regular financial assessments, and develop contingency plans to mitigate economic risks.
Regulatory Changes	Medium	Medium	Stay informed about regulatory changes, monitor compliance, and engage in advocacy efforts to influence policies affecting charitable organisations.
Competition from Online Platforms	Medium	High	Enhance digital presence, offer value-added services, and differentiate offerings to compete effectively with online platforms.
Staff Turnover	Medium	Medium	Implement staff retention initiatives, develop succession plans, and maintain a supportive work environment to reduce turnover rates.
External Factors	Low	High	Develop robust business continuity plans, establish crisis management protocols, and ensure staff are trained in emergency response procedures.

## Laws to comply with:

As a charity operating in Queensland, Australia, The Lighthouse must comply with various laws and regulations to ensure legal and ethical operation. Some of the key laws and regulations include:

- **Charities Act 2013** (Commonwealth): Governs the registration, reporting, and compliance requirements for charities at the federal level.
- **Associations Incorporation Act 1981** (Queensland): Regulates the incorporation and governance of associations, including charities, in Queensland.
- **Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) Governance Standards**: Sets out the governance standards that charities must adhere to, including requirements related to accountability, transparency, and responsible management.
- **Taxation Laws**: Charities are subject to various taxation laws, including those related to income tax exemptions, goods and services tax (GST), and fringe benefits tax (FBT).
- **Work Health and Safety Act 2011** (Queensland): Requires organisations to ensure the health and safety of their workers and others in the workplace.
- **Privacy Act 1988** (Commonwealth): Regulates the handling of personal information by organisations, including charities, and imposes obligations related to privacy protection.
- **Anti-Discrimination Laws**: Charities must comply with laws that prohibit discrimination based on characteristics such as race, gender, disability, and age.
- **Fundraising Regulations**: Govern the conduct of fundraising activities, including requirements for permits, disclosures, and accountability.
- **Child Protection Laws**: Require organisations working with children to implement child protection policies and procedures to safeguard the well-being of children involved in their programs.
- **Consumer Protection Laws**: Charities must comply with laws related to consumer rights and fair-trading practices when offering goods or services to the public.
- **Modern Slavery Act 2018** (Commonwealth): Requires certain entities, including large businesses and other organizations, to report on the risks of modern slavery in their operations and supply chains, and to take steps to address these risks. This law aims to combat modern slavery practices such as forced labour, human trafficking, and child labour, promoting ethical sourcing and labour practices across industries.

By adhering to these laws and regulations, The Lighthouse can ensure legal compliance and maintain the trust and confidence of its stakeholders and the wider community.





# Timelines

## Stakeholders and Draft Application and Planning (April | May 2024)

- Draft the strategic plan to apply for substantial funding for a 5-year timeline.
- Source applicable documentation, and letters of support<sup>37</sup>
- Supporters requested to add their own anecdote relating to The Lighthouse.

## Strategic Plan and Application (June 2024)

- Finalise the strategic plan to apply for substantial funding for a 5-year timeline. Applications for the Regional Precincts grant are answered within three months of reading in September.
- Assumption of success is imperative for planning, not an unwarranted sign of overconfidence nor unreal expectation. We have maintained a very transparent level of communication with all stakeholders and partners to-date, and whilst there is an appreciation the current model is not sustainable, all would like to see the organisation continue and flourish as they experience first-hand the impact.<sup>38</sup>

## Delivery of Application: (August 2024)

- Application delivered.

## Notification of Grant (November 2024)

- Notification re grant, start the recruitment process for key positions, including Chief Executive Officer, Programs/Events/Media Manager, Financial Officer, Facilities Manager, and Administrator/Receptionist.

## Planning, Design & Recruitment (December 2024)

- Finalise the recruitment process and onboard key personnel.
- Convene steering committee – to meet monthly to review and confirm milestones and budget.
- Initiate planning and design phase for the property fit-out and renovations, including obtaining necessary permits and approvals.
- Evaluation framework to be established.

## Renovations & Collateral Development (February 2025)

- Commence the renovation work on the property, focusing on essential infrastructure and facilities required for operation.
- Develop program marketing materials and promotional campaigns.

## Curriculum & Community Stakeholders and Mapping (February 2025)

- Continue with renovations, ensuring all aspects completed according to schedule and budget.
- Develop and finalise the detailed program offerings and curriculum for the centre, incorporating input from staff and community stakeholders.
- Conduct training sessions for staff and volunteers on program delivery, customer service, and safety protocols.
- Conducts a community engagement mapping for baseline statistics.

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<sup>37</sup> [Appendix 12: Memorandums of Understanding – Partnerships](#)

<sup>38</sup> [Appendix 13: Letters of Support](#)

### Launch Preparation (March 2025)

- Complete the fit-out and renovations of the property, ensuring all facilities are fully operational and compliant with safety standards.
- Conduct a soft launch of the centre, inviting select stakeholders and community members to preview the facilities and programs.
- Officially open The Lighthouse to the public with a grand reopening event and ribbon-cutting ceremony.
- Develop collateral: surveys and feedback mechanisms for measuring effectiveness and participant and partner response

### Program Rollout and Initial Evaluation (April - June 2025)

- Roll out the full suite of programs and activities offered by the centre, including literacy workshops, creative arts classes, and community events.
- Launch the BEAM Creative app and integrate it into program delivery to enhance engagement and accessibility.
- Evaluate the initial response and feedback from the community, incorporating adjustments to program offerings or operations.

### Mid-Year Review and Adjustments (July 2025)

- Conduct a comprehensive review of project progress including meta-analysis of all feedback (staff, collaborators, sponsors) and participant responses
- Evaluate the effectiveness of new programs and facility enhancements.
- Make necessary adjustments to plans and strategies based on feedback.

### Partnership Development and Collaboration (August - October 2025)

- Strengthen existing partnerships and develop new collaborations.
- Work closely with community organisations, educational institutions, and local businesses to expand outreach.
- Target additional funding and sponsorships from corporate partners and grants.
- Organise further collaborative community events and workshops.

### Program Expansion - Phase 2 (November 2025 - January 2026)

- Introduce new vocational training and career readiness workshops.
- Expand mental health support services within the youth hub.
- Launch additional creative arts workshops and community engagement activities.
- Enhance support for First Nations communities through targeted programs and cultural initiatives.

### Monitoring and Evaluation (December 2024 - February 2026)

- Planning stage includes establishing an evaluation framework.
- Throughout all activities data is gathered which is reviewed through the robust monitoring and evaluation framework to track progress and impact.
- Regularly collect and analyse data on program participation, outcomes, and community feedback.

- Conduct quarterly reviews to assess the effectiveness of initiatives and make necessary adjustments.
- Interim reports summarise achievements, challenges, and lessons learned.

### Final Evaluation and Celebration of rPPP support (March 2026)

- Conduct a comprehensive final evaluation of The Lighthouse Precinct project by an external evaluator.
- Summarise key achievements, outcomes, and impact on the community.
- Report communicates findings to stakeholders, funders, and partners.
- Host grand exhibition and celebration event to showcase the achievements of The Lighthouse Precinct.
- Acknowledge the contributions of donors, partners, and community members.
- Share the vision for the future of The Lighthouse Precinct and the sustainability plan for continued success.

These milestones will guide The Lighthouse Precinct project towards delivering its goals, ensuring effective implementation, continuous improvement, and long-term sustainability.

### And Beyond...

- Continue to promote the centre through ongoing marketing and outreach efforts, targeting schools, libraries, and community groups.
- Host special events and themed workshops to attract new visitors and engage with existing patrons.
- Conduct a comprehensive review of the centre's performance during the first six months of operation, identifying areas of success and opportunities for improvement.
- Build on the momentum of the centre's successful launch by expanding program offerings, forging new partnerships, and increasing community engagement.
- Explore additional revenue streams, such as merchandise sales, facility rentals, and fundraising events, to support long-term sustainability.
- Conduct regular staff meetings and training sessions to ensure alignment with organisational goals and objectives and to foster a culture of continuous improvement.



## Conclusion:

### Mission and Vision:

The Lighthouse is committed to inspiring literacy through storytelling, fostering resilience, empathy, and empowerment within our community. Our vision is to provide a safe and inclusive environment where children can explore and express their creativity, ultimately becoming resilient, empathetic, and empowered members of the community.

### Unique Value Proposition:

Our centre serves as a collaborative hub where various community organisations and creatives converge to promote literacy, creativity, and cultural diversity. Through innovative programs, strategic partnerships, and state-of-the-art facilities, we empower individuals to explore their passions, forge connections, and contribute to positive social change.

### Operational Strategies:

We will achieve our goals by developing diverse programs tailored to community needs, forging partnerships with local organisations, implementing fundraising activities, and integrating technology to enhance program delivery and engagement.

### Financial Plan:

Our comprehensive financial plan outlines income projections, expense estimates, budget allocations, and funding strategies to ensure the centre's sustainability and operational success.

### Property and Facilities:

We offer creative spaces for hire, including art rooms, meeting spaces, event spaces, and private offices, to generate revenue and support our operational expenses.

### Digital Technology:

We are developing the BEAM Creative app to enhance program delivery and engagement, providing a platform for creatives to connect with students and deliver workshops within their craft.

### Staffing and Training:

We are committed to attracting and retaining skilled staff through competitive salaries, professional development opportunities, and a supportive work environment.

### Timeline for Implementation:

We have outlined a detailed timeline for launching the centre, including milestones for recruitment, property renovations, program development, and community outreach.

**The Lighthouse is dedicated to achieving its mission and vision by providing innovative programs, fostering community partnerships, and creating a welcoming space where every child can unleash their creative potential. We are committed to making a positive impact on literacy, creativity, and community well-being in Toowoomba and beyond.**

# Appendix 1: Contributions to Date

Last updated: Mid-May 2024 (and growing by the day)

TOTALS OF ALL TIME		Total	\$\$ Worth
	Total Engagement No.	15988	
Events	Children's Workshops	542	\$189,700
	Adult Workshops	194	\$67,900
	Exhibitions / Events	63	
	Community Collaborations	43	
Demographics	Adults	8953	
	Children	6999	
Books	Books in	15063	\$225,945
	Books out	11514	\$172,710
Volunteers	Volunteer Shifts	837	
Volunteering	Emma hrs	3098.05	\$294,315
	Consultant in-kind	200	\$30,000
	Volunteer hrs	2250.3	\$61,324
Cleaning (50%)			\$5,751
Grants/Funding	Grants won	\$96,093	\$96,093
	Donations given	\$210,557	\$210,557
<b>DONATED TIME, RENT &amp; EXPERTISE</b>			
Duoroore Rent Donation			\$430,000
Volunteer Hours			\$385,639
Children's Free Workshops			\$189,700
Adult Free Workshops			\$67,900
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$1,073,239</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>			
Grants won			\$96,093
Donations			\$210,557
Books out			\$172,710
Cleaning (50%)			\$5,751
<b>TOTAL OTHER</b>			<b>\$485,111</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>\$1,558,350</b>

## Appendix 2: The State of Literacy in Australia's Children

### Key Findings:

- 58.46% of children were read to on a regular basis.
- Boys, children from low socioeconomic household, Indigenous children and children from non-English speaking households have higher rates of literacy incompetency.
- 21.7% of five-year-olds, 24.8% of students in Year 7 and 27.8% of students in their senior schooling years do not meet literacy expectations.
- 1 in 5 Year 9 students are not reaching the national minimum standards in writing.
- Students are struggling more with writing than reading.
- Employers are complaining about the level of foundational skills.

Arguably the skill that best prepares children for their future is literacy. A strong foundation in reading and writing enables children to convey their emotions and ideas in more complex ways and is the catalyst for further learning in other areas. As such the encouragement of language at a young age is critical to the development of children's literacy skills. Looking at data relating to children's literacy, one can ascertain that there is a strong need for facilitators outside of the classroom or home to further encourage and champion children's literacy.

Based on self-efficacy surveys conducted of 479 children in Southern Queensland by the Lighthouse Toowoomba, data was obtained on the age, gender, cultural background and whether those children were frequently read to. This data was analysed to determine how a child's background can affect whether they were to. Of these children, whose ages range between 7 and 16, 58.46% were read to on a regular basis (more than 3 nights a week). This shows a significant lack of an important facilitator of children's literacy development, being read to. This is supported by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in a report which illustrates how regular reading to young children "has been associated with children's greater vocabulary and higher cognitive," (*Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2020*) and that it also contributes to the strengthening of social and emotional skills and relationship bonds. Turning back to The Lighthouse data, by breaking it down to specific backgrounds, one can see an evident difference between them. Looking at gender, females (at 62.92%) are being read to more than males, with males being regularly read to 52.83% of the time. This discrepancy highlights real and significant issues in society between the genders. Another of the background looked at was the effect of being an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or not on whether children were read to. As expected, there was a significant difference with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders being read to 47.06% of the time whereas those not of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent are frequently read to 59.81% of the time. Like with genders, this contrast is significant and warrants further investigation and indeed attention. Clearly, there is a need for an external provider of this integral educational function as children just are not being read to enough.

Other reports tell similar stories about the state of children's literacy in Australia. Victoria University in conjunction with the Mitchell Institute composed a report on the

education levels of Australian from early years to young adulthood. It was reported that 21.7% of five-year-olds in Australia are not development enough for entry to school (*Lamb et al., 2020*). In the same report, it was noted that 24.8% of students in Year 7 did not achieve the expected literacy skills and 27.8% of students in their senior schooling years did not meet the literacy expectations. These statistics paint an interesting picture can could be interpreted two ways. The first picture is that as these statistics were gathered at the same time, one can deduce that Australian education is improving from where it was 5-10 years ago as those in the younger years have the highest percentage of students hitting the mark of literacy standards with the senior students having the lowest. The second tale is that perhaps the years in between five-year-olds and Year 7 students, and Year 7 students and senior students are not adequate at preparing students for the next phases in their education. It is difficult to assess which picture fits the data best, however it does not cover the fact that a significant percentage of Australian children's literacy skills are not developed to the standards of the national benchmark. Another point made in the report corroborates the findings of The Lighthouse data that boys, children from low socioeconomic household, Indigenous children and children from non-English speaking households have higher rates of literacy incompetency (*Lamb et al., 2020*). How can one improve outcomes for these groups? There is a strong case for external organisations who, with support from communities, can offer programs to these children to help them improve their literacy skills.

Breaking down literacy into reading and writing provides another interesting viewpoint to see the state of children's literacy in Australia. Past results of NAPLAN show the percentage of students who are at or above the national minimum standard for reading and writing. Figure 1, which shows the data for reading, tells a much more positive picture about the state of literacy. Aside from the data for Year 9 in 2021 and 2022, all the year levels have 91% or above of students reaching or exceeding the national minimum standard, a good sign about children's literacy. However, the data fails to account for children not in school who arguably are more prone to a bellow standard reading level. Figure 2, which displays to writing data, shows a less acceptable image. In Year 3 and 5, the data is quite promising with all-bar-one result having 90% or above of students obtaining acceptable results. However, in Year 7 and 9 the results are less than desirable. The best result for Year 7 was back in 2011 where 91.1% of students obtained adequate scores. At least for Year 7, none of the results fell past 85%. Like Year 7, the best result for Year 9 was in 2011 where 84.8% of students reached the national minimum standard. For Year 9 approximately 1 in 5 students are not reaching the minimum standard, a harrowing fact considering writing is a foundational skill in life. As a general trend for both figures, the percentage of students reaching the minimum standard decreases as students advance through their schooling, begging the question; are the standards placed on students too high or are students not being adequately prepared? Either way, something needs to be done, otherwise Australia's children's literacy skills will only become worse.

Students		Scores							Nature of difference	
		2008	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022	2008 vs. 2022	2021 vs. 2022
Year 9	Mean / (S.D.)	578.0 (67.0)	580.8 (65.8)	580.9 (66.0)	584.1 (64.1)	581.3 (67.2)	576.8 (71.4)	577.6 (70.8)	■	■
	% at or above NMS	92.9	92.8	91.7	93.4	91.8	89.7	89.6	▲	■
Year 7	Mean / (S.D.)	536.5 (68.2)	540.8 (67.6)	544.7 (69.4)	542.2 (67.7)	546.3 (67.4)	542.3 (67.9)	542.6 (65.7)	■	■
	% at or above NMS	94.2	94.6	94.0	94.1	94.5	93.8	94.2	■	■
Year 5	Mean / (S.D.)	484.4 (76.5)	501.5 (77.1)	505.7 (77.0)	509.3 (75.0)	506.1 (70.7)	511.3 (70.4)	509.7 (69.1)	▲	■
	% at or above NMS	91.0	93.0	93.9	94.9	94.7	95.1	95.0	▲	■
Year 3	Mean / (S.D.)	400.5 (84.5)	425.6 (85.6)	431.3 (86.9)	433.8 (83.9)	432.2 (86.0)	437.9 (86.9)	437.8 (92.3)	▲	■
	% at or above NMS	92.1	95.1	94.9	95.6	95.9	95.9	95.5	▲	■

Figure 1: NAPLAN Reading Statistics (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, 2022)

Students		Scores							Nature of difference	
		2011	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022	2011 vs. 2022	2021 vs. 2022
Year 9	Mean / (S.D.)	565.9 (86.5)	549.1 (77.0)	552.0 (86.2)	542.4 (83.3)	548.8 (78.7)	550.6 (82.1)	559.9 (81.7)	■	■
	% at or above NMS	84.8	82.9	81.6	79.5	82.4	82.2	84.1	■	■
Year 7	Mean / (S.D.)	529.1 (75.8)	515.0 (70.6)	512.9 (76.0)	505.3 (74.0)	513.2 (71.0)	522.0 (74.1)	529.8 (75.6)	■	■
	% at or above NMS	91.1	89.7	87.9	86.9	89.4	89.7	90.6	■	■
Year 5	Mean / (S.D.)	482.6 (69.3)	475.6 (63.0)	472.5 (64.4)	464.7 (67.8)	474.1 (64.5)	479.9 (65.2)	484.3 (70.6)	■	■
	% at or above NMS	92.5	93.2	91.7	89.8	92.8	93.3	92.6	■	■
Year 3	Mean / (S.D.)	415.9 (67.1)	420.7 (62.0)	413.6 (65.7)	407.1 (69.5)	422.5 (63.1)	425.3 (62.6)	422.1 (64.5)	■	■
	% at or above NMS	95.3	96.3	95.5	94.4	96.3	96.7	96.2	■	■

Figure 2: NAPLAN Writing Statistics (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, 2022)

So, what does this data say? It highlights that there is a significant portion of children in Australia who desperately need further attention to improve their literacy levels so they can become contributing members of society. No longer can literacy development be left in that hands of parents, caregivers, and school because clearly it is not doing enough. As such, one can see a gap in the market for an external facilitator of literacy development in children. This is where organisations such as The Lighthouse can fulfill that gap and help to increase literacy levels in Australia’s children. The numerous programs undertaken by the Lighthouse has reached hundreds of children in southern Queensland and provides the chance to only



help but encourage children to become invested in improving their reading and writing skills. One such of these programs gave children from low socio-economic backgrounds the opportunity to collaborate on authoring and illustrating their own book.

This experience not only opened the student's eyes to a future of writing but instilled self-confidence in them. The continuation, further establishment and constant support of these organisations will aid in help reaching those students who are in need in of it and thus would positively affect their future outcomes as employers are calling for action to be taken on poor levels of foundational skills (Campbell, 2022). Therefore, organisations like the Lighthouse should become more integral parts of education as they support and supplement regular schooling.

There is no doubt that there is a strong case for looking at external facilitators to improve literacy levels in children. With statistics painting a dismal future for many children in Australia, the championing of literacy through organisations like the Lighthouse will aid in increasing the outcomes of students. Literacy forms the foundation of everything because if children cannot learn to read, how can they read to learn?

by Evie Imray, December 2023  
The Lighthouse Toowoomba

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## Appendix 3: Organisational Structure

2025 - Position	Annual Salary	Hours	Cost	Per hr
The Board (6 Members)	\$0		\$0	
Founder/Director	\$0	0.5	\$0	
Chief Executive Officer	\$145,000	1	\$145,000	\$69.71
Programs and Communication Manager	\$115,000	1	\$115,000	\$55.29
Financial Manager	\$115,000	1	\$115,000	\$55.29
Senior Office Administrator	\$115,000	1	\$115,000	\$55.29
BEAM Creative Application Manager	\$80,000	1	\$80,000	\$38.46
Administrator/Receptionist	\$80,000	1	\$80,000	\$38.46
Workshop Facilitators / Consultants	\$88,462	0.5	\$44,231	\$42.53
Volunteers				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$738,462</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>\$694,231</b>	<b>\$355</b>

2026 - Position	Annual Salary	Hours	Cost	Per hr
The Board (6 Members)	\$0		\$0	
Founder/Director	\$0	0.5	\$0	
Chief Executive Officer	\$147,900	1	\$147,900	\$71.11
Programs and Communication Manager	\$117,300	1	\$117,300	\$56.39
Financial Manager	\$117,300	1	\$117,300	\$56.39
Senior Office Administrator	\$117,300	1	\$117,300	\$56.39
BEAM Creative Application Manager	\$81,600	1	\$81,600	\$39.23
Administrator/Receptionist	\$81,600	1.5	\$122,400	\$39.23
Workshop Facilitators / Consultants	\$90,231	0.5	\$45,115	\$43.38
Volunteers				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$753,231</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>\$748,915</b>	<b>\$362</b>

2027 - Position	Annual Salary	Hours	Cost	Per hr
The Board (6 Members)	\$0		\$0	
Founder/Director	\$0	0.5	\$0	
Chief Executive Officer	\$150,858	1	\$150,858	\$72.53
Programs and Communication Manager	\$119,646	1	\$119,646	\$57.52
Financial Manager	\$119,646	1	\$119,646	\$57.52
Senior Office Administrator	\$119,646	1	\$119,646	\$57.52
BEAM Creative Application Manager	\$83,232	1	\$83,232	\$40.02
Administrator/Receptionist	\$83,232	1.5	\$124,848	\$40.02
Workshop Facilitators / Consultants	\$92,035	0.8	\$73,628	\$44.25
Volunteers				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$768,295</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>\$791,504</b>	<b>\$369</b>

2028 - Position	Annual Salary	Hours	Cost	Per hr
The Board (6 Members)	\$0		\$0	
Founder/Director	\$0	0.5	\$0	
Chief Executive Officer	\$153,875	1	\$153,875	\$73.98
Programs and Communication Manager	\$122,039	1	\$122,039	\$58.67
Financial Manager	\$122,039	1	\$122,039	\$58.67
Senior Office Administrator	\$122,039	1	\$122,039	\$58.67
BEAM Creative Application Manager	\$84,897	1	\$84,897	\$40.82
Administrator/Receptionist	\$84,897	2	\$169,793	\$40.82
Workshop Facilitators / Consultants	\$93,876	0.8	\$75,101	\$45.13
Volunteers				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$783,661</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>\$849,783</b>	<b>\$377</b>

2029 - Position	Annual Salary	Hours	Cost	Per hr
The Board (6 Members)	\$0		\$0	
Founder/Director	\$0	0.5	\$0	
Chief Executive Officer	\$156,953	1	\$156,953	\$75.46
Programs and Communication Manager	\$124,480	1	\$124,480	\$59.85
Financial Manager	\$124,480	1	\$124,480	\$59.85
Senior Office Administrator	\$124,480	1	\$124,480	\$59.85
BEAM Creative Application Manager	\$86,595	1	\$86,595	\$41.63
Administrator/Receptionist	\$86,595	2	\$173,189	\$41.63
Workshop Facilitators / Consultants	\$95,754	0.8	\$76,603	\$46.04
Volunteers				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$799,335</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>\$866,778</b>	<b>\$384</b>

### The Board

- 6 Members
- Provides governance and oversight to the organisation, setting policies and strategic direction.
- Each member serves a maximum two-year term and before requiring to run for re-election.

