



# Community Investment Report

2024





Airport Development Group (ADG) acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as Traditional Custodians of the Larrakia, Arrernte and Warumungu lands on which it operates, and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Terms Used

According to Northern Territory Government convention please note that the use of the term Aboriginal in this report is inclusive of Torres Strait Islander people.

According to Elder guidance, ADG uses the term Aboriginal when referencing people, culture and Government programs as so named.

Indigenous is used when referencing programs or groups such as Indigenous Training Academy, Indigenous Engagement Report, Indigenous Advisory Committee and Indigenous businesses.

**Image Cover:** Territory Day – NT Major Events Company  
**Image Above:** Welcoming to Country Ceremony – Darwin Airport Resorts

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# Foreword

## ADG EGM People Culture and Community

With unique landscapes and rugged isolation, the Northern Territory (NT) is as diverse as the people and the communities it supports. With more than 100 nationalities, 73 Aboriginal communities and an array of sporting, community, arts and interest groups, here in the Territory, we celebrate a rich variety of culture, languages and traditions with community at the heart of it all.

For more than 25 years, Airport Development Group (ADG) has been a contributor to this Territory tapestry, supporting and investing in the people and communities of the Territory who make this a great place to live.

As Executive General Manager of People, Culture and Community, it has been my great privilege to witness the diversity and depth of people and culture in the NT and, through ADG's community investment programs, see adversity overcome, or the fulfillment of a dream, or the hand of help and support to a neighbour or stranger; it's these human experiences that help strengthen our community and allow us to thrive.

After investing for more than two decades, this year, we wanted to document and celebrate our communities and the role ADG plays in shaping the Territory. Whether it's contributing to education and employment, health and wellbeing, aspiring young sports teams, the artists and performers who inspire us, or the celebration and sharing of the Territory's deep Aboriginal culture, we are proud to be a part of what makes the Territory unique and diverse.

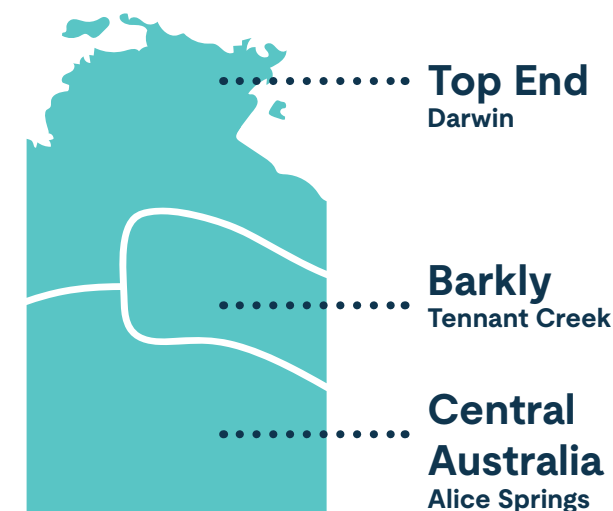
So, for this, our inaugural Community Report, we welcome you into our communities and to share in how ADG helps make it the one we call home.



Sandra de Kock  
Executive General Manager, People, Culture & Community  
Airport Development Group

Airport Development Group (ADG) is proud to be a longstanding contributor to the Northern Territory community.

For more than two decades, ADG has played an active role in supporting the economic and social fabric of the regions in which it operates:



Our investment is not just in aviation infrastructure; it is in the people, places and programs that build strong, vibrant and resilient communities.

Through strategic partnerships and community-driven initiatives, ADG makes a significant contribution to improving liveability across the Northern Territory.

Through targeted sponsorships, ADG continues to foster regional growth across the Northern Territory.

ADG's investment is grouped into five Investment Categories. These represent the types of programs and activities ADG supports:

- Tourism and Major Events
- Community Grants
- Staff-led giving initiatives
- Stakeholder and community events
- Community development initiatives

Investment decisions are guided by three strategic priorities that ensure meaningful impact:

- Tourism Enhancement
- Community and Stakeholder Support
- Indigenous Engagement

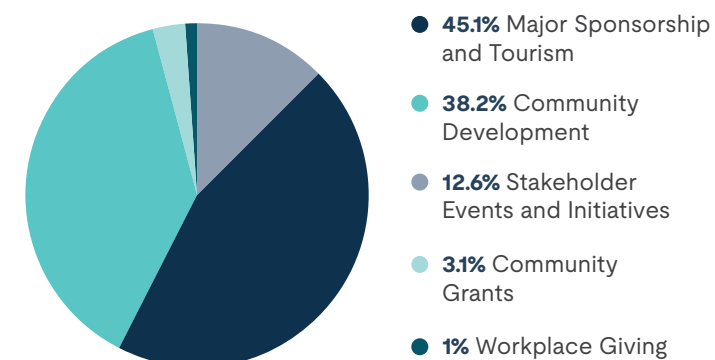
ADG's investment is distributed across diverse communities throughout the Northern Territory, reflecting a commitment to regional inclusion and capability building.