### Steering Committee:

- A diverse steering committee comprising representatives from partner organisations, community leaders, and local government officials will oversee the project.
- This committee will ensure that all voices are heard and that the project aligns with community needs.

### Brains Trust:

- This community advisory group provide ongoing feedback and guidance, representing various community sectors, and will evolve to include youth, educators, artists, and First Nations groups.

### Chief Executive Officer:

- Strategy Review: Sets strategic direction and long-term goals for the organisation.
- Lead Partnership Initiatives: Cultivates and manages relationships with external partners and stakeholders.
- Programming: Oversees Programs and events held at the centre.

- Operations: Manages day-to-day operations and ensures smooth functioning of the centre.
- Human Resources: Handles personnel matters, including recruitment, training, and performance management.
- Financial Management: Manages budgeting, accounting, and financial reporting.
- Grants and Funding: Identifies grant opportunities and manages grant applications and reporting.
- Data and Evaluation: Collects and analyses data to evaluate program effectiveness and inform decision-making.

#### Financial Manager:

- Financial Management: Manages budgeting, accounting, and financial reporting.
- Grants and Funding: Manages grant applications and reporting.

#### Programs and Communication Manager:

- Program Creation & Content Development & Management: Develops and oversees programs and content related to creativity and literacy.
- Media Management: Oversees media relations and communications efforts to promote the organisation's activities.
- Lead Fundraising Initiatives: Develops and implements fundraising strategies to support the organisation's mission.

#### Senior Office Administrator

- Property Maintenance: Supervising the maintenance and upkeep of the centre's premises, including buildings, grounds, and facilities.
- Facility Management: Managing the day-to-day operations of the centre's facilities, including scheduling repairs, coordinating cleaning services, and addressing any maintenance issues promptly and efficiently.
- Tenant Management: Overseeing the leasing of office spaces within the centre, including tenant onboarding, lease negotiations, and tenant relations, to ensure a positive and collaborative environment for all occupants.
- Health and Safety Compliance: Ensuring compliance with health and safety regulations and standards.

#### BEAM Creatives Application Manager:

- App Development: Develops and maintains the BEAM Creative application.
- App sales and support.

#### Administrator/Reception:

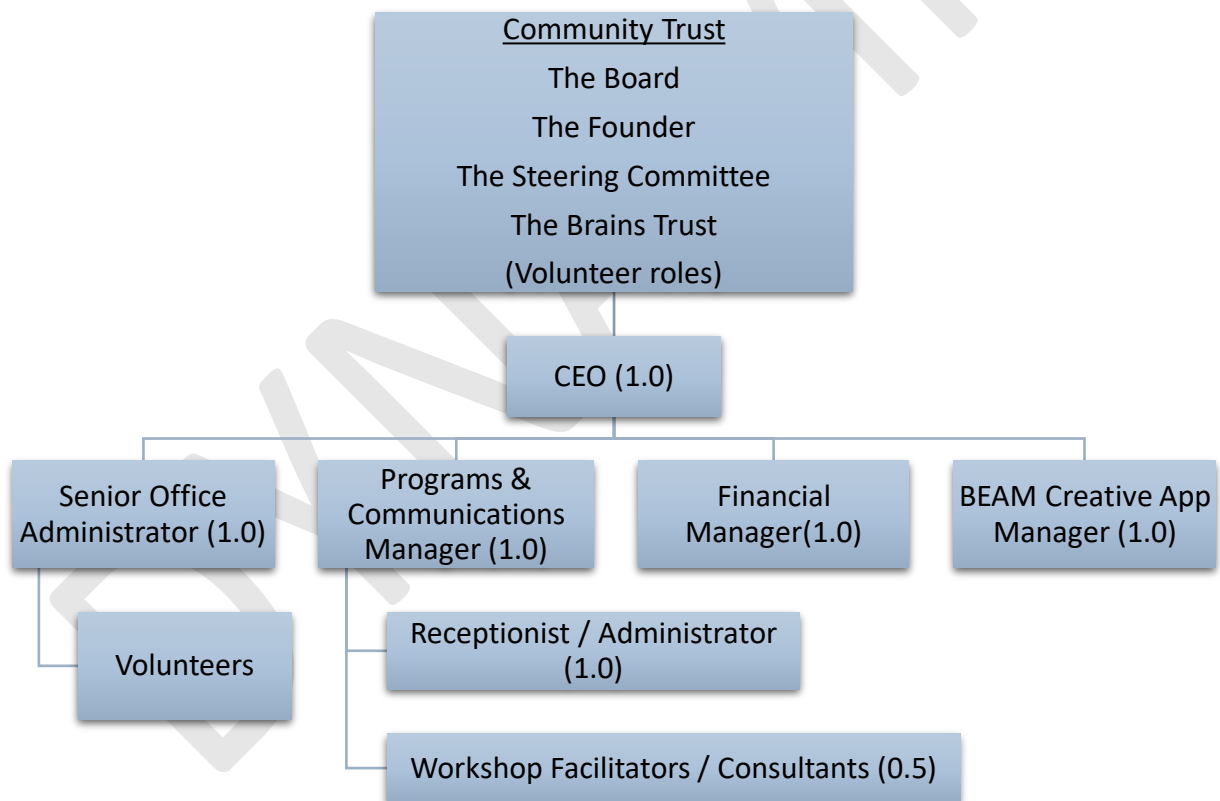
- Receptionist: Greets visitors, answers phones, and provides general administrative support.
- Day-to-day administration support: Assists with various administrative tasks as needed.
- Website management: Updates and maintains the organisation's website.
- Event support: Provides logistical support for events held at the centre.

### Workshop Facilitators / Consultants:

- Offering a variety of children’s workshops to the community and responding to the needs of our children.
- This role will be shared amongst many different facilitators, and work to their strengths
- The goal is a minimum of 5 workshops per week, focusing on different literacy and creativity approaches and ages.

### Volunteers

- Duties will be allocated based on the Volunteers superpowers
- Tracking volunteer hours to enable us to celebrate the substantial contribution of individuals. For example, an ex-librarian has contributed over 100 hours sorting books for our Twinkles program. This meant flowers and a gift and recognition in our newsletter.
- Training events further developing their own skills.
- Social events and priority membership for events staged by third parties.



## Appendix 4: The Rabbit Hole

Children have an opportunity to expand their skills in a dedicated writing centre, to deep dive into a passion, or to reattach themselves to the joy of writing in wildly creative literacy-based workshops in the space. Just as art is exhibited, writing is published.

### The Rabbit Hole Publication

- Appoint an editor-in-chief
  - In turn invites a guest editor each publication
- Quarterly publication showcasing the latest writing of the children attending the centre.
- Includes links to audio literacy (podcasts)
- Includes photos and art

### The Child Writes Program

For the Founder, to have started this entire project leveraging off 20 years of experience working with children, guiding them through the entire process involved with creating a children's picture book – from the original idea, through the writing stages, to illustration, and beyond, and returning to it near the conclusion of this strategic business plan, is deeply satisfying!

The Child Writes Program is at the core of programming for writing workshops for The Rabbit Hole. The nature and incredibly intensity of this comprehensive program, being 24 weeks of interaction, also makes it an attractive opportunity for donors to contribute to, as the non-negotiables include workshops and a minimum print run of 1000 copies per title, distributed free, or free by donation.



## Appendix 5: Amber to Green – Youth Hub

Shipping containers as a dedicated space with especially curated and crafted programs to encourage engagement for disaffected teens who have withdrawn from the traditional education system or are at risk of doing so. The development of any programs is to be in direct consultation with partners and the children themselves on a need's basis.

It will rely on values of respecting privacy, of understanding, and empathy. Children at risk must feel safe (think of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs) prior to engaging with learning. At times they will seem to appear unreliable when in fact they may be without a roof over their head instead; disengaged but it could be they haven't eaten; not interested yet they simply need to be heard.

The programs or opportunities are useful to understand by way of example:

### Podcast | 'If only someone asked us 'why'!'

We have a full podcast kit – mixing desk, four microphones, headphones, and spaces to record conversations ensuring privacy and anonymity. Inputs are still required - access to a consultant with sound engineering experience – as there is capacity to publish the conversations as a traditional podcast series.

### Podcast | 'Our World'

Samah and Rawah are proudly the architects of this new podcast series, supported by volunteer David Illiffe (usually found on ABC Southern QLD Radio!) The girls are both at high school, are disabled, and the opportunity for this arose from a conversation with Range Allied Health as they attempted to 'find' a means for them both to discover their voices. Fast forward a year, and the series is due for release to an audience at the end of May 2024. The girls have accessed a breathing coach to assist them with their voice work, a vitally important addition to their future wellbeing.

### Art (Therapy)

By giving the youth writers centre (to be referred to as The Rabbit Hole from 2025 onwards) and then the Gallery for an exhibition, Adapt Mentorship were able to attract and retain participants in art sessions given the proviso of attendance = exhibition!

### Tutors

Sourcing volunteers from the community for one-on-one educational support on a need's basis. Currently we have an ex-merchant banker on-site for drop-ins to enquire about financial literacy; and an ex-teacher to work with a 20-year-old Aboriginal man who is tapping into the education system for the first time since he left school at 14, helping him with his Certificate IV TAFE course.

### Workplace ready...

A suite of employability skill-based workshops including but not limited to resume building, interview techniques, networking skills, Australian workplace culture, and financial literacy, as well catering for young entrepreneurs and alternative career pathways. Life, literacy, and learning!

## Adapt Mentorship - Youth Hub Partnership<sup>39</sup>

The only Indigenous led and indigenous-focused youth at risk outreach program in Toowoomba, offering programs for young people and their families to engage in support, mentorship, and circuit breaker crime intervention projects for the most vulnerable and disengaged youth in our community.



<sup>39</sup> [Appendix 7: Adapt Mentorship - Youth Hub Partnership](#)



## Appendix 6: Twinkles Program Expanded

*Twinkle, twinkle, oh little star  
Reading will take you e'er so far...*

There are three parts to creating a reading program:

- finding children who were not read to last night,
- finding readers to read,
- getting books to children who need them.

We started with some general personal beliefs...

- Every parent wakes each day wanting to be the best parent they can be!
- Every parent knows they really should read to their children, just as they should give them shelter, food, and clothing.
- Children love being read to. Yes, even the squirmy wiggly ones adore receiving the positive attention of an adult.  
We were curious if the lack of books in homes was a resource issue, rather than one dominated by lack of interest.

So why then don't parents read to their children?

Our understanding comes from gently raising this with parents and carers; from our primary data questionnaire that accompanies the self-efficacy survey children complete for each of our workshops; boldly asking in parent groups online; and reading general articles and research from academics and organisations such as Australia Reads.

The reasons we uncovered included:

- Don't have time or simply too tired to read
- Don't know how to read or how to read aloud<sup>40</sup>
- Don't want to 'get it wrong' (often cited by parents for whom English is a second language)
- Don't have books at home<sup>41</sup>
- Child is on a 'No borrow' list at school
- No resources to purchase books<sup>42</sup>
- No storage | no room | insecure housing
- Not member of local library
- Simply don't like it!

We started a One-Way Library with the idea that book lovers are readers who are prolific book buyers, creating an abundance of books available for donation. Having a street-front means we can accept donations. Having a space dedicated to reading shows we value reading. It is also not intimidating like the local library.

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<sup>40</sup> <https://booksinhomes.com.au/about/our-reason/>

<sup>41</sup> [https://www.aph.gov.au/About\\_Parliament/Parliamentary\\_Departments/Parliamentary\\_Library/FlagPost/2018/November/PISA-and-books](https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/FlagPost/2018/November/PISA-and-books)

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/oct/10/growing-up-in-a-house-full-of-books-is-major-boost-to-literacy-and-numeracy-study-finds>

School children visit their school library each week, so are familiar with (the titles teachers share in their classroom, especially the classics). Children accompanying their parents with a caseworker from the Department of Child Safety to visit our 'One-Way Library' get excited when they recognise a book they have been read at school. We wanted to make books accessible, and a program design that encouraged reading.

## 1. One-Way Library

- Accept donations of preloved books (over 10k to date)
- Allocating time and volunteer hours to sorting the donations
- Produced a 'This book belongs to' sticker so recipient children could take ownership.
- Gift every child in a class group their own bundle of books
  - GOAL: to actively increase donations by utilising social network community groups to call out for books – 13+k books out by 2025
  - GOAL: to recruit 2 regular volunteers to sort books each week

## 2. Twinkles Book Club

- The Lighthouse Toowoomba – perfect to develop a relationship
  - Current: 1 volunteer, 1 hour per week
  - Outreach at schools – perfect solution for time-poor parents
  - Currently three outreach sites.
  - GOAL: to increase this by an additional 6 sites each year (Total of 9 in 2025)
- Actively recruiting volunteers – likely to be active readers themselves
  - ex-teachers who understand the value of reading regularly
  - parents who, even if they are unable to purchase books for their own library at home, they are likely to be part of the 15% of the population who regularly visit their town library
  - GOAL: to recruit 20 volunteers to read in schools in 2025



### 3. 1-For-5 Program

- Children who attend five (5) FREE workshops at The Lighthouse to then offer to volunteer to read to younger children at their school
  - Report back – number of children read to
  - Support a Twinkles Reading Buddy program whereby children are rewarded for working with their peers listening to them read

### 4. Educational Support Dog

- As supported by the research done by Assistance Dogs Australia, reading to a support dog has been shown to enhance reading skills, build confidence, reduce stress and anxiety, develop social skills, foster emotional connection, and overall cultivate a love of reading
  - GOAL: Recruit a READING SUPPORT DOG – offer along with Twinkles Volunteers where required

### 5. Social Media (TikTok) Campaign – Read to Lead

- Show parents / carers how to read, and there is no barrier that cannot be overcome!
  - Books not in language? Talk about the pictures or make up a story
  - Not sure how to read? Talk about the pictures or make up a story
  - Not practiced? It's more than okay to make mistakes!
  - No books? Come and get some! (Info re: Street Libraries)
  - Don't want to? It can be fun!
  - Too tired? Find volunteers (see Twinkles Outreach) as perfect solution for tired / time-poor parents

### 6. The Living Library Program

- An ambitious initiative involving bringing elderly individuals from care homes to playgrounds, where they act as living "books," inviting questions and conversations from visitors.
  - Think of the ABCTV shows *Old People's Home for 4-Year-Olds* with *You Can't Ask That!*
  - Cataloguing (for example)
    - Elderly – 'classic titles'
    - Local sporting heroes – 'sports'
  - Children will also be able to access titles from other categories as the program builds – volunteers allocated based on their expertise and experience.



## Appendix 7: Adapt Mentorship - Youth Hub Partnership

Adapt Mentorship (Adapt) is an Indigenous led small and mighty Social Enterprise created in 2015 (originally known as Young Bruthas Mentorship), founded by Adam and Susy Wenitong who each have over 25 years' experience in management and coordination roles across the sector and who have been involved in leading and creating flagship innovative projects within the Toowoomba community.

Whilst Adapts focus on youth and crime prevention and early intervention, they also consult with community, government organisations and NGOs and Toowoomba Regional Council to assist in First Nations culture and community discussions, consultancy and creation of innovative projects and workshops. In addition to increasing numbers of youth accessing their service, they are also seeing an increase in the number of First Nation children as young as 8 years old who have no support mechanisms in place utilising their service weekly for basic needs such as food, clothing and safety. Adapt operates the only Indigenous led and indigenous-focused youth at risk outreach program in Toowoomba, offering up to three program opportunities per week for all young people and their families to engage in support, mentorship, and circuit breaker crime intervention projects for the most vulnerable and disengaged youth in our community.

One of the key differences with Adapt is that the service is a hub model that provides linkages to other key youth services providers throughout the Southwest Queensland region and beyond. Adapts professionalism, innovative, trust and expertise has built and sustained supportive partnerships across the sector including Government and NGOs, Universities, Corporates etc in the many years of our management roles across the community sector and we believe this is why we have such great successes, due to the succinct relationships sustained with other service providers and collaborations from them in our projects has been key to create linkages and provide youth with a pathway to access services.

Adapt has a tribe of mentors' partnership group with members from the following committed organisations who they assist as well as create supported pathways and cultural opportunities for young people and their families:

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| o Dept Youth Justice and Youth Justice RT | o TAFE Toowoomba                                   | o Lives Lived Well                       |
| o Catholic Care                           | o Grand Central Shopping Centre                    | o CQUni/ ACI research partnership        |
| o Life Without Barriers                   | o The Lighthouse Toowoomba                         | o UniSQ                                  |
| o Qld Police Service                      | o Bunya Mountain Rangers                           | o Community Pathways College (Toowoomba) |
| o Domestic Violence Action Centre         | o Carbal and Goolburri Indigenous Medical Services | o Inclusive Counselling                  |
| o Bunya Peoples Aboriginal Corporation    | o Base Services                                    | o Civic Assist Street Crew               |
|   |  | o Black Coffee Network                   |

Adapt works closely with Traditional Owners, Elders and Custodians in all aspects of our programs including permissions of knowledge sharing and to utilise traditional sites. Together we can broaden our impact, reach more young people, and continue our mission of creating hope and reducing youth crime in our region. Goal: 5 sessions per week, 8 weeks per term, 4 terms per year.

## Appendix 8: The Write Gallery

Artists have two options when it comes to submitting for a gallery exhibition – they need to create a body of work (which means a lead-time of at least 18 months); or they have a body of work to share. In both instances, the cost of setting up an exhibition are considerable. In 2022, 2023, and 2024, we trialled the idea of:

- Charging a weekly hire rate, in line with commercial rates in the CBD, whereby the artist had complete autonomy over the exhibition, the space, and who was included in the space.
- Charging a significantly reduced weekly hire rate (50% of above), in partnership with The Lighthouse, to create a child-accessible exhibition where school groups are welcome (think GOMA!), and ticketed events, workshops, meetings – the community is welcome, and the space is utilised by many.
- Giving the space to serve a particular purpose:
  - The students who benefit directly from the Yalari Scholarships have a ‘pay forward’ exhibition where they create work, and at an opening event, sell the work to guest to raise money for Yalari!
  - The Field Guide ‘Ode to Toast’ – The Field Guide is Toowoomba’s most substantive street quarterly publication supporting the arts, culture, and events. Leaning into a significant following, hosting a quirky exhibition included 20+ artists who are invited to paint a local scene ‘on toast’!
- The exhibitions held in 2022, 2023, and 2024 have all relied on grants for the artists from a diverse array of donors, including the Toowoomba Regional Council, State Government, and philanthropic organisations.

For 2025, our goal is to ask for submissions nationally from children’s picture book illustrators that focus on local, state-based, national, or international themes of merit. Our partners will have the first option to accept, and we aim to support exhibitions based on picture books or child-friendly themes, to encourage the conversations - for example:

### January

**How to Read** program | First Five Program | Twinkles volunteer recruitment

*(Toowoomba Regional Council Libraries | Dept Child Safety)*

- Choose 5 picture books to feature in an exhibition / recruit reading champions / read-aloud sessions under the exhibitions by local authors.

### February

Love! Community | Family | Connection - International Book Giving Day Feb 14

*(Lifeline Darling Downs | Goolburri | Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce | Toowoomba Hospital Foundation)*

(World Social Justice Day | National Apology Day | Random Acts of Kindness Day)

- Experiential exhibition... embellishing hearts to build

### March

The Environment | Earth Hour | International Read to Me Day Mar 19



## April

Anzacs | National Volunteer Month

## May

Everyday heroes | Seasons – The Autumnal  
(*The Empire – Sydney Writers Festival 'Live + Local'*)

## June

Diversity – Rainbow Month | LGBTIQ+  
(Lifeline *Darling Downs*)

- Invite acclaimed children's picture book author and illustrator Scott Stuart to visit, create exhibition and events based on his books.

## July

NAIDOC – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
(*Yalari | First National Arts and Culture Collective*)

- *Art is the language of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people and the FNACC are in the process of creating educational workshops which support this conversation.*

## August

Amber to Green  
(*Adapt Mentorship | Emerge | Flexi School | Dept Youth Justice*)

- *Workshops by partners to create a body of art to be displayed for sale in gallery. The children receive 100% of the proceeds.*

## September

Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers – floral themed exhibition  
Talk Like a Pirate Day Sep 19  
(*Toowoomba Regional Council*)

## October

QLD Mental Health Month  
(*Momentum Mental Health*)

- *For example, Matt Ottley showed the illustrations and workings of the internationally acclaimed book 'The Tree of Ecstasy and Unbearable Sadness'*

## November

Multicultural Australia  
International Day for Tolerance | World Kindness Day  
(*Mercy Services | Toowoomba International Multicultural Society*)

## December

Summer...  
Celebrate!  
Fill the space with holiday activities and reading events  
Plus, open up the One-Way Library for gift wrapped preloved books!

Goal: 12-month long exhibitions per year, with a minimum of 4 events per exhibition.



## Appendix 9: BEAM Creative App Overview

### Defining the Problem<sup>43</sup>

In Australia, low literacy levels persist as a pressing societal challenge, as highlighted by recent conclusions presented by the Grattan Institute reporting on the state of reading ability of Australia's school students. These conclusions underscore that about one in three Australian school students are not mastering the reading skills they need, indicating a systemic failure to adequately support these children. Despite advancements in education and technology, a significant portion of the population struggles with basic literacy skills, hindering their ability to fully participate in economic, social, and cultural spheres. This persistent problem not only affects individual opportunities but also imposes broader economic and societal costs, reinforcing the urgency for targeted interventions and policy reforms to address the root causes and improve literacy outcomes across the nation.

The following report reading sheds light on some of the barriers facing Australian students when it comes to the development of reading skills as well as pointing out important recommendations for positive changes that must take place to address this problem. The full report includes extensive evidence and explanation that clarifies *what* the problem is as well as factors that continue to fuel the problems described in the data today.

### Where do we come in?

The recent Grattan Institute report underscores the urgency of addressing Australia's alarming reading levels by proposing immediate actions *within* educational institutions. However, it's crucial to recognise that the issue of low literacy levels is emblematic of a multifaceted challenge extending far beyond the classroom. This broader problem is influenced by a myriad of factors, both internal and adjacent to the education system. While schools play a significant role, societal, familial, and economic dynamics also contribute to the complexities of overall literacy development. Therefore, while prompt interventions within schools are imperative, as recommended by *The Reading Guarantee*, a comprehensive approach addressing the various dimensions of the issue is necessary for sustainable progress in improving literacy rates across Australia.

By focusing on the following evidence-based indicators of improvement, the work being done at The Lighthouse will assist the work being done within the education sector (State, Catholic and Independent) as they commit to substantial policy reforms that focus on improving practice within schools.

### Where can we effect change?<sup>44</sup>

As stated above this is a large and very complex situation with several factors at play. Evidence supports that, as well as consistent evidence-based practice and leadership within schools, the following factors are integral to overall improvement in student reading levels, and as a result, students' overall academic outcomes. *See pg. 14 of The Reading Guarantee: Box2: Why focus on reading?* for more insight on the role that reading levels play in overall educational success.

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<sup>43</sup> [Grattan Institute Report: The Reading Guarantee: How to Give Every Child the Best Chance of Success](#)

<sup>44</sup> [Encouraging positive engagement with reading and writing \(education.vic.gov.au\)](#)

Please note, the following resources and references sighted have been limited for this document, which is designed as a snapshot, however more extensive references and evidence is available and will be expanded upon as the process continues.

Evidence shows that enjoyment, such as that fostered through creative workshops like those offered by organisations such as The Lighthouse, is paramount for reading development. Engaging activities not only captivate students' interest but also instil a sense of excitement and passion for reading. When students participate in such workshops, they often discover new stories, ideas, and perspectives, which further enrich their reading experiences. Additionally, interactive sessions encourage active participation and critical thinking, enhancing comprehension and analytical skills. Therefore, integrating enjoyable experiences into reading programs can significantly contribute to fostering a lifelong love for reading and nurturing students' overall literacy development.<sup>45</sup>

Engagement plays a pivotal role in boosting reading skills and literacy among students, highlighting the importance of providing immersive and genuinely interesting experiences to foster this engagement. When students are actively engaged in reading materials that capture their interest and relevance, they are more likely to develop a deeper comprehension of content and enhance their overall literacy skills. Emphasising the significance of integrating authentic and meaningful reading experiences into educational settings is essential to cultivate a passion for reading and bolster academic achievement. In the study linked above, the reference to the SMILE framework is particularly helpful in reiterating the importance of positive experiences (such as those facilitated by teaching artists through the Lighthouse and similar creative spaces) has on student self-efficacy and overall academic improvement.<sup>46</sup>

Parent and caregiver involvement plays a pivotal role in fostering school engagement and shaping student outcomes. Australian governments acknowledge the fundamental importance of parents and families in supporting children's learning, development, and wellbeing. The Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians, endorsed by all Australian Ministers for Education in 2008, underscores the significance of family, school, and community partnerships. Parent engagement in learning has emerged as a central focus within the Australian Government's schooling policy reforms, aimed at enhancing outcomes for all students nationwide. Moreover, out-of-school educational experiences, such as those facilitated by artists and creatives at the Lighthouse, offer unique and authentic opportunities for parents to actively engage in their children's education. These experiences not only enrich the learning process but also contribute positively to student outcomes by fostering stronger bonds between families and educational institutions.<sup>47</sup>

It is important to recognise the crucial role of offering students' creative spaces where they can be inspired by a diverse range of stimuli and learn in a freeform and uninterrupted manner. Although a lot of the recommendations from the Grattan Institute and similar government and non-government bodies focus on schools, there remain many barriers (physical, operational, time-related and expertise related) present that prevent schools from being able to offer such environments for learners. The Lighthouse and its creative workshops epitomise such spaces, providing an environment that cannot be easily replicated in traditional school settings. Here, students can access learning experiences that nurture their curiosity, encourage experimentation, and ultimately enhance their engagement and

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<sup>45</sup> [How Reading Motivation and Engagement Enable Reading Achievement: Policy Implications](#)

<sup>46</sup> [Australian Government DoE Support for Parent Engagement \(with links to various relevant fact sheets\)](#)

<sup>47</sup> [Reference 'Unnecessarily Beautiful Spaces for Young Minds on Fire'](#)



learning outcomes overall. A clear illustration of the power of creative spaces for the development of young writers and the promotion of artistic exploration, *Unnecessarily Beautiful Spaces for Young Minds on Fire* by The International Alliance for Youth Writing Centres<sup>48</sup> is a captivating exploration of the transformative power of creative environments for young minds. Through a collection of essays, anecdotes, and insights from educators, writers, and mentors, the book delves into the importance of nurturing creativity and imagination in today's youth. The book is instructive in that it celebrates the significance of creating spaces that inspire and ignite passion, fostering a love for writing and self-expression.

## What the BEAM App Offers

BEAM, the innovative app powered by Lighthouse and iNSPIRETEK plays a pivotal role in enhancing reading outcomes by fostering heightened engagement and creating opportunities for students to immerse themselves in meaningful and authentic educational experiences. Acting as a vital platform for creatives, BEAM empowers them to establish themselves as presenters, develop profiles, and plan and deliver workshops to students within their craft. By bridging the gap between professional creatives and students, BEAM facilitates enriching educational experiences for students. This innovative approach leverages the powerful cultural capital of industry professionals, providing students with invaluable opportunities to engage in workshops that complement and enhance their existing school experiences. Through BEAM, students benefit from direct interaction with experts, gaining insights and inspiration to fuel their creative journeys and build strong literacy skills.

### Progress so far:

Currently, our focus in developing the app lies in collecting and curating a diverse array of supportive resources essential for creatives to establish themselves as workshop presenters. Artists will utilise the app to craft their presenter profiles and plan their workshops, ensuring alignment with all legal and logistical requirements for student presentations. Additionally, our collaboration with iNSPIRETEK is progressing as we finalise the visual aesthetics, operational functions, and user experience elements of the app. We are nearing completion in selecting colours, defining unique branding elements, and designing the logo, which will distinctly represent the BEAM app.

### Distilled as Key Takeaways (See Infographic)

Evidence and the **why** from the Grattan Institute Report: *'The Reading Guarantee'*, the AFR article *'Reading Fail: How Australia Can Prevent and Illiteracy Tragedy'* and The Guardian article *'Screen Time Robs Average Toddler of Hearing 1000 Words Spoken by Adults a Day, Study Finds'*

Who is Impacted?

- About **one in three** Australian students are poor readers
- **Two in three** disadvantaged students are not reading proficiently
- **Half** of regional and remote students are not reading proficiently
- The average toddler missed out on hearing 1000 words spoken by adults around them per day due to increased screentime

Cost to the Students

- Students who struggle with reading are more likely to fall behind, become disruptive, drop out of school, and end up unemployed or in poorly paid jobs

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<sup>48</sup> [The International Alliance of Youth Writing Centers](#)

- According the AFR report, **93%** of employers say poor literacy and numeracy impedes their business, according to a 2013 Australian Industry Group survey

#### Cost to the Country

- For those students in school today who are hardest hit by poor reading performance, the cost to Australia is about \$40 billion over their lifetimes

#### What we know:

- Literacy rich environments are integral
- Teacher professional development needs to be heavily based on evidence-based approaches to teaching reading effectively
- Increased screen time is negatively impacting language development in young children before they even enter the schooling system
- Once a student has low reading ability, is difficult for them to succeed in other aspects of schooling, have a positive relationship with learning, or develop the self-efficacy or drive to complete high school or to continue learning at a tertiary level

#### What can we do?

- We need to support families, and the education system
- build a positive rapport with learning by providing rich, meaningful and engaging experiences with creative industry professionals
- Create opportunities for moments of self-discovery (when the light goes on...) and the child is engaged / reengaged.
- Support creatives wellbeing whilst promoting best practice from a business perspective. This may include guiding them in the design of workshops, sourcing spaces and resources needed to provide enriching workshops and experiences to school-aged students,
- and ambitiously, develop an application that defines creativity in qualitative and quantifiable terms that government departments, local councils, and philanthropists insist recipients of donations and grants use to assess the value of the workshops given to children

by Sarah Huelin, March 2024  
The Lighthouse Toowoomba



## Appendix 10: Capital Campaign: ‘Keep the Light Burning Brightly’

Please find below the draft outline for a capital campaign to raise funds for The Lighthouse Precinct to ensure its longevity once the rPPP funding is no longer available. The goal is to ensure longevity for the organisation to continue to support the community. We can put this plan into effect once the rPPP funding is approved as the staff numbers and time needed to ensure its success will be in place.

**The Lighthouse Toowoomba’s goal of raising \$1,750,000 per year for 3 years:**

### Overview:

- To continue our vital work, we are launching the Keep Lights Burning capital campaign.

### Why “Keep the Light Burning Brightly”?

The metaphor of a lighthouse symbolises guidance, safety, and hope. Just as a lighthouse keeps its light burning to guide ships through stormy seas, we aim to keep the light of creativity and education shining for our community.

### Campaign Goals:

- Financial Goal: Raise \$1,750,000 annually for the following 3 years once the rPPP support ends.
- Purpose: Ensure the sustainability and growth of The Lighthouse and its partnerships
- Impact: Expand our reach, enhance our facilities, and continue providing community creativity and support.

### Ways to Contribute:

#### Individual Donations:

- Encourage community members, parents, and art enthusiasts to contribute directly.
- Highlight the impact of their donations on children’s lives and the community.
- Set up an online donation portal and organise fundraising events.

#### Corporate Partnerships:

- Approach local businesses, corporations, and philanthropic organisations.
- Offer sponsorship opportunities, naming rights, and recognition.
- Emphasise the alignment of their brand with creativity, education, and community support.

#### Grant Applications:

- Research and apply for grants from government bodies, foundations, and arts councils.
- Highlight our track record, community impact, and plans for future.

#### Legacy Gifts and Bequests:

- Encourage supporters to include The Lighthouse in their wills.
- Promote the idea of leaving a lasting legacy for future generations.

#### Fundraising Events:

- Organise art exhibitions, literary festivals, and creative workshops.
- Engage local artists, writers, and performers.
- Use events to raise funds and awareness.

## Campaign Timeline:

Year 1: \$750,000

- Rent on premises- Yr. 1
- Enhance the youth writers' centre.
- Launch new literacy & Bridging skills to employment programs.

Year 2: \$1,000,000

- Rent on premises- Year 2
- Collaborate with schools and libraries.
- Host community art installations.

Year 3: \$1,750,000

- Rent on premises. Yr. 3
- Establish an endowment fund.
- Celebrate our achievements with a grand exhibition.

Note: Rent On Premises- It is crucial the centre remains in City of Toowoomba due to public transport and limited parking, well known issues with our Government- Federal State and Local.

## Recognition and Gratitude:

- Acknowledge donors through plaques, social media, and newsletters.
- Host an annual appreciation event for campaign supporters.
- Share success stories of children impacted by The Lighthouse Toowoomba.

## Conclusion:

Keep Lights Burning is not just a campaign; it is a commitment to nurturing creativity, literacy, and community spirit. Together, we can ensure that The Lighthouse remains a beacon of inspiration for generations to come.

Remember, every contribution matters, and together, we can keep the lights burning!

For more information or to make a donation, visit [The Lighthouse Toowoomba website](#).



## Appendix 11a: 5 Year Budget (Version 1)

Version 1 provides a comprehensive 5-year plan demonstrating our commitment to longevity, security, and community connections in Toowoomba.

The Lighthouse: Version 1				The Lighthouse: Version 2					Notes
Profit & Loss	Actual		Budget						
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Notes
<b>Income</b>									
rPPP Income				\$2,150,000	\$1,600,000	\$1,650,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,750,000	The Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (rPPP)
Workshops & Sales	\$15,485	\$11,258	\$600	\$0	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	Including the Explorers Emporium
Memberships/ Sponsorship	\$96,102	\$98,179	\$50,000						This is entirely dependant on additional staff
Grants	\$39,850	\$49,243	\$20,000						rPPP will replace other grant applications
Shipping Container Office				\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Dedicated 'messy space' for all our budding artists and collaborators - ideally with ties to the Youth Hub
Office Rent and Short-term Hire	\$33,449	\$48,309	\$72,400	\$3,900	\$5,460	\$6,240	\$7,020	\$7,800	Working up to \$150 per week renting spaces/equipment for one-off events. Offices will be given to collaborative organisations.
Miscellaneous Income	\$0	\$500							
BEAM Creative App income				\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	*This information is still forthcoming as the app is in development stage
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$184,886</b>	<b>\$207,489</b>	<b>\$143,000</b>	<b>\$2,153,900</b>	<b>\$1,615,460</b>	<b>\$1,671,240</b>	<b>\$1,727,020</b>	<b>\$1,777,800</b>	

Expenses			
Grant & Programs Expenditure	\$32,194	\$62,503	\$20,000
Precinct fit out and			
Children's Rolling Workshops			
One-Way Library			
The Write Gallery			
Youth Hub (Shipping Container)			
Youth Hub Partnership Programs - Emerge & others			
Youth Hub Partnership Program: Adapt Mentoring			

					Expanded in lines below
\$500,000					To include but not limited to: IT systems, air conditioning, disability access, accessible kitchenette for partners, carpark signage, gallery refurbishment, design of The Rabbit Hole, dedicated One-Way library fit out, security cameras.
\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	Based on \$200 for materials per workshop per term @ 5 workshops a week and 4 terms per year
\$25,080	\$25,080	\$25,080	\$25,080	\$25,080	Based on library stickers and materials @ \$0.25 per book with an average of 100320 books in per year (2023 figures)
\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	Painting and restoration after installations and exhibitions
\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Purchase and fit out of shipping container
\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	Youth Hub will be run by our Partnerships with Emerge Toowoomba and others - see corresponding Appendix
\$290,000	\$290,000	\$290,000	\$290,000	\$290,000	Adapt Mentoring Partnership run programs include Street, Podcasting, upskilling etc

The Rabbit Hole Quarterly (Publication)				\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	Showcasing the children's creativity within the region
Advertising & Marketing	\$2,228	\$10	\$200	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	
Depreciation	\$1,044								
Discounts & Donations	\$1,881	\$463	\$500						
Dues & Subscriptions	\$1,781	\$2,087	\$1,320	\$1,980	\$2,178	\$2,396	\$2,635	\$2,899	Figure is 1.5 times the 2024 budget to allow for the larger space/tenant numbers/participants - it also increases by 10% each year (includes CRM, Calendly, Website, Point of Sale, Dropbox)
Fees and Charges	\$362	\$308	\$300	\$450	\$495	\$545	\$599	\$659	Figure is 1.5 times the 2024 budget to allow for the larger space/tenant numbers/participants - it also increases by 10% each year
Insurance	\$1,468	\$1,311	\$2,500	\$3,750	\$4,125	\$4,538	\$4,991	\$5,490	Figure is 1.5 times the 2024 budget to allow for the larger space/tenant numbers/participants - it also increases by 10% each year
Employment Expenses	\$89,765	\$76,045	\$137,052	\$694,231	\$748,915	\$791,504	\$849,783	\$866,778	See V2 Staff tab
BEAM employment expenses									
Cleaning	\$2,214	\$2,511	\$3,240	\$6,480	\$6,804	\$7,144	\$7,501	\$7,876	In the trial 50% of cleaning was gifted by a donor, this will cease at the end of 2024.
Maintenance				\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	

Outgoings	\$37,818	\$35,750	\$39,000						This is included in the Rent/Lease below as per the Colliers lease agreement
Electricity	\$2,146	\$5,287	\$5,200						Electricity outgoings is covered by the landlord lease
Internet	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,782	\$1,960	\$2,156	\$2,372	\$2,609	Figure based on current \$99 per month increased by 50% due to tenants and a 10% increase per year
Security Monitoring	\$504	\$480	\$480	\$720	\$792	\$871	\$958	\$1,054	Figure is 1.5 times the 2024 budget to allow for the larger space/tenant numbers/participants - it also increases by 10% each year
Rent/Lease	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$286,326	\$296,347	\$306,719	\$317,455	\$328,565	Based on Colliers lease agreement received (initial \$260296.2) with a fixed 3.5% rental increase per year+10%GST
Printing	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,240	\$6,240	\$6,240	\$6,240	\$6,240	Based on \$120 per week (incl printer rental and printing)
Employment sinking fund									
Partnership sinking fund									
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$173,406</b>	<b>\$186,755</b>	<b>\$209,792</b>	<b>\$2,146,539</b>	<b>\$1,612,437</b>	<b>\$1,666,693</b>	<b>\$1,737,114</b>	<b>\$1,766,752</b>	

Operating Profit	\$11,480	\$20,734	-\$66,792	\$7,361	\$3,023	\$4,547	-\$10,094	\$11,048	Request Board input to better explain the run-down of our 100K loan to invest in the BEAM App for 2024
<b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$11,480</b>	<b>\$20,734</b>	<b>-\$66,792</b>	<b>\$7,361</b>	<b>\$3,023</b>	<b>\$4,547</b>	<b>-\$10,094</b>	<b>\$11,048</b>	



Figures in blue were in-kind in Version 1 at The Lighthouse Toowoomba and have been allocated below

In-Kind Version 1				In-Kind Version 2					
Figures from engagement numbers	2022	2023	To date 2024 (June)						
Lease / Rent	\$215,000	\$215,000	\$215,000						
Internet	\$1,188	\$1,188	\$215,000						
Printing	\$1,355	\$1,355	\$1,355						
Founders Salary	\$134,591	\$111,535	\$48,189	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	
Volunteer Salaries	\$30,818	\$16,468	\$14,038	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	Based on 40 volunteer hours a week @ \$25/hr for 40 weeks per year
Consultant Salaries	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	Based on 100 hrs per year @ \$150/hr
Books out	\$23,175	\$107,850	\$41,685						
Children's workshop value	\$48,300	\$104,300	\$37,100						
Adult workshop value	\$21,000	\$30,800	\$16,100						
<b>Total In-kind Expenses</b>	<b>\$490,427</b>	<b>\$603,496</b>	<b>\$588,466</b>	<b>\$135,000</b>	<b>\$135,000</b>	<b>\$135,000</b>	<b>\$135,000</b>	<b>\$135,000</b>	
<b>Total Expenses including in-kind</b>	<b>\$663,833</b>	<b>\$790,251</b>	<b>\$798,258</b>	<b>\$2,281,539</b>	<b>\$1,747,437</b>	<b>\$1,801,693</b>	<b>\$1,872,114</b>	<b>\$1,901,752</b>	

## Appendix 11b: rPPP Budget (Version 2)

Version 2 of the budget reflects a strategic and well-defined financial plan tailored to meet the grant requirements and project objectives. By delineating clear expenditure priorities and outcomes, the budget serves as a valuable tool for project planning, implementation, and monitoring, ensuring efficient use of resources and successful achievement of project milestones.

The Lighthouse: Version 1				The Lighthouse: Version 2		Notes
Profit & Loss	Actual		Budget	FinYear		Notes
	2022	2023	2024	Dec24/25	25/26	
<b>Income</b>						
rPPP Income				\$3,000,000	\$5,450,000	The Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (rPPP)
Workshops & Sales	\$15,485	\$11,258	\$600	\$0		Including the Explorers Emporium
Memberships/ Sponsorship	\$96,102	\$98,179	\$50,000			This is entirely dependant on additional staff
Grants	\$39,850	\$49,243	\$20,000			rPPP will replace other grant applications
Shipping Container Office						Dedicated 'messy space' for all our budding artists and collaborators - ideally with ties to the Youth Hub
Office Rent and Short-term Hire	\$33,449	\$48,309	\$72,400	\$2,275	\$3,900	Working up to \$150 per week renting spaces/equipment for one-off events. Offices will be given to collaborative organisations.
Miscellaneous Income	\$0	\$500				
BEAM Creative App income						*This information is still forthcoming as the app is in development stage
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$184,886</b>	<b>\$207,489</b>	<b>\$143,000</b>	<b>\$3,002,275</b>	<b>\$5,453,900</b>	

<b>Expenses</b>	
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Grant & Programs Expenditure	\$32,194	\$62,503	\$20,000
Precinct fit out and			
Children's Rolling Workshops			
One-Way Library			
The Write Gallery			
Youth Hub (Shipping Container)			
Youth Hub Partnership Programs - Emerge & others			
Youth Hub Partnership Program: Adapt Mentoring			
The Rabbit Hole Quarterly (Publication)			
Advertising & Marketing	\$2,228	\$10	\$200
Depreciation	\$1,044		
Discounts & Donations	\$1,881	\$463	\$500

		Expanded in lines below
\$600,000		To include but not limited to: IT systems, air conditioning, disability access, accessible kitchenette for partners, carpark signage, gallery refurbishment, design of The Rabbit Hole, dedicated One-Way library fit out, security cameras.
\$2,000	\$4,000	Based on \$200 for materials per workshop per term @ 5 workshops a week and 4 terms per year
\$12,540	\$100,320	Based on library stickers and materials @ \$0.25 per book with an average of 100320 books in per year (2023 figures) then bought in advance in year 2
\$2,000	\$2,000	Painting and restoration after installations and exhibitions
\$100,000	\$5,000	Purchase and fit out of shipping container
\$116,667	\$200,000	Youth Hub will be run by our Partnerships with Emerge Toowoomba and others - see corresponding Appendix
\$169,167	\$290,000	Adapt Mentoring Partnership run programs include Street, Podcasting, upskilling etc
\$20,000	\$35,000	Showcasing the children's creativity within the region
\$10,000	\$5,000	Initially larger cost due to promotion and brand awareness

Dues & Subscriptions	\$1,781	\$2,087	\$1,320	\$3,000	\$5,000	Figure is 1.5 times the 2024 budget to allow for the larger space/tenant numbers/participants - it also increases by 10% each year (includes CRM, Calendly, Website, Point of Sale, Dropbox)
Fees and Charges	\$362	\$308	\$300	\$600	\$660	Figure is 2 times the 2024 budget to allow for the larger space/tenant numbers/participants - it also increases by 10% each year
Insurance	\$1,468	\$1,311	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$11,000	Figure is 2 times the 2024 budget to allow for the larger space/tenant numbers/participants - paid 2 years in advance with a 10% increase in second year
Employment Expenses	\$89,765	\$76,045	\$137,052	\$404,968	\$748,915	See V2 Staff tab
BEAM employment expenses						
Cleaning	\$2,214	\$2,511	\$3,240	\$7,560	\$14,256	In the trial 50% of cleaning was gifted by a donor, this will cease at the end of 2024 includes double increase in space to clean
Maintenance				\$2,000	\$2,200	
Outgoings	\$37,818	\$35,750	\$39,000			Covered by landlord
Electricity	\$2,146	\$5,287	\$5,200			Covered by landlord
Internet	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,040	\$1,960	Figure based on current \$99 per month increased by 50% due to tenants and a 10% increase per year
Security Monitoring	\$504	\$480	\$480	\$420	\$1,584	Figure is 1.5 times the 2024 budget to allow for the larger space/tenant numbers/participants - it also increases by 10% each year and paid 2 years in advance during 25/26

Rent/Lease	\$0	\$0	\$0
Printing	\$0	\$0	\$0
Employment sinking fund			
Partnership sinking fund			
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$173,406</b>	<b>\$186,755</b>	<b>\$209,792</b>

\$1,535,412		Based on Colliers lease received \$260,296.2 with a fixed 3.5% rental increase per year plus GST, paid 5 years in advance (outgoings included)
\$3,640	\$6,240	Based on \$120 per week (incl printer rental and printing)
\$0	\$2,508,065	Employment expenses sinking fund to 2029
	\$1,470,000	
<b>\$2,996,013</b>	<b>\$5,411,201</b>	

Operating Profit	\$11,480	\$20,734	-\$66,792
<b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$11,480</b>	<b>\$20,734</b>	<b>-\$66,792</b>

\$6,262	\$42,699	Request Board input to better explain the run-down of our 100K loan to invest in the BEAM App for 2024
<b>\$6,262</b>	<b>\$42,699</b>	

Figures in blue were in-kind in Version 1 at The Lighthouse Toowoomba and have been allocated below

In-Kind Version 1			
Figures from engagement numbers	2022	2023	To date 2024 (June)
Lease / Rent	\$215,000	\$215,000	\$215,000
Internet	\$1,188	\$1,188	\$215,000
Printing	\$1,355	\$1,355	\$1,355
Founders Salary	\$134,591	\$111,535	\$48,189

In-Kind Version 2		
		FY24/25 in on 7 months Dec24-June25
\$93,333	\$160,000	

Volunteer Salaries	\$30,818	\$16,468	\$14,038
Consultant Salaries	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0
Books out	\$23,175	\$107,850	\$41,685
Children's workshop value	\$48,300	\$104,300	\$37,100
Adult workshop value	\$21,000	\$30,800	\$16,100
<b>Total In-kind Expenses</b>	<b>\$490,427</b>	<b>\$603,496</b>	<b>\$588,466</b>
<b>Total Expenses including in-kind</b>	<b>\$663,833</b>	<b>\$790,251</b>	<b>\$798,258</b>

\$23,333	\$40,000	Based on 40 volunteer hours a week @ \$25/hr for 40 weeks per year
\$8,750	\$15,000	Based on 100 hrs per year @ \$150/hr
\$94,369	\$161,775	Based on 2023 figures*1.5
\$91,263	\$156,450	Based on 2023 figures*1.5
\$79,200	\$46,200	Based on 2023 figures*1.5
<b>\$390,248</b>	<b>\$579,425</b>	
\$3,386,261	\$5,990,626	

DYNAMIS

## Budget under rPPP Headings

rPPP Headings	2024/25	2025/26	TOTAL
Materials for construction	700,000	5,000	705,000
Hired/leased plant	1,538,412	5,000	1,543,412
Labour	406,968	3,258,981	3,665,949
Labour on-costs			-
Contract	305,393	1,981,456	2,286,849
Travel			-
Other Eligible Expenditure (grant)	45,240	160,764	206,004
In-kind	390,248	579,425	969,673
In-kind & Other Grant Expenditure	435,487	740,189	1,175,677
<b>Financial year totals</b>	<b>3,386,261</b>	<b>5,990,626</b>	<b>9,376,887</b>
rPPP Grant			8,407,215

## Appendix 12: Memorandums of Understanding – Partnerships

As a living document we are happily sharing drafts as we continue consultation with the community! The following people, each of whom we have worked closely with since February 2022, have agreed to share a letter of support for our application:

### List of Partnerships and Memorandums of Understanding

- [Emerge Youth](#)
- [Newtown State School Community Hub](#)
- [Adapt Mentorship](#)
- [Momentum Mental Health](#)
- [First Nations Arts and Culture Collective](#)
- [Book Links](#)
- [inSPiRETEK](#)
- [You Belong](#)



# Memorandum of Understanding: Emerge Youth

## The Lighthouse Toowoomba + [insert organisation name]

### Memorandum of Understanding

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This is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between:

**The Lighthouse Toowoomba (part of The Child Writes Fund)**  
ABN: 16615584480 of 126 Margaret Street, Toowoomba City, Qld, Australia 4350 (referred to in this document as 'The Lighthouse')  
and  
**[Emerge Youth Inc]**  
ABN: [83 854 059 327 of [647 – 649 Anzac Avenue, Drayton, QLD 4350] (referred to in this document as 'Emerge Youth')

#### Duration of the MOU

- The MOU will apply from the date the document is signed and will continue to apply until termination by either party on the giving of one (1) month's written notice to the other.

#### Scope

- The Lighthouse and Emerge Youth are committed to maintaining a positive and cooperative working relationship.
- The Lighthouse and Emerge Youth are committed, where practicable, to work collaboratively to deliver support to the children of Toowoomba.
- As part of the parties' mutual commitment, The Lighthouse and Emerge Youth will act in accordance with the spirit and intent of this MOU, even though neither party intends that it be legally binding.

#### Goals and objectives

- place children and young people at the core
- ensure collaborative partnerships with each other and other community organisations and services in the region
- approach all outcomes with the goal of increasing wellbeing, equity, self-efficacy and resilience in the children and young people in our region
- Literacy, creativity, empathy, and connections will remain at the heart of all initiatives
- Maintain the effective use of storytelling – multimodal opportunities - as a tool for empathy, confidence, empowerment

#### Roles and responsibilities

- The parties will nominate a minimum of one member each to:
- to plan, implement and evaluate the obligations under the MOU
- to develop procedures and guidelines
- to meet at a minimum of once a month to discuss the implementation of its responsibilities

#### Procedures and guideline

- The parties agree to comply with and direct their staff members to comply with all procedures and guidelines developed under this MOU. Including but not limited to:
  - Child Safety Code of Conduct
  - Children Protection Policy
  - Code of Ethics Policy
  - Workplace Health and Safety
  - Volunteer Policy

**Confidentiality**

- The parties acknowledge that information disclosed by one party to the other (the disclosing party) during the subject matter of this MOU may be confidential and unless required by law must not be disclosed to a third party except with the prior written consent of the disclosing party.

**Dispute resolution**

- If a dispute or difference arises between the parties out of or in connection with this MOU, either party may give the other a written notice specifying the dispute or difference.
- Within 7 days of the date of the notice, a person holding a position of senior management of each party must meet and undertake negotiations in good faith, and by reference to the goals and set out above, with a view to resolving the dispute or difference.

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**The Lighthouse Toowoomba**



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Signature

---

Emily MacManus

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Print Name

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COO

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Title  
09 May 2024

---

Date

**Emerge Youth Inc.**



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Signature

---

Jennifer Shaw

---

Print Name

---

CEO

---

Title  
09<sup>th</sup> May 2024

---

Date

# Memorandum of Understanding: Newtown State School

## The Lighthouse Toowoomba + Newtown State School

### Memorandum of Understanding

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This is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between:

**The Lighthouse Toowoomba (part of The Child Writes Fund)**  
ABN: 16615584480 of 126 Margaret Street, Toowoomba City, Qld, Australia 4350 (referred to in this document as 'The Lighthouse')  
and  
**Newtown State School**  
ABN: 24 137 755 493 of Albert Street, Newtown, (referred to in this document as 'Organisation Name')

#### Duration of the MOU

- The MOU will apply from the date the document is signed and will continue to apply until termination by either party on the giving of one (1) month's written notice to the other.

#### Scope

- The Lighthouse and Newtown State School are committed to maintaining a positive and cooperative working relationship.
- The Lighthouse and Newtown State School are committed, where practicable, to work collaboratively to deliver support to the children of Toowoomba.
- As part of the parties' mutual commitment, The Lighthouse and Newtown State School will act in accordance with the spirit and intent of this MOU, even though neither party intends that it be legally binding.

#### Goals and objectives

- place children and young people at the core
- ensure collaborative partnerships with each other and other community organisations and services in the region
- approach all outcomes with the goal of increasing wellbeing, equity, self-efficacy and resilience in the children and young people in our region
- Literacy, creativity, empathy, and connections will remain at the heart of all initiatives
- Maintain the effective use of storytelling – multimodal opportunities - as a tool for empathy, confidence, empowerment

#### Roles and responsibilities

- The parties will nominate a minimum of one member each to:
  - to plan, implement and evaluate the obligations under the MOU
  - to develop procedures and guidelines
  - to meet at a minimum of once a month to discuss the implementation of its responsibilities

#### Procedures and guideline

- The parties agree to comply with and direct their staff members to comply with all procedures and guidelines developed under this MOU. Including but not limited to:
  - Child Safety Code of Conduct
  - Children Protection Policy
  - Code of Ethics Policy
  - Workplace Health and Safety
  - Volunteer Policy

**Confidentiality**

- The parties acknowledge that information disclosed by one party to the other (the disclosing party) during the subject matter of this MOU may be confidential and unless required by law must not be disclosed to a third party except with the prior written consent of the disclosing party.

**Dispute resolution**

- If a dispute or difference arises between the parties out of or in connection with this MOU, either party may give the other a written notice specifying the dispute or difference.
- Within 7 days of the date of the notice, a person holding a position of senior management of each party must meet and undertake negotiations in good faith, and by reference to the goals and set out above, with a view to resolving the dispute or difference.

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The Lighthouse Toowoomba

Newtown State School

Emily MacManus

Jason Callcott

Chief Operating Officer

Principal

24 May 2024

23 May 2024

# Memorandum of Understanding: Adapt Mentorship

## The Lighthouse Toowoomba + Adapt Mentorship Memorandum of Understanding

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Date: 10 May 2024

This is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between:

**The Lighthouse Toowoomba (part of The Child Writes Fund)**

ABN: 16615584480 of 126 Margaret Street, Toowoomba City, Qld, Australia 4350 (referred to in this document as 'The Lighthouse')

and

**Adapt Mentorship**

ABN: 81 429 537 800 of Toowoomba City, Qld, Australia, Info@adaptmentor.com, 0435 803 470 (referred to in this document as 'Adapt')

### 1. Duration of the MOU

- This is a non-binding MOU between The Lighthouse and Adapt.
- The MOU will apply from the date the document is signed and will continue to apply until termination by either party on the giving of one (1) month's written notice to the other.

### 2. Scope

- The Lighthouse and Adapt are committed to maintaining a positive and cooperative working relationship.
- The Lighthouse and Adapt are committed, where practicable, to work collaboratively to deliver support to the children of Toowoomba.
- As part of the parties' mutual commitment, The Lighthouse and Adapt will act in accordance with the spirit and intent of this MOU, even though neither party intends that it be legally binding.

### 3. Goals and objectives

- place children and young people at the core
- ensure collaborative partnerships with each other and other community organisations and services in the region
- approach all outcomes with the goal of increasing wellbeing, equity, self-efficacy and resilience in the children and young people in our region
- Literacy, creativity, empathy, and connections will remain at the heart of all initiatives
- Maintain the effective use of storytelling - multimodal opportunities - as a tool for empathy, confidence, empowerment

### 4. Roles and responsibilities

The parties will nominate a minimum of one member each to:

- to plan, implement and evaluate the obligations under the MOU
- to develop procedures and guidelines
- to meet at a minimum of once a month to discuss the implementation of its responsibilities

### 5. Procedures and guidelines

The parties agree to comply with and direct their staff members to comply with all procedures and guidelines developed under this MOU. Including but not limited to:

- Child Safety Code of Conduct
- Code of Ethics Policy
- Children Protection Policy
- Workplace Health and Safety

- Volunteer Policy



## 6. Confidentiality

The parties acknowledge that information disclosed by one party to the other (the disclosing party) during the subject matter of this MOU may be confidential and unless required by law must not be disclosed to a third party except with the prior written consent of the disclosing party.

## 7. Dispute resolution

If a dispute or difference arises between the parties out of or in connection with this MOU, either party may give the other a written notice specifying the dispute or difference.

Within 7 days of the date of the notice, a person holding a position of senior management of each party must meet and undertake negotiations in good faith, and by reference to the goals and set out above, with a view to resolving the dispute or difference.

	
Signed for <b>The Lighthouse Toowoomba</b> by its authorised representative:	Signed for <b>Adapt Mentorship</b> by its authorised representative:
Emily MacManus	Adam J Wenitong
Signature of authorised representative	Signature of authorised representative
Chief Operating Officer	Director & Founder
Title of authorised representative	Title of authorised representative
10 May 2024	27 May 2024
Date:	Date:

# Memorandum of Understanding: Momentum Mental Health

## The Lighthouse Toowoomba + Momentum Mental Health Memorandum of Understanding

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This is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between:

**The Lighthouse Toowoomba (part of The Child Writes Fund)**

ABN: 16615584480 of 126 Margaret Street, Toowoomba City, Qld, Australia 4350 (referred to in this document as 'The Lighthouse')

and

**Momentum Mental Health Limited**

ABN: 56 556 874 963 of 112 Russell Street, Toowoomba, Qld 4350 (referred to in this document as 'Momentum Mental Health')

### Duration of the MOU

- The MOU will apply from the date the document is signed and will continue to apply until termination by either party on the giving of one (1) month's written notice to the other.

### Scope

- The Lighthouse and Momentum Mental Health are committed to maintaining a positive and cooperative working relationship.
- The Lighthouse and Momentum Mental Health are committed, where practicable, to work collaboratively to deliver support to the children of Toowoomba.
- As part of the parties' mutual commitment, The Lighthouse and Momentum Mental Health will act in accordance with the spirit and intent of this MOU, even though neither party intends that it be legally binding.

### Goals and objectives

- place children and young people at the core
- ensure collaborative partnerships with each other and other community organisations and services in the region
- approach all outcomes with the goal of increasing wellbeing, equity, self-efficacy and resilience in the children and young people in our region
- Literacy, creativity, empathy, and connections will remain at the heart of all initiatives
- Maintain the effective use of storytelling – multimodal opportunities - as a tool for empathy, confidence, empowerment

### Roles and responsibilities

- The parties will nominate a minimum of one member each to:
  - to plan, implement and evaluate the obligations under the MOU
  - to develop procedures and guidelines
  - to meet at a minimum of once a month to discuss the implementation of its responsibilities

### Procedures and guideline

- The parties agree to comply with and direct their staff members to comply with all procedures and guidelines developed under this MOU. Including but not limited to:
  - Child Safety Code of Conduct
  - Children Protection Policy
  - Code of Ethics Policy
  - Workplace Health and Safety
  - Volunteer Policy

**Confidentiality**

- The parties acknowledge that information disclosed by one party to the other (the disclosing party) during the subject matter of this MOU may be confidential and unless required by law must not be disclosed to a third party except with the prior written consent of the disclosing party.

**Dispute resolution**

- If a dispute or difference arises between the parties out of or in connection with this MOU, either party may give the other a written notice specifying the dispute or difference.
- Within 7 days of the date of the notice, a person holding a position of senior management of each party must meet and undertake negotiations in good faith, and by reference to the goals and set out above, with a view to resolving the dispute or difference.

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**The Lighthouse Toowoomba**



Signature

Emily MacManus

Print Name

Chief Operating Officer

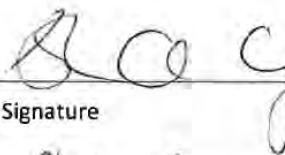
Title

12 May 2024

Date

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**Momentum Mental Health**



Signature

Shirley-Anne Gardiner

Print Name

Chief Executive Officer

Title

28 May 2024

Date



# Memorandum of Understanding: First Nations Arts and Culture Collective

## The Lighthouse Toowoomba + First Nations Arts And Culture Collective Inc.

### Memorandum of Understanding

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This is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between:

**The Lighthouse Toowoomba (part of The Child Writes Fund)**  
ABN: 16615584480 of 126 Margaret Street, Toowoomba City, Qld, Australia 4350 (referred to in this document as 'The Lighthouse')  
and  
**First Nations Arts and Culture Collective Inc.**  
ABN: 45 314 405 113 of C/- 34 Briggs Street, Pittsworth, 4356 (referred to in this document as 'Organisation Name')

#### Duration of the MOU

- The MOU will apply from the date the document is signed and will continue to apply until termination by either party on the giving of one (1) month's written notice to the other.

#### Scope

- The Lighthouse and First Nations Arts and Culture Collective Inc., are committed to maintaining a positive and cooperative working relationship.
- The Lighthouse and First Nations Arts and Culture Collective Inc., are committed, where practicable, to work collaboratively to deliver support to the children of Toowoomba.
- As part of the parties' mutual commitment, The Lighthouse and First Nations Arts and Culture Collective Inc., will act in accordance with the spirit and intent of this MOU, even though neither party intends that it be legally binding.

#### Goals and objectives

- place children and young people at the core
- ensure collaborative partnerships with each other and other community organisations and services in the region.
- approach all outcomes with the goal of increasing wellbeing, equity, self-efficacy and resilience in the children and young people in our region.
- Literacy, creativity, empathy, and connections will remain at the heart of all initiatives
- Maintain the effective use of storytelling – multimodal opportunities - as a tool for empathy, confidence, empowerment.

#### Roles and responsibilities

- The parties will nominate a minimum of one member each to:
  - to plan, implement and evaluate the obligations under the MOU
  - to develop procedures and guidelines
  - to meet at a minimum of once a month to discuss the implementation of its responsibilities

#### Procedures and guideline

- The parties agree to comply with and direct their staff members to comply with all procedures and guidelines developed under this MOU. including but not limited to:
  - Child Safety Code of Conduct
  - Children Protection Policy
  - Code of Ethics Policy
  - Workplace Health and Safety

# The Lighthouse Toowoomba + First Nations Arts And Culture Collective Inc.

## Memorandum of Understanding

---

This is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between:

The Lighthouse Toowoomba (part of The Child Writes Fund)  
ABN: 16615584480 of 126 Margaret Street, Toowoomba City, Qld, Australia 4350 (referred to in this document as 'The Lighthouse')  
and  
First Nations Arts and Culture Collective Inc.  
ABN: 45 314 405 113 of C/- 34 Briggs Street, Pittsworth, 4356 (referred to in this document as 'Organisation Name')

### Duration of the MOU

- The MOU will apply from the date the document is signed and will continue to apply until termination by either party on the giving of one (1) month's written notice to the other.

### Scope

- The Lighthouse and First Nations Arts and Culture Collective Inc., are committed to maintaining a positive and cooperative working relationship.
- The Lighthouse and First Nations Arts and Culture Collective Inc., are committed, where practicable, to work collaboratively to deliver support to the children of Toowoomba.
- As part of the parties' mutual commitment, The Lighthouse and First Nations Arts and Culture Collective Inc., will act in accordance with the spirit and intent of this MOU, even though neither party intends that it be legally binding.

### Goals and objectives

- place children and young people at the core
- ensure collaborative partnerships with each other and other community organisations and services in the region.
- approach all outcomes with the goal of increasing wellbeing, equity, self-efficacy and resilience in the children and young people in our region.
- Literacy, creativity, empathy, and connections will remain at the heart of all initiatives
- Maintain the effective use of storytelling – multimodal opportunities - as a tool for empathy, confidence, empowerment.

### Roles and responsibilities

- The parties will nominate a minimum of one member each to:
- to plan, implement and evaluate the obligations under the MOU
- to develop procedures and guidelines
- to meet at a minimum of once a month to discuss the implementation of its responsibilities

### Procedures and guideline

- The parties agree to comply with and direct their staff members to comply with all procedures and guidelines developed under this MOU. Including but not limited to:
- Child Safety Code of Conduct
- Children Protection Policy
- Code of Ethics Policy
- Workplace Health and Safety

- Volunteer Policy

**Confidentiality**

- The parties acknowledge that information disclosed by one party to the other (the disclosing party) during the subject matter of this MOU may be confidential and unless required by law must not be disclosed to a third party except with the prior written consent of the disclosing party.

**Dispute resolution**

- If a dispute or difference arises between the parties out of or in connection with this MOU, either party may give the other a written notice specifying the dispute or difference.
- Within 7 days of the date of the notice, a person holding a position of senior management of each party must meet and undertake negotiations in good faith, and by reference to the goals and set out above, with a view to resolving the dispute or difference.


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**The Lighthouse Toowoomba**

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**First Nations Arts and Culture Collective Inc.**

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Signature 

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Signature 

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Print Name

Emily MacManus

---

Print Name

Barbara Walker

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Title  
Chief Operating Officer

---

Title  
Secretary

---

Date  
27 May 2024

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Date  
27 May 2024

# Memorandum of Understanding: Book Links Qld

## The Lighthouse Toowoomba + Book Links (Queensland) Inc.

### Memorandum of Understanding

---

This is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between:

**The Lighthouse Toowoomba (part of The Child Writes Fund)**

ABN: 16615584480 of 126 Margaret Street, Toowoomba City, Qld, Australia 4350 (referred to in this document as 'The Lighthouse')

and

**Book Links (Queensland) Inc.**

ABN: 61 948 979 764 of State Library of Queensland, Level 2 Stanley Place, South Brisbane, Old, Australia 4101 (referred to in this document as 'Book Links')

#### Duration of the MOU

- The MOU will apply from the date the document is signed and will continue to apply until termination by either party on the giving of one (1) month's written notice to the other.

#### Scope

- The Lighthouse and Book Links are committed to maintaining a positive and cooperative working relationship.
- The Lighthouse and Book Links are committed, where practicable, to work collaboratively to deliver support to the children of Toowoomba.
- As part of the parties' mutual commitment, The Lighthouse and Book Links will act in accordance with the spirit and intent of this MOU, even though neither party intends that it be legally binding.

#### Goals and objectives

- place children and young people at the core
- ensure collaborative partnerships with each other and other community organisations and services in the region
- approach all outcomes with the goal of increasing wellbeing, equity, self-efficacy and resilience in the children and young people in our region
- Literacy, creativity, empathy, and connections will remain at the heart of all initiatives
- Maintain the effective use of storytelling – multimodal opportunities - as a tool for empathy, confidence, empowerment

#### Roles and responsibilities

The parties will nominate a minimum of one member each to:

- to plan, implement and evaluate the obligations under the MOU
- to develop procedures and guidelines
- to meet or to provide a report at a minimum of once every two months to allow for regular discussion of the implementation of its responsibilities

#### Procedures and guideline

The parties agree to comply with and direct their volunteer / staff members to comply with all procedures and guidelines developed under this MOU. Including but not limited to:

- Child Safety Code of Conduct
- Children Protection Policy
- Code of Ethics Policy
- Workplace Health and Safety
- Volunteer Policy

**Confidentiality**

- The parties acknowledge that information disclosed by one party to the other (the disclosing party) during the subject matter of this MOU may be confidential and unless required by law must not be disclosed to a third party except with the prior written consent of the disclosing party.

**Dispute resolution**

- If a dispute or difference arises between the parties out of or in connection with this MOU, either party may give the other a written notice specifying the dispute or difference.
- Within 7 days of the date of the notice, a person holding a position of senior management of each party must meet and undertake negotiations in good faith, and by reference to the goals and set out above, with a view to resolving the dispute or difference.

---

**The Lighthouse Toowoomba**



Signature

Emma Mactaggart

Print Name

Founder | Board Member

Title

Thursday 30 May 2024

Date

---

**Book Links (Queensland) Inc.**



Signature

Kayt Duncan

Print Name

Book Links Secretary

Title

Thursday, 30 May 2024

Date

# Memorandum of Understanding: You Belong

## The Lighthouse Toowoomba + You Belong Australia

### Memorandum of Understanding

---

This is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between:

**The Lighthouse Toowoomba (part of The Child Writes Fund)**

ABN: 16615584480 of 126 Margaret Street, Toowoomba City, Qld, Australia 4350 (referred to in this document as 'The Lighthouse')

and

**You Belong Australia**

ABN: 63 614 798 613 of PO Box 2465, Burleigh Waters, Qld 4350 (referred to in this document as 'You Belong')

#### Duration of the MOU

- The MOU will apply from the date the document is signed and will continue to apply until termination by either party on the giving of one (1) month's written notice to the other.

#### Scope

- The Lighthouse and You Belong are committed to maintaining a positive and cooperative working relationship.
- The Lighthouse and You Belong are committed, where practicable, to work collaboratively to deliver support to the children of Toowoomba.
- As part of the parties' mutual commitment, The Lighthouse and You Belong will act in accordance with the spirit and intent of this MOU, even though neither party intends that it be legally binding.

#### Goals and objectives

- place children and young people at the core
- ensure collaborative partnerships with each other and other community organisations and services in the region
- approach all outcomes with the goal of increasing wellbeing, equity, self-efficacy and resilience in the children and young people in our region
- Literacy, creativity, empathy, and connections will remain at the heart of all initiatives
- Maintain the effective use of storytelling – multimodal opportunities - as a tool for empathy, confidence, empowerment

#### Roles and responsibilities

- The parties will nominate a minimum of one member each to:
  - to plan, implement and evaluate the obligations under the MOU
  - to develop procedures and guidelines
  - to meet at a minimum of once a month to discuss the implementation of its responsibilities

#### Procedures and guideline

- The parties agree to comply with and direct their staff members to comply with all procedures and guidelines developed under this MOU. Including but not limited to:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Child Safety Code of Conduct</li><li>• Children Protection Policy</li><li>• Code of Ethics Policy</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Workplace Health and Safety</li><li>• Volunteer Policy</li></ul> |
|---|--|

#### Confidentiality

- The parties acknowledge that information disclosed by one party to the other (the disclosing party) during the subject matter of this MOU may be confidential and unless required by law must not be disclosed to a third party except with the prior written consent of the disclosing party.

**Dispute resolution**

- If a dispute or difference arises between the parties out of or in connection with this MOU, either party may give the other a written notice specifying the dispute or difference.
- Within 7 days of the date of the notice, a person holding a position of senior management of each party must meet and undertake negotiations in good faith, and by reference to the goals and set out above, with a view to resolving the dispute or difference.

---

**The Lighthouse Toowoomba**




---

Signature

Emily MacManus

---

Print Name

Chief Operating Officer

---

Title

05/06/2024

---

Date

**You Belong Australia**




---

Signature

**Tim Buxton**

---

Print Name

**CEO**

---

Title

**11/6/2024**

---

Date

# Memorandum of Understanding: iNSPIRETEK

## The Lighthouse Toowoomba + [insert organisation name] Memorandum of Understanding

This is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between:

**The Lighthouse Toowoomba (part of The Child Writes Fund)**

ABN: 16615584480 of 126 Margaret Street, Toowoomba City, Qld, Australia 4350 (referred to in this document as 'The Lighthouse')

and

**iNSPIRETEK Pty. Ltd. and The iNSPIRETEK Foundation.**

ABN: 34 619 120 562 of 310 Edward Street Brisbane CBD (referred to in this document as iNSPIRETEK).

### Duration of the MOU

- The MOU will apply from the date the document is signed and will continue to apply until termination by either party on the giving of one (1) month's written notice to the other.

### Scope

- The Lighthouse and iNSPIRETEK are committed to maintaining a positive and cooperative working relationship.
- The Lighthouse and iNSPIRETEK are committed, where practicable, to work collaboratively to deliver support to the children of Toowoomba.
- As part of the parties' mutual commitment, The Lighthouse and iNSPIRETEK will act in accordance with the spirit and intent of this MOU, even though neither party intends that it be legally binding.
- The iNSPIRE Foundation has elected The Lighthouse as their first foundation philanthropic partner, to create, design, and implement it's first partner platform.

### Goals and objectives

- place children and young people at the core
- ensure collaborative partnerships with each other and other community organisations and services in the region
- approach all outcomes with the goal of increasing wellbeing, equity, self-efficacy and resilience in the children and young people in our region
- Literacy, creativity, empathy, and connections will remain at the heart of all initiatives
- Maintain the effective use of storytelling – multimodal opportunities - as a tool for empathy, confidence, empowerment
- Utilise technology and innovation to drive the above objectives, as well as improving the wellbeing of all participants including children, students, workshop attendees, creatives, experts and volunteers.

### Roles and responsibilities

- The parties will nominate a minimum of one member each to:
- to plan, implement and evaluate the obligations under the MOU
- to develop procedures and guidelines
- to meet at a minimum of once a month to discuss the implementation of its responsibilities

### Procedures and guideline

- The parties agree to comply with and direct their staff members to comply with all procedures and guidelines developed under this MOU. Including but not limited to:
  - Child Safety Code of Conduct
  - Children Protection Policy
  - Code of Ethics Policy
  - Workplace Health and Safety



- Volunteer Policy

**Confidentiality**

- The parties acknowledge that information disclosed by one party to the other (the disclosing party) during the subject matter of this MOU may be confidential and unless required by law must not be disclosed to a third party except with the prior written consent of the disclosing party.

**Dispute resolution**

- If a dispute or difference arises between the parties out of or in connection with this MOU, either party may give the other a written notice specifying the dispute or difference.
- Within 7 days of the date of the notice, a person holding a position of senior management of each party must meet and undertake negotiations in good faith, and by reference to the goals and set out above, with a view to resolving the dispute or difference.

---

**The Lighthouse Toowoomba**

iNSPIRETEK Pty. Ltd. and The iNSPIRE Foundation.



Signature

Signature

**Emily MacManus**

**Annie Devitt**

Print Name

Print Name

**Chief Operating Officer**

**Founder & Chair**

Title

Title

**08/06/2024**

**13/06/2024**

Date

Date

## Appendix 13: Letters of Support

### List of Letters of Support

- [Garth Hamilton MP, Member for Groom](#)
- [Robyn Haig, Director, Regional Development Australia](#)
- [Rory Mather, Author](#)
- [Aunty Barb Walker, Co-founder, Secretary First Nations Arts and Culture Collective \(FNACC\)](#)
- [Matt Ottley | Tina Wilson OAM – Artists Musicians Authors](#)
- [Craig Rutledge, Department of State Development and Infrastructure](#)
- [Sandy Pottinger, Artist, Art Critic, retired Lecturer Visual Arts UniSQ](#)
- [Mayor Geoff McDonald, Toowoomba Regional Council](#)
- [Cheryl Moggs, Artist, Co-Founder FNACC](#)
- [Jane Williamson, GDLLA / CAMS Coordinator Mercy Services](#)
- [Jenny Stubbs, President Book Links – The Centre for Children’s Literature](#)
- [Adam Wenitong, Adapt Mentorship](#)
- [Jen Shaw, Founder | CEO Emerge Toowoomba](#)
- [Jason Callcott, Newtown State School Community Hub](#)
- [Annie Devitt, Founder | Executive Chair iNSPIRETEK | iNSPIRETEK Foundation](#)
- [Chelsea Baker, Artist](#)
- [Kate Venables, Executive Director, Catholic Care](#)
- [David Janetzki, Member for Toowoomba South](#)
- [Trevor Watts, Member for Toowoomba North](#)
- [Wendy Orth, President, Inner Wheel Club of Toowoomba](#)
- [Shirley-Anne Gardiner, CEO Momentum Mental Health](#)
- [Jerome Winslade, Darling Downs District, QLD Police Service](#)
- [Gitie House OAM, President, Toowoomba International Multicultural Society](#)
- [Tim Hunter, Author](#)
- [Cr Rebecca Von Hoff, Deputy Mayor, Toowoomba Regional Council](#)
- [Leigh Lucht, Visual Arts Teacher, Mater Dei Primary School](#)
- [Jessie Ritchie, International Award-Winning Author](#)
- [Jasmine Barui, Child Writes graduate, film maker and actor](#)
- [Jen Munt, mother, community member](#)
- [Wendy Ellem, Teacher, Toowoomba Flexi School | Centenary Heights High School](#)
- [Rosemarie Dawes, Director, Chiselhurst Kindergarten](#)
- [Rachelle Patterson, CEO Lifeline Darling Downs and South West QLD](#)
- [Ruben Fitton, Child Writes graduate, artist, actor, singer](#)
- [Alison Kennedy, CEO Toowoomba Hospital Foundation](#)
- [Paula Janz, Wilsonton Early Years Network co-ordinator](#)

## Letter of Support: Garth Hamilton MP, Member for Groom



To Whom it May Concern,

**RE: The Child Writes Fund Ltd – Application under Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program**

I am writing to provide my full support for the Child Writes Fund Ltd, a registered charity in my electorate of Groom, on the Darling Downs. The Child Writes program supports our young people in arts in regional Queensland, and is delivered by an experienced, enthusiastic team with a proven record of achievement.

The children's centre for creativity is a unique, indeed first of its kind, program in regional Australia and has attracted strong engagement from the community, local arts sector and external support. Over three successful years the program has been operating in a 'trial-state' working to develop relationships, strong partnerships, and develop and improve programs that support the Toowoomba region community.

As the Member for Groom, I have worked closely with, and continue to strongly support, The Lighthouse, their various arts and creative programs, and in particular, the Child Writes program. I have witnessed firsthand the incredible impact the centre and the program has had on our local community, particularly young people seeking to demonstrate their creativity and represent themselves through the arts.

I have absolutely no doubt about the Lighthouse's ability to effectively utilise the grant funding to deliver the program as outlined, to scale up their initiatives and create real generational change within our community. The Lighthouse's dedication to serving our community goes above and beyond, as evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations, and community groups. Their commitment to providing mentorship, support, and opportunities for growth to individuals of all backgrounds is truly commendable.

As the local member, and as a resident of this community, I cannot endorse this application strongly enough. I want to reiterate my unwavering support of the Lighthouse, the Child Writes program and the entire efforts of the centre for creativity. On this occasion I strongly urge the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program to give full consideration for the request for funding to develop a facility to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

Again, I wholeheartedly support The Lighthouse's grant application and believe that they are deserving recipients of this funding. I urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably.

Yours sincerely

**GARTH HAMILTON MP  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR GROOM**

24 May 2024

# Letter of Support: Robyn Haig – Director, Regional Development Australia



An Australian Government Initiative



## DARLING DOWNS AND SOUTH WEST

Ms Emily McManus  
Chief Operating Officer  
The Lighthouse Toowoomba  
126 Margaret Street  
Toowoomba, Qld, 4350

**23 May 2024**

Dear Emily,

It is with pleasure that I offer on behalf of the Committee of Regional Development Australia Darling Downs and South West (RDA DDSW), a letter of support for The Lighthouse Toowoomba's application for funding.

RDA DDSW acknowledges the information received in relation to this application, which proposes to expand the Lighthouse Toowoomba's Youth Hub offerings by incorporating workplace upskilling and employability training into their programs. It is envisaged that the new offerings will empower the next generation while contributing to the overall growth of the community.

The project is expected to provide numerous benefits to the Toowoomba youth population, including:

- **Youth Empowerment:** The Lighthouse Toowoomba's Youth Hub serves as a safe space for young individuals to explore their potential. Integrating workplace upskilling and employability training will equip them with practical skills that enhance their employability and prepare them for the workforce.
- **Holistic Development:** Beyond literacy and creativity, the Youth Hub will now offer a comprehensive approach to personal and professional growth. Participants will gain confidence, learn teamwork, and develop essential skills that extend beyond the classroom.
- **Community Impact:** The ripple effect of investing in youth development cannot be overstated. As these young individuals transition into productive members of society, they contribute to a stronger local economy and a more vibrant community.
- **Collaboration:** Partnering with local businesses, industry experts, and educational institutions goes towards creating a dynamic ecosystem where knowledge and opportunities flow freely.
- **Long-Term Vision:** The Youth Hub's expansion aligns with the broader vision of regional development. RDA DDSW recognises the importance of nurturing talent and fostering innovation to ensure sustainable growth.

RDA DDSW believes this proposal strongly aligns with its values as an organisation. Any investment in our region's youth population will only benefit the region and associated communities. The Lighthouse Toowoomba

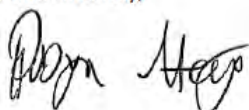
123 Margaret Street, Toowoomba, Qld, 4350 | PO Box 2519, Toowoomba, Qld 4350  
Phone: (07) 4638 0089 | Email: [admin@rda-ddsw.org.au](mailto:admin@rda-ddsw.org.au)

Local people creating local opportunities [rda.gov.au](http://rda.gov.au)

has long been a beacon of creativity, literacy, and community engagement in the Toowoomba region. Its commitment to nurturing young minds through innovative programs is commendable.

Accordingly, RDA DDSW is pleased to provide this letter of support and endorsement for your proposal, and we wish you every success with the process. Please keep us informed of your progress and do not hesitate to contact should you require further assistance.

Yours sincerely,



**Robyn Haig**  
Director of Regional Development

123 Margaret Street, Toowoomba, Qld, 4350 | PO Box 2519, Toowoomba, Qld 4350  
Phone: (07) 4638 0089 | Email: [admin@rda-ddsw.org.au](mailto:admin@rda-ddsw.org.au)

## Letter of Support: Rory Mather



Rory H. Mather  
Traditionally Published Picture Book Author  
6b Groom Street, East Toowoomba

8 May 2024

Dear Ministers King, Rowland, and Burke

The Child Writes Fund Ltd is a registered charity supporting our very own children's centre for creativity, the first of its kind in regional Australia. For three years it has been operating in a trial-mode to develop partners and programs that best respond to the unique needs of the Toowoomba community.

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for The Lighthouse and its application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity. This is available from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and The Arts.

Having been closely involved with The Lighthouse and witnessing firsthand the incredible impact it has had on our community, I wholeheartedly endorse their efforts to substantial secure funding of \$8.8m for a site to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

I have personally benefited from the various projects run by the incredible team at The Lighthouse for example by being able to attend events such as their Matt Ottley exhibition that provided valuable insights into the struggles of mental health in our communities. I have also provided benefit to others through their facilitation of visits to underprivileged schools, such as Harlaxton State School which when I visited in 2022 had a majority of students who were from a refugee background or Mount Tyson State School which being both a small rural school and a school whose students tend to come from lower socio-economic backgrounds truly benefited from my visit and not merely by my presence, but also by the gift of a book for every single one of their students and a box of books each for two students in particular who the school had identified were in particular need of greater access to age appropriate books. The books and my interactive literacy sessions were all provided by the incredible team at The Lighthouse.

The Lighthouse's dedication to serving our community goes above and beyond, as evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations, and community groups. Their commitment to providing mentorship, support, and opportunities for growth to individuals of all backgrounds is truly commendable.

At the schools I personally have visited on behalf of the lighthouse I have spoken with upward of 300 students, but I am just one of many people they have sent to schools to facilitate literacy based programs and that 300 pails in comparison to the numbers that have either had a school visit or visited The Lighthouse themselves.

I firmly believe that The Lighthouse has demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful and impactful programs and services, and that with the necessary funding, they will be able to continue making a difference in the lives of those they serve.

I am confident in The Lighthouse's ability to effectively utilise the grant funding to scale up their initiatives and create real generational change within our community.

As a kid I had low literacy and learning difficulties, it was through the intervention of adults with the same ethos as running The Lighthouse that I was not only able to grow to become an avid reader, but also eventually become a bestselling author of picture books for children. In all of my interactions both as a someone attending an event as well as someone facilitating a workshop, the team at The Lighthouse have demonstrated their ability to deliver on commitments with transparency and at a low risk of failure. My greatest desire is that they will be given funding so that they may continue their wonderful work supporting literacy in the Toowoomba Region well into the future.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support The Lighthouse's grant application and believe that they are deserving recipients of this funding. I urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Rory H. Mather

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rory H. Mather', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

## Letter of Support: Aunty Barb Walker, Co-Founder, Secretary FNACC



First Nations Arts and Culture Collective Inc.  
ABN: 45 314 405 113  
Secretary  
C/- 34 Briggs Street, Pittsworth, Qld, 4356.

27<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

Dear Ministers King, Rowland, and Burke

The Child Writes Fund Ltd is a registered charity supporting our very own children's centre for creativity, the first of its kind in regional Australia. For three years it has been operating in a trial-mode to develop partners and programs that best respond to the unique needs of the Toowoomba community.

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for The Lighthouse and its application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity. This is available from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and The Arts

Having been closely involved with The Lighthouse and witnessing firsthand the incredible impact it has had on our community, I wholeheartedly endorse their efforts to substantial secure funding of \$8.8m for a site to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

It is with great pleasure that we thank The Lighthouse for giving us the use of The Write Gallery for the first week of July 2023 [in-kind donation of the use of the Gallery] for the Launch of our Collective and our Inaugural Exhibition, showcasing the brilliant work of 10 First Nations Artists. The staff of The Lighthouse were super supportive of our initiative, to showcase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, who reside in the south west of Queensland. The assistance and direction, when organising the exhibition within a very short time frame, was very gratefully appreciated by the Directors of the Collective and the Artists who had their works on display.



The Lighthouse's dedication to serving our community goes above and beyond, as evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations, and community groups. Their commitment to providing mentorship, support, and opportunities for growth to individuals of all backgrounds is truly commendable.

The dedication by The Lighthouse staff, to getting everything organised, promoted in the media [for those of us very new to this world of exhibitions], helped eased the feelings of stress, that could have been. Their in-kind donation of the hours needed to finalise this was and still is very gratefully appreciated. The Collective looks forward to continuing our association with the wonderful staff at The Lighthouse.

I firmly believe that The Lighthouse has demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful and impactful programs and services, and that with the necessary funding, they will be able to continue making a difference in the lives of those they serve.

I am confident in The Lighthouse's ability to effectively utilise the grant funding to scale up their initiatives and create real generational change within our community.

We believe in The Lighthouse's ability to deliver on commitments with transparency and at a low risk of failure, based on our own experiences or observations.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support The Lighthouse's grant application and believe that they are deserving recipients of this funding. I urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Barbara Walker  
Secretary – First Nations Arts and Culture Collective Inc.  
34 Briggs Street, Pittsworth, 4356.  
[admin@firstnationsartsandculturecollective.com.au](mailto:admin@firstnationsartsandculturecollective.com.au)

## Letter of Support: Matt Ottley / Tina Wilson



Matt Ottley & Tina Wilson OAM  
65 Braeside Drive,  
UKI, New South Wales, 2484

9<sup>th</sup> May 2024,

Dear Ministers King, Rowland, and Burke

**Re: Letter of Support - Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program  
Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity**

As award-winning professional artists working across the fields of art, literature, and music, we would like to express our wholehearted support for The Lighthouse and its application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity.

The Lighthouse, supported by the registered charity The Child Writes Fund Ltd, is Toowoomba's very own children's centre for creativity, the first of its kind in regional Australia and one of the most innovative organisations that we have personally been involved with in our respective 30-40-year careers (Tina was the founder and previous Executive Director of the Lester Prize - Australia's third richest portrait prize). We know the invaluable support that organisations like The Lighthouse play in the community, particularly in regard to supporting and promoting the creators.

Creativity is the cornerstone for creating empathy, for lateral or innovative thinking which has a ripple effect in all industries and human endeavours, and thus an organisation who espouses these values and encourages creativity is invaluable to society.

The Lighthouse has been operating in a trial-mode to develop partners and programs that best respond to the unique needs of the Toowoomba community. Having been closely involved with The Lighthouse and witnessing firsthand the incredible impact its programmes have on the community we wholeheartedly endorse their efforts to secure substantial funding of \$8.8m for a site to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

The Lighthouse's dedication to serving their community goes above and beyond, as evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations, community groups and local/national artists. Their commitment to providing mentorship, support, and opportunities for growth to individuals of all backgrounds is truly commendable.

The Lighthouse provides outstanding services, to schools and communities across the Greater Toowoomba region, creating programs that are rich in quality, insightful, inspiring, and extremely engaging. Not only that, but it provides important opportunities for creators to share their work, to engage with children, teachers, and educators, and to bring greater awareness to their works. These opportunities help advance artists' careers and professional networks.

We personally have benefited from working with the amazing support and guidance of The Lighthouse, and have made lasting connections with other creators, and formed new relationships with schools and community groups.

We cannot emphasise enough the importance of The Lighthouse within the Toowoomba community, for children and adults alike, for educational institutions, and for creative artists.

A decade ago we created a multi-arts initiative called The Sound of Picture Books™. We work with The Literature Centre in Fremantle and members of the West Australian Symphony Orchestra on this initiative and to date we have performed to over 30,000 students in this incredibly successful venture. The Lighthouse is instrumental in bringing this initiative to the east coast in late 2024, and specifically to Toowoomba, providing valuable opportunities not only for regional students but for local musicians. The Lighthouse understands the power of a multi-arts approach to literacy, creativity, and lateral thinking.

We firmly believe that The Lighthouse has demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful and impactful programs and services, and that with the necessary funding, they will be able to continue making a difference in the lives of those they serve. Furthermore, we are extremely confident in The Lighthouse's ability to effectively utilise the grant funding to scale up their initiatives and create real generational change within the Toowoomba community.

Last November The Lighthouse mounted the world premier exhibition of a work for young adults/adults that is part of The Sound of Picture Books, *The Tree of Ecstasy and Unbearable Sadness*. This was a very large multi-arts exhibition with a focus on mental health and our experience of working with the team was exemplary. Their professionalism and dedication to their cause is quite remarkable.


In conclusion, we wholeheartedly support The Lighthouse's grant application and believe that they are deserving recipients of this funding. We urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably.

Sincerely,



Matt Ottley  
Artist | Composer | Author  
**Founder**  
The Sound of Picture Books™

M: 0439 766 702  
E: [mattottley@iinet.net.au](mailto:mattottley@iinet.net.au)



Tina Wilson OAM  
Artist | Author  
**Project Manager**  
The Sound of Picture Books™

M: 0432 275 690  
E: [tinawilson@iinet.net.au](mailto:tinawilson@iinet.net.au)

## Letter of Support: Executive Regional Director, Dept of State Development and Infrastructure

28 May 2024



Queensland  
Government

Department of  
**State Development and Infrastructure**

Ms Emma Mactaggart  
The Lighthouse Youth Writers Centre  
emma@thelighthouse.toowoomba.org

Dear Ms Mactaggart

I am pleased to provide my support for the Lighthouse Youth Writing Centre's *"The Child Writes Fund Ltd's Project"* and application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program's Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity, offered by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and The Arts.

The Lighthouse has demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to fostering creativity and literacy in the Toowoomba region. As a one-of-a-kind children's centre for creativity, the operation of the centre as a trial over last three years has shaped initiatives to meet the distinct needs of our community with great success.

The Department of State Development and Infrastructure has observed the profound effect of The Lighthouse's work on local children and youth. The project's drive for collaboration with schools, organisations and community groups has been instrumental in delivering mentorship and developmental opportunities to all, regardless of their background.

The proposed project underscores The Lighthouse's commitment to the region and offers a sustainable, long-term solution for its ongoing community services. This valuable contribution enhances the region's liveability and fosters economic growth.

The Department of State Development and Infrastructure is pleased to provide ongoing support for the project and look forward to the continued collaboration with The Lighthouse through the duration of the project. If you require any further information or assistance, please contact Ms Kristian Rose on 0427 312 011, who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Rutledge', written over a horizontal line.

Craig Rutledge  
**Executive Regional Director  
Regional Economic Development South  
State Development Group**

1 William Street  
Brisbane Queensland 4000  
PO Box 15009  
City East Queensland 4002  
Telephone 13 QGOV (13 74 68)  
Website [www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au](http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au)  
ABN 29 230 178 530

## Letter of Support: Sandy Pottinger

Sandy Pottinger  
140 Tourist Road,  
Toowoomba 4350  
Queensland

15/5/2024

Dear Ministers King, Rowland, and Burke

The Child Writes Fund Ltd is a registered charity supporting our very own children's centre for creativity, the first of its kind in regional Australia. For three years it has been operating in a trial-mode to develop partners and programs that best respond to the unique needs of the Toowoomba community.

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for The Lighthouse and its application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity. This is available from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and The Arts.

Having been closely involved with The Lighthouse and witnessing firsthand the incredible impact it has had on our community, I wholeheartedly endorse their efforts to substantiate secure funding of \$8.8m for a site to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

In a world in which war and destruction have shattered lives, destroyed dreams, and compromised the future potential of so many it is important to acknowledge pockets of hope and security. Toowoomba has a large refugee population. Families and individuals who have fled the horrors of extremism. The Lighthouse is very clear and passionate about its advocacy for children's literacy, the right of every child to be able read and write, to express themselves, share their stories, and create lively worlds of the imagination. For children coming to Australia, a foreign country with a difficult language to learn there is a sense of despair and isolation. School can be a frightening ordeal where the children sit on the peripheries, observers rather than participators. The Lighthouse with its outreach to refugee children, especially through its Homework Club, has offered a warm and welcoming bridge to new discoveries. Those difficult words become patterns of communication through explanation, example, illustration, humour, and patience. To see tense, wary, closed little faces melt into smiles and hear the joy of laughter is a gift beyond price, that sadly comes at a price.

The Lighthouse's dedication to serving our community goes above and beyond, as evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations, and community groups. Their commitment to providing mentorship, support, and opportunities for growth to individuals of all backgrounds is truly commendable.

For me, The Lighthouse, and especially the Write Gallery, offer a safe place, an inclusive sanctuary that nurtures creativity and freedom of expression. The Write Gallery has hosted

many exhibitions some of which have dealt with issues that are often marginalized such as mental health, domestic violence, physical disability, and the loss of identity. I have had the privilege of writing reviews of the Write Gallery exhibitions. I have spoken with the artists, seen the reactions of gallery visitors, and been humbled by the relief, comfort and fresh sense of confidence that are engendered through awareness, inclusion, and acceptance. The Lighthouse offers a hub for creative learning. It encourages curiosity, life-long learning, and a thirst for knowledge. It honours language and literacy, illustration, and the tactile pleasure of books. It breaks down barriers by embracing diversity, and in an often-cynical world it is not afraid to empower us with hope.

I firmly believe that The Lighthouse has demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful and impactful programs and services, and that with the necessary funding, they will be able to continue making a difference in the lives of those they serve.

I am confident in The Lighthouse's ability to effectively utilise the grant funding to scale up their initiatives and create real generational change within our community.

The Lighthouse sets itself targets, it participates in community events, and it delivers on its commitments with panache and creative enterprise.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support The Lighthouse's grant application and believe that they are deserving recipients of this funding. I urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandy Pottinger', written in a cursive style.

Sandy Pottinger

Artist, Writer, Art Critic, and retired Lecturer in Visual Arts, University of Southern Queensland.

sandypottinger@bigpond.com

## Letter of Support: Toowoomba Regional Council Mayor McDonald



*Office of the Mayor*

**CR GEOFF McDONALD**  
MAYOR

Chair  
Finance & Business  
Strategy Committee



DM# 11583789

13<sup>th</sup> May 2024

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The Child Writes Fund Ltd is a registered charity supporting our very own children's centre for creativity, the first of its kind in regional Australia. For three years it has been operating in a trial-mode to develop partners and programs that best respond to the unique needs of the Toowoomba community.

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for The Lighthouse and its application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity. This is available from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and The Arts

Having been closely involved with The Lighthouse and witnessing firsthand the incredible impact it has had on our community, I wholeheartedly endorse their efforts to substantial secure funding of \$8.8m for a site to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

The Lighthouse's dedication to serving our community goes above and beyond, as evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations, and community groups. Their commitment to providing mentorship, support, and opportunities for growth to individuals of all backgrounds is truly commendable.

I firmly believe that The Lighthouse has demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful and impactful programs and services, and that with the necessary funding, they will be able to continue making a difference in the lives of those they serve.

I am confident in The Lighthouse's ability to effectively utilise the grant funding to scale up their initiatives and create real generational change within our community.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support The Lighthouse's grant application and believe that they are deserving recipients of this funding. I urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably.

I have no hesitation in offering The Lighthouse my support and wish them every success with their application.

Yours Sincerely,

**CR GEOFF McDONALD**  
MAYOR - TOOWOOMBA REGIONAL COUNCIL



## Letter of Support: Cheryl Moggs Co-Founder FNACC



Monday, 2 June 2024

Dear Ministers King, Rowland, and Burke

The Child Writes Fund Ltd is a registered charity supporting our very own children's centre for creativity, the first of its kind in regional Australia. For three years it has been operating in a trial-mode to develop partners and programs that best respond to the unique needs of the Toowoomba community. I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for The Lighthouse and its application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity. This is available from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and The Arts

Having been closely involved with The Lighthouse and witnessing firsthand the incredible impact it has had on our community, I wholeheartedly endorse their efforts to substantial secure funding of \$8.8m for a site to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

I have experienced first-hand the amazing contribution the Lighthouse has given to the Aboriginal arts, culture and creative industries. As founder of the First Nations Arts and Culture Collective, founder and owner of Tarmunggie Arts, Culture and Design business, vitality and sustainability for future generations to develop within these industries certainly can be achieved with the Lighthouse support, experience, connections and programs. I look forward to continue to work with the Lighthouse as an artist, supporter, business owner and Aboriginal elder.

The Lighthouse's dedication to serving our community goes above and beyond, as evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations, and community groups. Their commitment to providing mentorship, support, and opportunities for growth to individuals of all backgrounds is truly commendable.

I firmly believe that The Lighthouse has demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful and impactful programs and services, and that with the necessary funding, they will be able to continue making a difference in the lives of those they serve.

I am confident in The Lighthouse's ability to effectively utilise the grant funding to scale up their initiatives and create real generational change within our community.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support The Lighthouse's grant application and believe that they are deserving recipients of this funding. I urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Moggs  
CEO Tarmunggie

Champions of Authentic and Sustainable Footprints



## Letter of Support: Mercy Services



A Ministry of Mercy Partners

Toowoomba  
104 South Street | Centenary Heights QLD 4350  
PO Box 1104 | Centenary Heights QLD 4350  
E. [toowoomba.admin@mercycommunity.org.au](mailto:toowoomba.admin@mercycommunity.org.au)  
P: 07 4617 7600

03/05/2024

RE: The Lighthouse application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity. Letter of Support

Dear Ministers King, Rowland, and Burke

For over 160 years, Mercy Community has been providing a wide range of services and support to people in Queensland communities. Our work includes supporting families and young people, people living with a disability, and the elderly. We do this through many programs and services, including foster and kinship care, residential care, family counselling, residential aged care, and in-home care.

The Mercy Community Greater Downs Local Level Alliance forms part of the Queensland Government's funded statewide network, providing direct communication pathways for local child and family issues to inform funding decisions to our communities. Members include a diverse spectrum of local services, community groups and Government agencies to ensure families from all backgrounds receive the right service at the right time.

The Mercy Community Action for a Multicultural Society (CAMS) program supports the Queensland Government's commitment to promote an inclusive, harmonious, and united community and fosters opportunities for people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds to participate in all aspects of life in the Darling Downs.

We are aware 2 in 3 disadvantaged students do not read proficiently and 50% of regional and remote students read below the national average.

I am therefore writing to express my enthusiastic support for The Lighthouse and its application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity. This is available from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and The Arts.

I am aware The Child Writes Fund Ltd is a registered charity supporting the Darling Downs region's very own children's centre for creativity, the first of its kind in regional Australia. For three years it has been operating in a trial-mode to develop partners and programs that best respond to the unique needs of the Toowoomba community.

The Mercy CAMS program has partnered with the expertise and hospitality of The Lighthouse to collaborate with young professionals from broader organisations in Toowoomba, providing capacity building opportunities for this young cohort. This has included how to organise appropriate events with a focus on discussion groups for context, social issues, art and music. Facilitating these collaborations has strengthened social connections and provided a strong sense of inclusion for refugee cohorts.

The Lighthouse provides a safe environment for children and young people to discuss their issues; forge strong relationships and develop career opportunities and leadership. Having been given a voice influences the social and economic landscape of Toowoomba.

Having been closely involved with The Lighthouse and witnessing firsthand the incredible impact it has had on our large culturally diverse community, I wholeheartedly endorse their efforts to secure substantial funding of \$8.8m for a site, to continue to deliver a sustainable and comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and young people in the Toowoomba region.

With minimal staffing (1.1), The Lighthouse's dedication to serving our community goes above and beyond any expectation, as evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations, and community groups. Their commitment to providing mentorship, support, and opportunities for growth to individuals of all backgrounds is truly commendable.

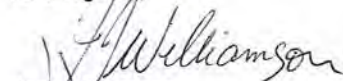
From leveraging a gift of over \$1m in rent-free facilities 2022-2024, and in volunteer hours to-date, combined with \$139k in donations, and \$136k in grants, I have learnt the Lighthouse have delivered \$236,600 worth of workshops since opening and reached 13348 people (including 5627 children), received 13059 books and distributed books to the value of \$181,905 with only \$25,000 in actual outgoings. In addition, the Lighthouse have had at least one child from 64% of the schools in the region visit the precinct. With secure funding I am sure the Lighthouse will attain their goal to reach every single school by mid-term next year.

The Lighthouse has built a model that responds to the needs of the Toowoomba community. The Lighthouse has clearly demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful and impactful programs and services. The Lighthouse's ability to effectively utilise the grant funding reinforces their ability to continue making a difference in the lives of the region's future generations and indeed the culture of our community. The only one of its kind creating very early interventions in the Toowoomba region and most probably in Regional Queensland.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support The Lighthouse's grant application and believe they are most certainly deserving recipients of this funding. I urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kind regards,



Jane Williamson  
GDLLA / CAMS Coordinator

E: [Jane.Williamson@mercycs.org.au](mailto:Jane.Williamson@mercycs.org.au)  
M: 0499 043 406

## Letter of Support: Book Links



Our mission is to link people and groups throughout the community with stories and experiences to build literacy and learning, so as to enrich lives.

Patron: Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM,  
Governor of Queensland

Vice-Patron: Jackie French A.M.

ABN: 61 948 979 764 Not registered for GST

Thursday, 2 May 2024

Emma Mactaggart  
The Lighthouse Keeper & CEO  
The Lighthouse  
126 Margaret Street  
Toowoomba, Burangbum Country QLD 4350

Dear Emma,

I am writing on behalf of Book Links to express our enthusiastic support for The Lighthouse's application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity. Having collaborated closely over the past 3 years, we have witnessed firsthand the invaluable contributions The Lighthouse makes to our community, particularly in promoting literacy and creativity among children and young adults.

The Lighthouse's commitment to supporting creatives, schools, and organisations working with children through affordable and at times, FREE literacy-based workshops is commendable. Your diverse range of programs, from "Made to Move" for young visual artists to "Science + Sorcery Club" for aspiring writers, demonstrates a holistic approach to nurturing creativity and imagination.

We have had the privilege of collaborating on several projects, including the Matt Ottley *The Tree of Ecstasy and Unbearable Sadness* Exhibition, Artist in Residence's with Lee FullARTon, Piano Fingers Exhibition with Caroline Magerl, and our upcoming inaugural Toowoomba Romancing the Stars event. These initiatives not only showcase local talent but also provide invaluable opportunities for children to engage with literature and the arts.

At Book Links, our vision is to develop generations of literate children and young people who appreciate all forms of story and how story is created. We believe that The Lighthouse plays a pivotal role in realising this vision by providing vibrant spaces for children and young adults to explore literature, stimulate imagination, and value storytellers and can do so in a Queensland region that present geographic challenges for us to reach.

The impact of The Lighthouse extends beyond its physical space in Toowoomba. By providing a platform for book creatives, especially those from remote and rural areas, you bridge the gap between urban and regional communities, ensuring that all children have access to literature and opportunities for creative expression.

In light of our longstanding partnership and shared commitment to promoting literacy and creativity, we wholeheartedly endorse The Lighthouse's Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant application. We believe that continued support for your organisation is essential to sustaining its operations and furthering its impactful work in our Queensland community.

Thank you for your dedication to enriching the lives of children and young adults through literature and the arts. We look forward to continuing our collaboration and witnessing the positive outcomes of The Lighthouse's programs.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jenny Stubbs'.

Jenny Stubbs  
(President, Book Links Qld Inc)

Book Links Qld. Inc. c/- Queensland Writers Centre, PO Box 3488, South Brisbane QLD 4101  
info@booklinks.org.au | www.booklinks.org.au

## Letter of Support: Adapt Mentorship



02/05/2024

Dear Ministers King, Rowland, and Burke

The Child Writes Fund Ltd is a registered charity supporting our very own children's centre for creativity, the first of its kind in regional Australia. For three years it has been operating in a trial-mode to develop partners and programs that best respond to the unique needs of the Toowoomba community.

Adapt Mentorship a First Nations led Social Enterprise, embodies resilience and unwavering commitment in its endeavour to empower disengaged First Nations youth and their families. Beyond our primary focus, we leverage our expertise through consultancy across diverse sectors within the community, fostering partnerships with organisations, universities, councils, and corporations. Our comprehensive suite of services includes culture and community discussions, workshops, and proactive responses to urgent community needs. Our active participation in numerous committees within Toowoomba positions us to drive change swiftly and effectively. The invaluable support and generous in-kind contributions from The Lighthouse over the past two years have played a pivotal role in our growth and in expanding our reach to make a meaningful impact and our partnership with the Lighthouse holds immense promise for further enriching the lives of young people in our community.

Therefore, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for The Lighthouse and its application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity. This is available from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and The Arts

Having been closely involved with The Lighthouse through their support and witnessing firsthand the incredible impact it has had on our community, I wholeheartedly endorse their efforts to substantial secure funding of \$8.8m for a site to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

We are proud to stand alongside The Lighthouse in its mission to create a harmonious and inclusive community for all. Their dedication to supporting First Nations Enterprise, youth and families as well as the willingness to collaborate with organisations like Adapt Mentorship speak volumes about their commitment to social justice and community building.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support The Lighthouse's grant application and believe that they are deserving recipients of this funding. I urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A" followed by a horizontal line.

Adam Wenitong  
CEO  
Adapt Mentorship  
118 Curzon St Toowoomba 4350  
[info@adaptmentor.com](mailto:info@adaptmentor.com)  
0435 803470

## Letter of Support: Emerge Toowoomba



**Jen Shaw**  
**CEO / Founder**  
**647 – 649 Anzac Avenue, Drayton, QLD 4350**

9<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Ministers King, Rowland, and Burke

The Child Writes Fund Ltd is a registered charity supporting our very own children's centre for creativity, the first of its kind in regional Australia. For three years it has been operating in a trial-mode to develop partners and programs that best respond to the unique needs of the Toowoomba community.

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for The Lighthouse and its application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity. This is available from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and The Arts

Having been closely involved with The Lighthouse and witnessing firsthand the incredible impact it has had on our community, I wholeheartedly endorse their efforts to substantial secure funding of \$8.8m for a site to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

Emerge works with young people who have lost their way to get back on track by developing strong, happy, and healthy foundations that result in positive life pathways and full participation in their communities. We also help them reconnect with education and training, become work ready and develop independence and positive social attributes through our wrap around programs across Toowoomba and The Sunshine Coast, our successes could not come to fruition without the partnership we have with The Lighthouse.

Our collaboration with The Lighthouse has created a strong mentorship base for some of Toowoomba's most marginalised young people able to access the most incredible creatives and experts which they otherwise would not have been able to. The sheer dedication by the Lighthouse team to ensuring our most vulnerable young people have equal access to literacy and life skills workshops is received with such gratitude by Emerge Youth and the young people we work beside. Emerge has no capacity to deliver or access anything that matches the high quality of workshops provided by The Lighthouse.

The Lighthouse's dedication to serving our community goes above and beyond, as evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations, and community groups. Their commitment to providing mentorship, support, and opportunities for growth to individuals of all backgrounds is truly commendable.

The Lighthouse has always been a huge supporter of Emerge Youth donating a café space so we can employ 12 vulnerable youth, providing space for our coffee van in their carpark, providing no cost workshops that provide a wealth of knowledge for young people growing into independence and allowing the Emerge Youth volunteer committee to meet regularly at no cost for their space enhancing our capacity to support vulnerable young people. There has been no limit to their generous support and determination to support young people doing it tough.

I firmly believe that The Lighthouse has demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful and impactful programs and services, and that with the necessary funding, they will be able to continue making a difference in the lives of those they serve.

I am confident in The Lighthouse's ability to effectively utilise the grant funding to scale up their initiatives and create real generational change within our community, without it Toowoomba and the regions will experience a significant loss for your young people.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support The Lighthouse's grant application and believe that they are deserving recipients of this funding. I urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jen Shaw', written in a cursive style.

Jen Shaw  
CEO  
[jen@emergeyouth.org.au](mailto:jen@emergeyouth.org.au)

## Letter of Support: Jason Callcott Newtown State School Community Hub Leader



25<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Ministers King, Rowland, and Burke

The Child Writes Fund Ltd is a registered charity supporting our very own children's centre for creativity, the first of its kind in regional Australia. For three years it has been operating in a trial-mode to develop partners and programs that best respond to the unique needs of the Toowoomba community.

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for The Lighthouse and its application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity. This is available from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and The Arts

Having been closely involved with The Lighthouse and witnessing firsthand the incredible impact it has had on our community, I wholeheartedly endorse their efforts to substantial secure funding of \$8.8m for a site to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

As a Hub Leader I have been working with The Lighthouse over several years now, it has been a rewarding experience. Their commitment to improving the literacy of the youth in our wider community and their commitment to bring the community together to support one another is second to none. It is uplifting to see this level of support for our children.

The Lighthouse's dedication to serving our community goes above and beyond, as evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations, and community groups. Their commitment to providing mentorship, support, and opportunities for growth to individuals of all backgrounds is truly commendable.

The Lighthouse has worked closely with our school to engage children in literacy, they have provided over 1800 books for our 400 students to take home. For a school with a icsea of 911, this type of gift is meaningful and the gratitude of the children is evident. They provide a weekly reading program "Twinkles" for our pre – school aged children which helps connect children from homes without English with books. These opportunities are gold for a young mind that is being moulded and looking for experiences.

I firmly believe that The Lighthouse has demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful and impactful programs and services, and that with the necessary funding, they will be able to continue making a difference in the lives of those they serve.



I am confident in The Lighthouse's ability to effectively utilise the grant funding to scale up their initiatives and create real generational change within our community.

They have found a place in this community that is widely supported and their message around better literacy opportunities for our children is being spread to all levels of our community. Many more organisations are now more aware of this message and how they can support it and are assisting The Lighthouse to deliver on their commitments to ensure that this organisation experience longevity in our community.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support The Lighthouse's grant application and believe that they are deserving recipients of this funding. I urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Callcott', is written above the typed name.

Jason Callcott  
Community Hub Leader  
Newtown State School



## Letter of Support: iNSPIRETEK



Annie Devitt  
Founder and Executive Chair - iNSPIRETEK.  
310 Edward Street Brisbane, Queensland, 4000.

3rd June 2024

Dear Ministers King, Rowland, and Burke,

I am writing to advocate fervently for The Lighthouse and its pursuit of funding through the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity, offered by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, and The Arts.

The Child Writes Fund Ltd, a registered charity, has been instrumental in supporting our pioneering children's creativity center, a groundbreaking initiative in regional Australia. Operating in a trial mode for the past three years, it has diligently worked to develop partnerships and programs tailored to the unique needs of the Toowoomba community.

Witnessing firsthand the remarkable impact of The Lighthouse on our community, I wholeheartedly endorse their quest for substantial funding of \$8.8 million. This funding will enable them to establish a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs for children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

Having been closely engaged with The Lighthouse for the past two years, both as a volunteer and supporter, and more recently as a partner through my company iNSPIRETEK and our Foundation, I can attest to their professionalism, expertise, and unwavering dedication to their cause. Our collaboration with The Lighthouse on a software platform for creatives and children has been exceptionally fruitful, and we are committed to nurturing this partnership for the long term.

The Lighthouse's commitment to community service is exemplary, demonstrated through their extensive collaborations with schools, organizations, and community groups. Their focus on mentorship, support, and inclusivity deserves commendation.

I firmly believe that The Lighthouse possesses the capability to deliver impactful programs and services, and with the necessary funding, they will continue to effect positive change in our community. Moreover, I am confident in their ability to utilize grant funding effectively to scale up their initiatives and foster real generational change.

Beyond our trusted professional relationship, I personally trust The Lighthouse to fulfill their objectives and commitments with integrity and excellence. I endorse their grant application wholeheartedly and offer to provide further detailed reference if needed.



In conclusion, I urge the granting agency to consider The Lighthouse's application favorably.  
Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annie Devitt'.

Annie Devitt [formerly Flamsteed]  
Founder & Executive Chair - iNSPIRETEK.

[annie@inspiretek.io](mailto:annie@inspiretek.io)

0409 250 350



WeWork, 310 Edward  
Street, Brisbane, 4000



1300 629 161



[www.inspiretek.io](http://www.inspiretek.io)

## Letter of Support: Chelsea Baker



Chelsea Baker  
6 Stonehaven Street,  
Mount Lofty, Toowoomba 4350

03/05/2024

Dear Ministers King, Rowland, and Burke

The Child Writes Fund Ltd is a registered charity supporting our very own children's centre for creativity, the first of its kind in regional Australia. For three years it has been operating in a trial mode to develop partners and programs that best respond to the unique needs of the Toowoomba community.

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for The Lighthouse and its application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity. This is available from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and The Arts

I am writing to express my wholehearted endorsement of The Lighthouse and its endeavours to secure substantial funding of \$8.8 million for the establishment of a site dedicated to delivering a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region. Having been closely involved with The Lighthouse, I have witnessed firsthand the incredible impact they have had on our community.

My involvement with The Lighthouse began with the organisation of my first solo artist exhibition, which took place in a space that could be considered suitable for a professional artist due to its considerable size. I attribute the smooth running and success of my exhibition largely to The Lighthouse's direct involvement and support. Throughout the month of September 2023, my exhibition - 'The Secret Life of Seedpods' - attracted 1592 adults and 419 children from the Toowoomba and surrounds.

During my exhibition, I received invaluable assistance from dedicated volunteers arranged by The Lighthouse, enabling me to run the exhibition month-long and deliver and facilitate two artist workshops.

Personally, The Lighthouse inspired my own growth and changed my preconceptions regarding the nature of art exhibitions. Their influence was evident in small yet significant adjustments, such as incorporating crucial touchpoints within the exhibition to engage children and ignite their curiosity about my artwork. This approach proved successful, as visitors with children consistently highlighted these child-centric activities as the most memorable aspect of the exhibition. Many expressed gratitude for challenging the traditional notion of 'no touching' in art galleries, thanking me personally for the enriching experience.

In addition to my personal experience, I have observed The Lighthouse's tireless dedication to bettering the development of young children in need who often slip through the cracks of traditional support systems to ultimately create real generational change. Their professionalism and commitment are unparalleled, and I have had a lasting and positive experience as an artist due to their assistance. The organisation's child curiosity-centric approach aims to inspire and provoke positive change for challenged youth, a mission I have seen them fulfil time and again.

Moreover, The Lighthouse's dedication extends beyond their direct programming, as evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations, and community groups. Their commitment to providing mentorship, support, and opportunities for growth to individuals of all backgrounds is truly commendable.

In conclusion, I firmly believe that The Lighthouse has demonstrated its capacity to deliver impactful programs and services, and with the necessary funding, they will continue to make a profound difference in the lives of those they serve.

I am confident in their ability to effectively utilise grant funding to scale up their initiatives and create real generational change within our community.

I urge you to consider The Lighthouse's grant application favourably. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chelsea Baker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chelsea Baker  
Botanical Artist 'Hello Chelsart'  
[www.hellochels.art](http://www.hellochels.art)  
0413 091 913

## Letter of Support: Catholic Care Social Services



4 May 2024

CatholicCare Social Services, Diocese of Toowoomba  
146 Mort St  
Toowoomba

Dear Ministers King, Rowland, and Burke

**RE: Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program**

The *Child Writes Fund Ltd* is a registered charity supporting our very own children's centre for creativity, the first of its kind in regional Australia. For three years it has been operating in a trial-mode to develop partners and programs that best respond to the unique needs of the Toowoomba community.

We are writing to express our enthusiastic support for **The Lighthouse** and its application for funding under the *Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program*, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity. This is available from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and The Arts

Having been closely involved with **The Lighthouse** and witnessing firsthand the incredible impact it has had on our community, I wholeheartedly endorse their efforts to secure substantial funding of \$8.8million for a site to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

As a significant community service provider in the region, we are well aware of the positive outcomes our mutual clients and broader community members achieve through their engagement and support with the wonderful programs delivered by **The Lighthouse**. Their dedication to serving our community goes above and beyond, as evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations, and community groups. Their commitment to providing mentorship, support, and opportunities for growth to individuals of all backgrounds is truly commendable.

I firmly believe that The Lighthouse has demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful and impactful programs and services, and that with the necessary funding, they will be able to continue making a difference in the lives of those they serve. And I am confident in their ability to effectively utilise the grant funding to scale up their initiatives and create real generational change within our community.

The Lighthouse is a truly inspirational centre that has worked at the grassroots, filling a vital gap for the entire community, using a service delivery model that has delivered on its commitments in ways that are transparent, low risk and impactful.

**We're with you.**

CatholicCare Diocese of Toowoomba | CatholicCare Social Services | ABN 79 1300 477 433

📞 1300 477 433 | 📧 hello@catholiccare.services | 📍 146 Mort St (PO Box 1733), Toowoomba Qld 4350 | 🌐 www.catholiccare.services

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support **The Lighthouse's** grant application and believe that they are deserving recipients of this funding. I urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Kate Venables  
*Executive Director*

m: 0427 210 298

e: [kvenables@catholiccare.services](mailto:kvenables@catholiccare.services)

We're with you.

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[www.catholiccare.services](http://www.catholiccare.services)

## Letter of Support: David Janetzki MP

# David JANETZKI

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Shadow Treasurer  
Shadow Minister for Home Ownership  
Shadow Minister for Investment and Trade

### To Whom It May Concern

I understand that The Lighthouse Toowoomba is applying for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant.

The funds would be used for a site to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to Toowoomba region children and youth.

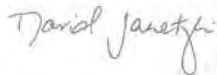
The Lighthouse is dedicated to serving our community and to providing mentorship and support to individuals with diverse backgrounds and needs.

Additionally, The Lighthouse has demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful and impactful programs and services.

I fully support this application for funding and trust that it is viewed favourably.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,



David Janetzki MP

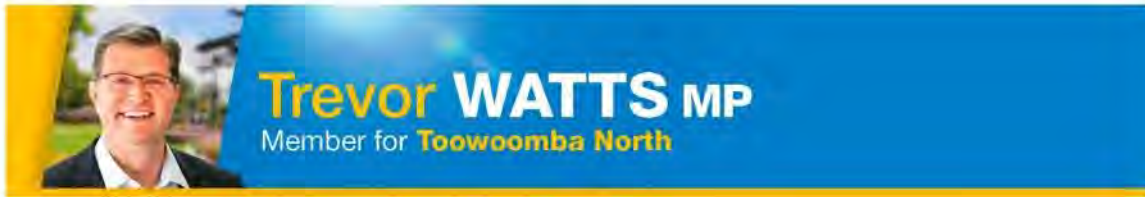


[davidjanetzki.com.au](http://davidjanetzki.com.au)



📍 The Bernoth Centre,  
Level 1, 677 - 683 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba QLD 4350  
✉️ [toowoomba.south@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:toowoomba.south@parliament.qld.gov.au) ☎️ (07) 4602 3100

## Letter of Support: Trevor Watts MP



Trevor Watts MP  
Member for Toowoomba North  
PO Box 285, Harlaxton QLD

08/05/2024

Dear Ministers,

The Child Writes Fund Ltd., a registered charity, actively supports the first children's centre for creativity in regional Australia, located in Toowoomba. This innovative centre has spent the last three years in a trial phase, developing partnerships and programs tailored to the unique needs of the local community.

I write to express my support for The Lighthouse in its application for funding through the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically targeting the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant. My involvement with The Lighthouse has allowed me to witness its profound impact on our community firsthand, supporting their request for \$8.8 million in funding. This will enable them to establish a dedicated site for their extensive creativity and literacy-based programs for children and youth.

The Lighthouse have built strong collaborations with local schools, organisations, and community groups, which speaks to their dedication to mentorship, support, and providing opportunities that foster individual growth across diverse backgrounds.

The Lighthouse has the ability to effectively use the grant funding to expand their initiatives and create lasting positive change in our community. I support their grant application.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Trevor Watts MP  
Member for Toowoomba North

182 Ruthven Street, North Toowoomba QLD 4350 PO Box 285, Harlaxton QLD 4350  
(07) 4602 2100 toowoomba.north@parliament.qld.gov.au trevorwattsmc.com  
TrevorWattsMP @TrevorWattsLNP trevorwattsmc



## Letter of Support: Inner Wheel



### Inner Wheel Club of Toowoomba Inc.



ABN 75 592 565 625  
PO Box 1498, Toowoomba Qld 4350  
[iw.au.toowoomba@gmail.com](mailto:iw.au.toowoomba@gmail.com)

Emma Mactaggart, was guest speaker at one of our Inner Wheel Dinner Meetings where she shared most enthusiastically the goals for The Lighthouse as Toowoomba's place of Creativity offering opportunities for every child to read, write and create with confidence. Her talk along with an organised tour for our members to the Lighthouse has seen members of our Club assist in reading to children and another group volunteer wrapping books to be delivered to schools-in-need ready to begin a new book club program. The Lighthouse provides essential support in the local community for literacy and visual literacy supporting gifted and talented children and children-in-need. The club of which I am the current President, Inner Wheel Toowoomba, has supported the Lighthouse gifting funds, time and books enabling the Lighthouse to carry out their much needed work. We donated money towards book bags so that children in need have their very own bag to hold their very precious books.

The club's partnership with the Lighthouse has raised the level of awareness of our members as to the need for this support in our local community. Often we take for granted the joy of reading that we gave our children not realising that there are many less fortunate children who don't have the skill of family support to develop this skill. Our ladies are very happy to support Lighthouse initiatives knowing that children will benefit enormously. Several of our members now volunteer at the Lighthouse on a regular basis.

On a personal level I read to toddlers each month. It is a rewarding experience for me as a grandparent and I know the children enjoy their time at Twinkles. I read to my children who have grown up to be avid readers who are in turn reading to their children. One mum said that her daughter loves being read to and can't wait to go to twinkles. It's such a lovely inviting space.

In my opinion literacy is everything needed for a child to develop confidence and imagination. An important skill set to have to succeed in life.

Kind regards

Wendy Orth  
President  
Inner Wheel Club Toowoomba Inc

---

President: Wendy Orth	Mobile: 0402 547972	Email: <a href="mailto:iw.au.toowoomba@gmail.com">iw.au.toowoomba@gmail.com</a>
Secretary: Katerina Graham	Mobile: 0447 800 792	Email: <a href="mailto:iw.au.toowoomba@gmail.com">iw.au.toowoomba@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer: Elizabeth Layton	Mobile: 0400 624814	Email: <a href="mailto:iw.au.toowoomba@gmail.com">iw.au.toowoomba@gmail.com</a>

## Letter of Support: Momentum Mental Health

3 May 2024



To whom it may concern,

### **Letter of support for the Lighthouse, Toowoomba for a Regional Precincts and Partnerships Grant application**

Momentum Mental Health are pleased to extend our support for the funding application submitted by The Lighthouse under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity. I believe this initiative holds immense value for our region and our communities.

Within inner regional areas of Queensland, such as Toowoomba, connection to services and access to services for children and youth are pivotal in addressing various economic, social, and environmental challenges across the social determinants of health.

Having been closely involved with The Lighthouse, and witnessing firsthand the incredible impact it has had on our community, I wholeheartedly endorse their efforts to secure funding of \$8.8m for a site to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

The Lighthouse's dedication to serving our community goes above and beyond, as evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations, and community groups. Their commitment to providing mentorship, support, and opportunities for growth to individuals of all backgrounds is truly commendable. We have experienced first-hand the generosity and passion of the Lighthouse to support our mental health services, including a joint educational event entitled "Empowering Women and Girls to Improve Wellbeing" held in March 2024.

I am confident that this funding grant will allow children and youth in regional Queensland, the opportunity to create positive connection and empower our communities through literacy. The Lighthouse has demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful and impactful programs and services, and that with the necessary funding, they will be able to continue making a difference in the lives of those they serve.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or require further information. I wholeheartedly endorse this proposal and believe it is deserving of this funding support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SAG", is written over a light blue circular background.

Shirley-Anne Gardiner  
CEO, Momentum Mental Health

-  **VISIT US** 112 Russell St, Toowoomba
-  **MAIL US** PO Box 3027, Toowoomba, QLD 4350
-  **SPEAK WITH US** 07 4632 4688
-  **EMAIL US** [admin@momentummentalhealth.com.au](mailto:admin@momentummentalhealth.com.au)

ABN 56 556 874 963 ACN 639 285 117

[www.momentummentalhealth.com.au](http://www.momentummentalhealth.com.au)

# Letter of Support: Queensland Police Service



## QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE

City Patrol Group – Darling Downs District  
52 Neil Street, Toowoomba  
PO Box 144, Toowoomba 4350  
TELEPHONE (07) 4631 6490  
EMAIL [DistrictOffice.DarlingDowns@police.qld.gov.au](mailto:DistrictOffice.DarlingDowns@police.qld.gov.au)



10<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**The Lighthouse Youth Writers Centre  
126 Margaret Street  
Toowoomba QLD 4350.**

**RE: Letter of Support for The Lighthouse**

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Darling Downs District, Queensland Police Service, to express my enthusiastic support for The Lighthouse and its application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity, available from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and The Arts.

For three years, The Lighthouse has been operating to develop partners and programs that best respond to the unique needs of the Toowoomba community. The Queensland Police Service recognises The Lighthouse's dedication to serving our community which goes above and beyond, as evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations, and community groups. Their commitment to providing mentorship, support, and opportunities for growth to individuals of all backgrounds is truly commendable.

Having been closely involved with The Lighthouse and witnessing firsthand the incredible impact it has had on Toowoomba's youth and the wider community, I wholeheartedly endorse their efforts to secure substantial funding for a site to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

I firmly believe that The Lighthouse has demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful and impactful programs and services, and that with the necessary funding, they will be able to continue making a difference in the lives of those they serve. I am confident in The Lighthouse's ability to effectively utilise the grant funding to scale up their positive initiatives and create real generational change within our community.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support The Lighthouse's grant application and believe that they are deserving recipients of this funding. I urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably.

Should you require any further information from us regarding this matter, please contact us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Winslade', located below the text of the letter.

Yours sincerely,  
**Jerome Winslade**  
Acting Inspector  
City Patrol Group  
**DARLING DOWNS DISTRICT**

QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE

## Letter of Support: Toowoomba International Multicultural Society



**Toowoomba International Multicultural Society Inc.**

*P O Box 11, Darling Heights 4350, ph.07-46309175*

2 May 2024

Dear Ministers King, Rowland, and Burke,

The Toowoomba International Multicultural Society (TIMS) is a multi-award winning community based registered charity run by volunteers. Since 2008 TIMS has worked with many organisations, all levels of Government and many community groups across the region on a wide range of programs to deliver benefits to vulnerable members of the community from diverse backgrounds.

Toowoomba is a multicultural region with people from over 200+ backgrounds, 117+ languages other English spoken at home and 90+ religions. It is also a Refugee Welcome Zone (since 2013) with a large cohort of new arrivals from Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, and Sudan.

The Child Writes Fund Ltd is a registered charity supporting our very own children's centre for creativity, the first of its kind in regional Australia. For three years it has been operating in a trial-mode to develop partners and programs that best respond to the unique needs of the Toowoomba community.

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for The Lighthouse and its application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity. This is available from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and The Arts

Having been closely involved with The Lighthouse and seeing firsthand the incredible impact it has had on our community, I wholeheartedly endorse their efforts to substantial secure funding of \$8.8m for a site to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

The Lighthouse runs unique programs for children and adult writers and artists from diverse backgrounds to develop and express their unique talents. I am privileged to have been involved in several of these programs. I have personally spoken to some of the children who've been part of these programs and I frequently recommend their programs to others.

The Lighthouse's dedication to serving our community goes above and beyond, as evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations, and community groups. Their commitment to providing mentorship, support, and opportunities for growth to individuals of all backgrounds is truly commendable.

The Lighthouse team give generously to the community in a multitude of ways, these include many volunteer hours, donations received, workshops delivered, number of individuals reached, and also continuously designing programs that help vulnerable and budding members of the community.

I firmly believe that The Lighthouse has demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful and impactful programs and services, and that with the necessary

funding, they will be able to continue making a difference in the lives of those they serve.

I am confident in The Lighthouse's ability to effectively utilise the grant funding to scale up their initiatives and create real generational change within our community. I have worked with The Lighthouse's team personally and know that will deliver on commitments with transparency and at a low risk of failure.

The Lighthouse's programs and dedication is needed more than ever by our increasingly multicultural demographic. One of their recent programs 'Kaleidoscope of Cultural Stories' teaches through children's stories about the norms of many other cultures. Both children and adults have learned from these stories and they have greatly helped combat prejudice and racism.

I fully support the their programs and look forward to working in partnership with them for many years to come. In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support The Lighthouse's grant application and believe that they are deserving recipients of this funding. I urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on 07-46309175.

Yours sincerely



Gitie House OAM  
President, TIMS

## Letter of Support: Tim Hunter, Author

2 May 2024

To whom it may concern,

Hail, and well met. I am Timothy Hunter. I am a Toowoomba-based writer, and small-business owner. I am also a support worker, local council library employee, and thanks to The Lighthouse, I am a workshop convenor for the young writers of this community. I am writing this letter to convey my deepest thanks to those who have provided grants to fund this marvellous organization, and to implore you with all sincerity to continue your support.

You'll note that my self-introduction included many hats. I am often at a loss to explain my role and function to others, as I seem to be, like many in my generation and position, "kind of a lot of things." I am pulled in a lot of directions, have chosen a career as an artist, and dedicated myself to supporting my community wherever possible. I probably could not list a path with less direction and concrete benefits than this. However, I do have a path, and that is thanks largely to The Lighthouse.

Prior to discovering The Lighthouse, my artistic career was on perpetual hold. I had no idea how to publish, or to make contacts in my industry. I was university educated on the art of writing, with no practical guide to do anything with that knowledge. Discovering an institution within my community that acted as a beacon, a simple point of reference, was life changing. What's more, it gave me a chance to contribute to my fellow artists in the community.

After initial meetings, I found kindred spirits in The Lighthouse's staff and community. I found outlets for not only my creativity, but also for my sense of self-worth. Running writing workshops for Toowoomba youths reminds me that not only is my training and knowledge useful, but it can be of value to others seeking their own artistic expression.

I recall starting the workshops for the first time. I found myself nervous, and certain that my contributions were not going to be meaningful. But quickly, I found that engaging with young people; so alike to myself, artists looking for voices, youths desperate to express their minds and passions; I found a way to feel useful and motivated.

The young writers that attend my workshops are all wildly imaginative and talented. Each brings a unique perspective and voice to our group. Though they all have different interests, they have found a great deal in common, and formed friendships that go beyond our work.

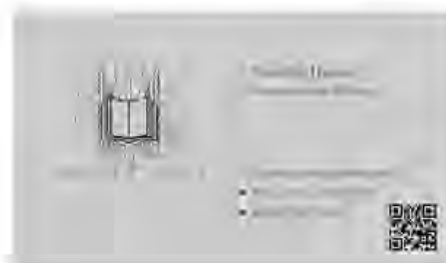
I work to maintain an excellent rapport with the workshop participants and have found them bright and eager to build on their skills. I remember when they began to talk about some of their wilder story ideas, getting off topic, and when one commented that they shouldn't talk about some of their wackier ideas in front of an adult, another commented that I didn't count. When I pressed them as to what I counted as, they decided that I was more like a wizard. The joy I draw from such rapport has led me to continue my workshops for well over a year now, and I have no plans on stopping.

One young author brought me scripts for movies that he wished to make, which evolved over time and included sequels and prequels. His motivation to keep going outside of session time convinced me that he had found an outlet for his self-expression that he could not find elsewhere.

The Lighthouse is a beacon for Toowoomba's artists. Adult authors, and emerging young artists have a place they can turn to when the way seems obscure. Without community services like these, artists struggle and wither, never finding the platform and tools to craft their visions into arts. They can become despondent, waste their talents, and forget the joys to be had in self-expression. What they need is a light on the hill to keep them oriented, and people willing to put in the time for them. Grants like yours make such services and the dreams they help express possible.

Best

Tim Hunter  
Freelance Writer & Editor



## Letter of Support: Cr Rebecca Von Hoff



CR REBECCA VONHOFF  
DEPUTY MAYOR  
Chair  
Waste & Water Committee



Our ref: RV/tp/11579886

13 May 2024

Dear Ministers King, Rowland and Burke

The Child Writes Fund Ltd is a registered charity supporting our very own children's centre for creativity, the first of its kind in regional Australia. For three years it has been operating in a trial-mode to develop partners and programs that best respond to the unique needs of the Toowoomba community.

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for The Lighthouse and its application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity. This is available from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and The Arts.

Having been closely involved with The Lighthouse and witnessing firsthand the incredible impact it has had on our community, I wholeheartedly endorse their efforts to substantial secure funding of \$8.8m for a site to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

The Lighthouse's dedication to serving our community goes above and beyond, as evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations, and community groups. Their commitment to providing mentorship, support and opportunities for growth to individuals of all backgrounds is truly commendable.

I firmly believe that The Lighthouse has demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful and impactful programs and services, and that with the necessary funding, they will be able to continue making a difference in the lives of those they serve.

I am confident in The Lighthouse's ability to effectively utilise the grant funding to scale up their initiatives and create real generational change within our community.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support The Lighthouse's grant application and believe that they are deserving recipients of this funding. I urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours faithfully

Cr Rebecca Vonhoff  
Deputy Mayor



## Letter of Support: Mater Dei Primary School



**MATER DEI  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

53 Curzon Street  
East Toowoomba Q 4350  
Phone: 07 4637 6100

Email: [materdei@twb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:materdei@twb.catholic.edu.au)

May 6, 2024

Dear Ministers King, Rowland, and Burke

The Child Writes Fund Ltd is a registered charity supporting our very own children's centre for creativity, the first of its kind in regional Australia. For three years it has been operating in a trial-mode to develop partners and programs that best respond to the unique needs of the Toowoomba community.

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for this charity, and for The Lighthouse and its application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity. This is available from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and The Arts.

Having been closely involved with The Lighthouse and witnessing firsthand the incredible impact it has had on our community, I wholeheartedly endorse their efforts to secure substantial funding of \$8.8m for a site to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

The Lighthouse's dedication to serving our community goes above and beyond, as evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations, community in general and individuals of all backgrounds. Their endless commitment is truly commendable.

The team at the Lighthouse are enthusiastic, energetic, and passionate people who regularly reach out to the community with information and invitations on upcoming events. My experience with the Lighthouse has been both personal and professional. As a primary school teacher, I have been involved with the Child Writes Program several times and have found it to be a wonderful platform for students to experience life as a young writer. As a current Visual Arts teacher, I have been delighted with the invitations on offer from the Lighthouse to attend Art Exhibitions and participate in Art Workshops and Art Competitions – experiences that my students have thoroughly enjoyed and found rewarding. 'Hello Baby Calendar', for new mums and their babies, was a very creative initiative of the Lighthouse and my students were thrilled to have their artwork selected for the 2024 calendar.

Personally, I have attended Art Exhibitions in their fabulous Lighthouse space and have always appreciated being kept in the loop as to community events.

I firmly believe that The Lighthouse has demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful and impactful programs and services, and that with the necessary funding, they will be able to continue making a difference in the lives of those they serve.

I am confident in The Lighthouse's ability to effectively utilise the grant funding to scale up their initiatives and create real generational change within our community.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support The Lighthouse's grant application and believe that they are deserving recipients of this funding. I urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably. All communities need people and places like the Lighthouse to ensure creative and beneficial initiatives can be brought to fruition – they have the capacity to generate endless possibilities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely

**Leigh Lucht**

Visual Arts Teacher

Mater Dei Primary School

Mobile: 0412499322

Email: [leigh.lucht@twb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:leigh.lucht@twb.catholic.edu.au)

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[www.mdpstwb.catholic.edu.au](http://www.mdpstwb.catholic.edu.au)



## Letter of Support: Jessica Ritchie, International Award Winning Author



Jessica Ritchie  
CEO – Transformational Brand Lab  
48 Curzon St, East Toowoomba 4350

13/05/2024

Dear Ministers King, Rowland, and Burke

The Child Writes Fund Ltd is a registered charity supporting our very own children's centre for creativity, the first of its kind in regional Australia. For three years it has been operating in a trial-mode to develop partners and programs that best respond to the unique needs of the Toowoomba community.

With the end of their trial now in sight, I'd like to share my personal experience with this truly remarkable organisation.

I consider myself incredibly fortunate to have been involved in the conversations and strategic planning for the development of The Lighthouse Toowoomba. Stepping into The Lighthouse never fails to fill me with a sense of awe at the profound impact they have on our community. Serving as a volunteer and friend of The Lighthouse has been a privilege, and I've eagerly contributed to its growth since its inception, eagerly anticipating Version 2. While I've dedicated considerable time and effort, the rewards I've received in return have been immeasurable.

I've had the opportunity to conduct workshops for Flexischool and Emerge Toowoomba, dedicated to supporting underprivileged youths. The Lighthouse not only fosters children's literacy but also provides a sanctuary and beacon of hope in our community. The thought of its cessation is distressing, as numerous groups depend on its support to thrive and flourish. I've personally witnessed remarkable transformations, from assisting a young woman

transitioning from youth detention to securing her dream job in a library to empowering individuals to articulate and pursue positive futures through vision workshops.

I am delighted to have contributed a number of my own books to Flexischool and Emerge, igniting a passion for reading personal development where there was previously none. This has empowered many of them to use the content to have bigger and brighter futures. In fact, Emma has been such a big supporter and mentor to me with my own writing that I would never have had the courage to become a seven-time internationally award-winning author without her.

The Lighthouse's unwavering warmth, support, and non-judgmental environment have illuminated the lives of children from diverse backgrounds. My two children have benefited immensely from participating in its programs, fondly reminiscing about crafting stories and unleashing their imagination. Thanks to The Lighthouse, my eldest son Max has access to a wealth of books without financial strain on us (he reads 20 books per week!), enabling him to give back and fuel his love for reading.

Additionally, it's incredibly rewarding to witness children arriving from schools across our vast region and experiencing a sense of pride as they see their school 'keys' proudly displayed at the entrance on the wall. This wall, also adorned with 'bricks' bearing the names of those who have significantly contributed to the essence of The Lighthouse, serves as a tangible testament to the community's collective effort. Observing their reactions, filled with awe and wonder, is a poignant reminder of the profound impact The Lighthouse has on individuals of all ages.

It would be remiss not to mention how often I witness adults drop by to greet and commend the small but mighty team of Emma and Emily for their Herculean efforts.

My involvement with The Lighthouse has also opened doors for me professionally. I'm honoured to have been invited to join the board of Emerge, a testament to the opportunities and growth facilitated by volunteering with The Lighthouse. Its impact

extends far beyond literacy, shaping futures and empowering all individuals who come into contact with them to reach their full potential.

In a world increasingly shaded with grey, The Lighthouse injects vibrant hues of colour, creativity, and literacy into our regional community, transforming it into a place of joy, curiosity, and positive influence that shapes our children. The Lighthouse is undeniably 'Making their Mark' and leaving a legacy that will positively impact future generations.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support The Lighthouse's grant application and believe that they are deserving recipients of this funding. I urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

The image shows a handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Jessica Ritchie". Below the signature, the name "RITCHIE" is printed in a bold, uppercase, sans-serif font.

Jessica Ritchie  
CEO – Transformational Brand Lab  
[jessica@jessica-ritchie.com](mailto:jessica@jessica-ritchie.com)  
0400709076  
[www.transformationalbrandlab.com](http://www.transformationalbrandlab.com)

## Letter of Support: Jasmine Barui



Jasmine Barui  
Executive Producer at 2 Shades Lighter Entertainment  
48 East Street, Redwood 4350 QLD

03.05.24

Dear Ministers King, Rowland, and Burke

The Child Writes Fund Ltd is a registered charity supporting our very own children's centre for creativity, the first of its kind in regional Australia. For three years it has been operating in a trial-mode to develop partners and programs that best respond to the unique needs of the Toowoomba community.

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for The Lighthouse and its application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity. This is available from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and The Arts

Having been closely involved with The Lighthouse and witnessing firsthand the incredible impact it has had on our community, I wholeheartedly endorse their efforts to substantial secure funding of \$8.8m for a site to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

My journey with Mrs Mactaggart and the Lighthouse started over ten years ago with the child writes program. Through this process, she supported, inspired and drove an 8-year-old girl to write and illustrate her first book. That is the moment I decided to be a creative. I am now, at 22, running my own production company, have sold my first tv show and am writing my first full-length novel. I can decisively say that it was the Child Write's program that began that journey for me and I will forever be grateful to Emma for giving me that start.

The Lighthouse's dedication to serving our community goes above and beyond, as evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations, and community groups. Their commitment to providing mentorship, support, and opportunities for growth to individuals of all backgrounds is truly commendable.

I firmly believe that The Lighthouse has demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful and impactful programs and services, and that with the necessary funding, they will be able to continue making a difference in the lives of those they serve.

I am confident in The Lighthouse's ability to effectively utilise the grant funding to scale up their initiatives and create real generational change within our community.

The success of organisations lives and dies with the hearts of people that run it. I have worked in the artistic space for 10 years and there are very few people who love and champion this industry quite like Mrs Mactaggart. She has stayed in touch with me, supporting and encouraging my creative endeavours, for over a decade. That is how much she cares. She reaches and fosters the creativity inside of everyone she talks to with such warmth and infectious passion. It is impossible not to feel inspired. A woman of her word, she fiercely pushes the best and most creative parts of people into the light – lighthouse is truly a fitting name.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support The Lighthouse's grant application and believe that they are deserving recipients of this funding. I urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jasmine Barui  
2 Shades Lighter Entertainment  
0428414282

## Letter of Support: Jen Munt

Mrs Jam and The Munts Bunch  
Personal Assistant/CEO extraordinaire  
21 Loveday Street Rangeville  
Toowoomba  
Queensland  
4350  
0432 892920

14<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Ministers King, Rowland, and Burke

As a mother of a young woman with disability, I am writing to share with you my enthusiastic support of, and passion for, the Lighthouse here in Toowoomba. This inclusive space has welcomed my family since the day the doors were opened and I have many a special story to share about the adventures we have had there!... From myself hosting 'toasted turkeys' brunches for Carer parents where they can sit down, breathe and take time out to create their own zine, or story rock... and our eldest daughter with disability creating a piece of art that was part of the 'Water – one World Two Stories' Australia-Iran exhibition that The Lighthouse held..... and our son attended Drama and Acting classes at the Rabbit Hole at the Lighthouse. He is now attending classes at the Gold Coast and a few months ago starred in an Iconic Australian film... to the numerous interactive workshops we have attended, hosted by fabulous local and international authors, illustrators, designers, artists and creatives....three of my personal favourites being Lee FullARTon, Caroline Magerl and Catherine Parker.

I am absolutely grateful that The Lighthouse offers my family creative volunteer opportunities, friendly faces that are always super happy when we drop in, and beautiful spaces for all moods and occasions.

The Lighthouse is unique, essential and absolutely on my list of favourite 'things', as Mary Poppins once sang about!

I am extremely supportive of The Lighthouse and its application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity. This is available from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and The Arts

Having been closely involved with The Lighthouse and witnessing firsthand the incredible impact it has had on our community, I wholeheartedly endorse their efforts to substantial secure funding of \$8.8m for a site to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

The Lighthouse's dedication to reaching out to our community goes above and beyond, as evidenced by their extensive collaborations with community groups, schools and organisations. Their commitment to providing mentorship, support, and opportunities for growth to individuals of all backgrounds and abilities is such a blessing. Seriously!

If their application is successful, this will mean that The Lighthouse will continue to offer meaningful and impactful programs and services, and continue making a huge difference in the lives of those they serve, like my family!

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support The Lighthouse's grant application and believe that they are totally deserving recipients of this funding. I urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kind Regards,

Jen Munt (Mrs Jam)

## Letter of Support: Flexi School Toowoomba



Wendy Ellem  
Teacher  
Toowoomba Flexi School  
14-16 Chalk Drive Toowoomba

8 May 2024

Dear Ministers King, Rowland, and Burke

The Child Writes Fund Ltd is a registered charity supporting our very own children's centre for creativity, the first of its kind in regional Australia. For three years it has been operating in a trial-mode to develop partners and programs that best respond to the unique needs of the Toowoomba community.

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for The Lighthouse and its application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity. This is available from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and The Arts

Having been closely involved with The Lighthouse and witnessing firsthand the incredible impact it has had on our community, I wholeheartedly endorse their efforts to substantial secure funding of \$8.8m for a site to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

Toowoomba Flexi School students have been regular patrons of The Lighthouse. This organisation has provided our school with a one stop shop for all things concerning the Arts. The plethora of community cultural activities (such as art exhibitions, music concerts, festivals) and creative workshops have complemented the Australian Curriculum seamlessly but most importantly, have engaged our students. Normally such experiences would come at a cost to families and hence limit access to such enriching and immersive programs. For some students, The Lighthouse has provided their first experience of attending an art gallery, or the opportunity to bring home a free bundle of books to share with the family, or that safe space to be themselves.

The Lighthouse's dedication to serving our community goes above and beyond, as evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations, and community groups. Their commitment to providing mentorship, support, and opportunities for growth to individuals of all backgrounds is truly commendable.

The Lighthouse has become an essential Toowoomba Flexi School partner who has, over the past 2 years, provided 12 customised workshops for our young people.

Site Address: Chalk Drive, Toowoomba Q 4350  
Postal Address: 80 Ramsay Street Toowoomba Q 4350

(07) 4614 4100  
(07) 4614 4110

flexi\_school@oenthighlights.qld.edu.au  
www.toowoombaflexi.ed.qld.edu.au





I firmly believe that The Lighthouse has demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful and impactful programs and services, and that with the necessary funding, they will be able to continue making a difference in the lives of those they serve.

I am confident in The Lighthouse's ability to effectively utilise the grant funding to scale up their initiatives and create real generational change within our community.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support The Lighthouse's grant application and believe that they are deserving recipients of this funding. I urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Ellem', written in a cursive style.

Wendy Ellem  
Teacher  
Toowoomba Flexi School

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Cook', written in a cursive style.

Darren Cook  
Principal  
Centenary Heights State High School

Site Address: Chalk Drive, Toowoomba Q 4350  
Postal Address: 60 Ramsay Street, Toowoomba Q 4350

T 07 4614 4100  
F 07 4614 4110

E flexi\_school@centreighths.eq.edu.au  
W www.toowoombaflex.eq.edu.au



I firmly believe that The Lighthouse has demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful and impactful programs and services, and that with the necessary funding, they will be able to continue making a difference in the lives of those they serve.

I am confident in The Lighthouse's ability to effectively utilise the grant funding to scale up their initiatives and create real generational change within our community.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support The Lighthouse's grant application and believe that they are deserving recipients of this funding. I urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Wendy Ellem  
Teacher  
Toowoomba Flexi School

Darren Cook  
Principal  
Centenary Heights State High School

Site Address: Chalk Drive, Toowoomba Q 4350  
Postal Address: 80 Ramsay Street Toowoomba Q 4380

07 4814 4100  
07 4814 4110

flexi\_school@centheights.eq.edu.au  
www.toowoombaflex.eq.edu.au

## Letter of Support: Rosemarie Dawes, Chiselhurst Kindergarten



Chiselhurst Kindergarten Assoc. Incorporated  
ABN 43 103 467 374  
PO Box 124, Toowoomba, Qld, 4330  
12 Stonehaven Street, Toowoomba  
(07) 4632 4144 info@chiselhurst.com.au  
www.chiselhurst.com.au

May 28, 2024

Dear Ministers King, Rowland, and Burke

Ministers, I urge you to take the time to read and support The Lighthouse application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnership Program. As Sir Ken Richardson said

*"Creativity is as important as literacy."*

How fortunate is the community of Toowoomba to have the Child Writes Fund Ltd a registered charity supporting our very own children's centre for creativity, the first of its kind in regional Australia. For three years it has been operating in a trial-mode to develop partners and programs that best respond to the unique needs of the Toowoomba community.

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for The Lighthouse and its application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity. This is available from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and The Arts

Having been closely involved with The Lighthouse and witnessing firsthand the incredible impact it has had on our community, I wholeheartedly endorse their efforts to substantial secure funding of \$8.5m for a site to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

Kindergarten families have visited The Lighthouse for a variety of functions, such as book readings, creative workshops, or been involved in community projects with them such as The Hello baby calendar. Every time we have visited parents always comment how fortunate we are to have this in Toowoomba. As an early childhood teacher, I am inspired by their creativity and passion!

The Lighthouse's dedication to serving our community goes above and beyond, as evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations, and community groups. Their commitment to providing mentorship, support, and opportunities for growth to individuals of all backgrounds is truly commendable.

I firmly believe that The Lighthouse has demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful and impactful programs and services, and that with the necessary funding, they will be able to continue making a difference in the lives of those they serve.

A Lady Gowrie Affiliated Community Kindergarten

I am confident in The Lighthouse's ability to effectively utilise the grant funding to scale up their initiatives and create real generational change within our community.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support The Lighthouse's grant application and believe that they are deserving recipients of this funding. I urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.



Rosemarie Dawes  
Director  
Chiselhurst Kindergarten  
12 Stonehaven Street  
Toowoomba  
Queensland 4350

## Letter of Support: Lifeline Darling Downs & South West Qld



3 May 2024

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development,  
Communications and the Arts

To Whom it May Concern

The Child Writes Fund Ltd is a registered charity supporting Toowoomba's own children's centre for creativity, the first of its kind in regional Australia. For three years it has been operating in a trial-mode to develop partners and programs that best respond to the unique needs of the Toowoomba community.

Lifeline Darling Downs & South West Qld Ltd is writing to offer our support to The Lighthouse and its application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity. This is available from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Lifeline Darling Downs & South West Qld Ltd has been providing services in Toowoomba, the Darling Downs and South West Queensland for 48 years. Our Vision is to engage and empower individuals to build resilient communities. Having been involved with The Lighthouse and witnessing firsthand the positive impact it has had on our community, I fully endorse their efforts to secure funding of \$8.8m for a site to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

The Lighthouse's dedication to serving our community is evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations, and community groups. Their commitment to providing mentorship, support, and opportunities for growth to individuals of all backgrounds is commendable.

I believe that The Lighthouse has demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful and impactful programs and services, and that with the necessary funding, they will be able to continue making a difference in the lives of those they serve.

I am confident in The Lighthouse's ability to effectively utilise the grant funding to scale up their initiatives and create real generational change within our community.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rachelle Patterson".

**Rachelle Patterson**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Head Office**  
ABN: 97 075 403 959  
33 Russell Street, Toowoomba Q 4350  
PO Box 2119 Toowoomba Q 4350  
**Phone:** 1300 991 443  
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**Email:** [lifeline@lifelinedarlingdowns.org.au](mailto:lifeline@lifelinedarlingdowns.org.au)  
**Web Site:** [www.lifelinedarlingdowns.org.au](http://www.lifelinedarlingdowns.org.au)

## Letter of Support: Ruben Fitton

Ruben Fitton  
Student at The Melbourne Conservatorium of Music (Bachelor of Music, Classical Voice)  
4A Mayes Street East Toowoomba QLD 4350  
27/05/24

Dear Ministers King, Rowland, and Burke

The Child Writes Fund Ltd is a registered charity supporting our very own children's centre for creativity, the first of its kind in regional Australia. For three years it has been operating in a trial-mode to develop partners and programs that best respond to the unique needs of the Toowoomba community.

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for The Lighthouse and its application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity. This is available from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and The Arts

Having been closely involved with The Lighthouse and witnessing firsthand the incredible impact it has had on our community, I wholeheartedly endorse their efforts to substantial secure funding of \$8.8m for a site to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

When I was in grade 6, I had the opportunity to participate in the Child Writes Program. This memorable experience was instrumental in nurturing my passion for creative pursuits, gifting me one of the best moments in my life I often look back on. I have been so fortunate to have had further interactions with The Lighthouse through The Sydney Writers Festival and Art exhibitions at the gallery meeting other industry professionals sharing and giving to our community. As well as beginning my tertiary studies at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music this year, I have continued to paint and write with exhibited work at art shows and galleries. The Lighthouse is a gift and anyone who has the experience to either visit an exhibition or be a part of a workshop offered will be changed for the better.

The Lighthouse's dedication to serving our community goes above and beyond, as evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations, and community groups. Their commitment to providing mentorship, support, and opportunities for growth to individuals of all backgrounds is truly commendable. I firmly believe that The Lighthouse has demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful and impactful programs and services, and that with the necessary funding, they will be able to continue making a difference in the lives of those they serve. I am confident in The Lighthouse's ability to effectively utilise the grant funding to scale up their initiatives and create real generational change within our community.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support The Lighthouse's grant application and believe that they are deserving recipients of this funding. I urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Ruben Fitton  
Student at The Melbourne Conservatorium of Music (Bachelor of Music, Classical Voice)  
0427 221 573

## Letter of Support: Toowoomba Hospital Foundation



Alison Kennedy  
Toowoomba Hospital Foundation  
154 Pechey Street  
Toowoomba Hospital  
South Toowoomba, QLD 4350

5<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Dear Ministers King, Rowland, and Burke

I am writing to express my support for The Lighthouse and its application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity.

Having been closely involved with The Lighthouse and witnessing firsthand the incredible impact it has had on our community, I wholeheartedly endorse their efforts to substantially secure funding of \$8.8m for a site to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

The Lighthouse's dedication to serving our community goes above and beyond, as evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations, and community groups. The Toowoomba Hospital Foundation and the young patients of Darling Downs Health have benefitted from donations provided by The Lighthouse through their community partnerships.

I firmly believe that The Lighthouse has demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful and impactful programs and services, and that with the necessary funding, they will be able to continue making a difference in the lives of those they serve.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support The Lighthouse's grant application and believe that they are deserving recipients of this funding. I urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Alison Kennedy  
CEO Toowoomba Hospital Foundation



## Letter of Support: Wilsonton Early Years Network



Paula Janz  
WEYN co-ordinator  
c/o Wilsonton State School

08/06/2024

Dear Ministers King, Rowland, and Burke

The Child Writes Fund Ltd is a registered charity supporting our very own children's centre for creativity, the first of its kind in regional Australia. For three years it has been operating in a trial-mode to develop partners and programs that best respond to the unique needs of the Toowoomba community.

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for The Lighthouse and its application for funding under the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, specifically for the Stream Two Precinct Delivery grant opportunity. This is available from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and The Arts

Having been closely involved with The Lighthouse and witnessing firsthand the incredible impact it has had on our community, I wholeheartedly endorse their efforts to obtain secure funding of \$8.8m for a site to deliver a comprehensive range of creativity and literacy-based programs to children and youth in the Toowoomba region.

The Lighthouse's dedication to serving our community goes above and beyond, as evidenced by their extensive collaborations with schools, organisations, and community groups. Their commitment to providing mentorship, support, and opportunities for growth to individuals of all backgrounds is truly commendable.

The Lighthouse has been particularly supportive of our WEYN – Wilsonton Early Years Network in many ways. Every year we hold an Under 5s day where we bring our Wilsonton community together to create an inclusive and engaging event to support at-risk families. The children in this area are identified by the Australian Early Childhood Developmental Census as being at-risk or vulnerable in multiple developmental domains. This requires a whole community approach to gain better outcomes for the children. The Lighthouse has always supported our Under 5s day by generously donating hundreds of books which are given out to the children in attendance. The value of these book donations cannot be overstated, especially in our area which has such a diverse population, including a high number of Indigenous, migrant and refugee families.

The WEYN has also regularly held pop-up stalls at our local shopping centre where we showcase the essential services offered by local organisations who are able to offer assistance with education, community and health needs. In this low socioeconomic area, this event has played a vital role in bridging gaps and providing access to resources, while also promoting a supportive environment for families. The Lighthouse has again supported our endeavours by providing books to donate to these families, which aligns with our shared



commitment to building a resilient and connected community where every child has the opportunity to thrive.

In addition to this support for families and children, The Lighthouse has assisted the WEYN in our formative days by offering the very generous use of a graphic designer who helped us to design a logo and associated banners, bookmarks and advertising. This has enabled us to reach out and be known to the community so as to provide families with the knowledge of, and assistance to access these essential educational, health and community services.

The Lighthouse is a regular attendee and host of our meetings, showing its support and encouragement of our network. This collaborative effort not only enriches our WEYN organisation but helps to promote the well-being of our whole community.

I firmly believe that The Lighthouse has demonstrated its capacity to deliver meaningful and impactful programs and services, and that with the necessary funding, they will be able to continue making a difference in the lives of those they serve.

I am confident in The Lighthouse's ability to effectively utilise the grant funding to scale up their initiatives and create real generational change within our community.

I am pleased to offer our organisation's full support for this application as The Lighthouse's community-driven activities and initiatives promote the well-being of children and families which aligns perfectly with our own slogan of "Bub to 5, Play to Thrive". We look forward to seeing the positive impact that the receipt of this grant will undoubtedly have on our community and the lasting connections and benefits it will foster.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support The Lighthouse's grant application and believe that they are deserving recipients of this funding. I urge the granting agency to consider their application favourably.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Paula Janz  
07 46371222



Thank you!



You made it this far... and we trust this is as uplifting for you to read as it has been to create this document. This is exactly the type of support this centre has received to-date, and truly, people just 'get it' when they visit. Please consider this an open invitation to join us soon so we can share this experience with you too.