# Investment Summary

## Investment by category

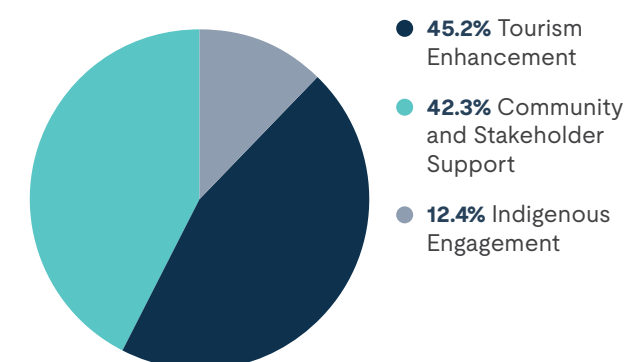
In FY25, ADG invested a total of \$1,705,528 across 87 initiatives, supporting a broad spectrum of programs and partnerships that contribute to regional growth and community wellbeing.

ADG's community investment strategy is designed to enhance liveability across the Northern Territory, directing support to key categories that unlock community potential and respond to local aspirations.



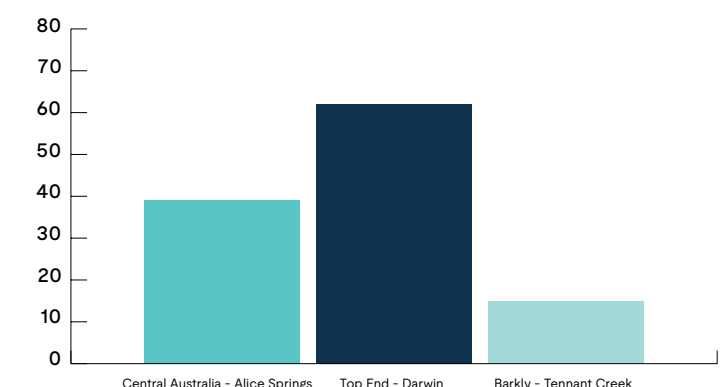
## Investment by key focus area

ADG's investment approach champions vibrant destinations, strong communities, and meaningful partnerships with Indigenous peoples—reflecting a commitment to a thriving, inclusive Northern Territory.



## Investment by region

**Total number of Initiatives: 87**  
This breakdown highlights ADG's commitment to building capability and fostering regional pride across the diverse communities where we operate in the Northern Territory.





# Strategic Sponsorships and Partnerships

## Government and Institutional Partnerships

ADG recognises the value of working collaboratively with Government at all levels.

Our Partnership Agreements and co-investment models align airport precinct growth with Territory priorities, delivering shared social and economic returns.

Working closely with departments across tourism, health, education, infrastructure, and Aboriginal affairs, ADG’s contributions have advanced initiatives that directly benefit Northern Territory residents – such as our sponsorship of Darwin Festival and NT Major Events, Indigenous Training Academy, community grant programs and the redevelopment of the Gurumbai Cultural Trail.

## Supporting Territory Sport and Culture

ADG’s strategic sponsorships include partnerships with sporting organisations, cultural festivals and regional events. These partnerships promote health and wellbeing, social inclusion, and local economic development.

By backing regional football carnivals, local netball associations, school sports programs, and professional team engagement – including NT Cricket’s T20 series and other elite events through our NT Major Events Sponsorship, such as AFL matches in Darwin and Alice Springs, NRL fixtures across the Territory, the Million Dollar Fish competition, and the Darwin Supercars – ADG helps drive pride and opportunity across generations.



Image above: BASSINTEGRASS – NT Major Events Company





NT Cricket T20 Series

# NT Cricket T20 Series

Since 2021, ADG has proudly supported Cricket 365 and the Top End T20 Series in collaboration with NT Cricket.

The Top End T20 Series brings Big Bash Franchises and International Cricket Teams together during Darwin's beautiful dry season whether to compete in an annual elite cricket event that markets and promotes the Northern Territory as a destination of choice to live, study, work or play.

In 2024, the series:

- Featured current and former professional players, including 25 past or present Australian players
- Included 4 of 8 Big Bash League Franchises as well as Pakistan 'A' and Bangladesh 'A'
- Developed growing local attendance and extensive national media coverage
- Was broadcast globally to 129 countries with 12.8m total viewers
- Finals were shown live on Kayo Sports

The event promotes regional tourism, community pride, and cultural inclusion.

It also provides an important platform for national and global exposure, with televised and online broadcasts reaching more than 12.8 million viewers, showcasing the NT and contributing to tourism promotion.

# HIGHLIGHT STORY

## ADG – Cricket T20

### ADG's sponsorship includes:

- Provision of accommodation at Darwin Airport Resort valued at \$250,000
- Strategic media engagement and promotional activations to amplify visibility and community impact

### Season Launch – Media Event

A media event at Darwin Airport Resort launched the 2024 season, promoting the NT's year-round cricket advantage and world-class dry season.

### T20 Series Highlights

- Featured nine teams (up from five teams in 2022 and six teams in 2023)
- Global coverage reaching 12.8 million total viewers

### NT Cricket CEO, Gavin Dovey, stated:

*"Airport Development Group have been with us from day one on this journey and have been a huge reason behind our ability to grow this event to the scale we have."*

*"Thanks to ADGs ongoing support we have been able to bring elite T20 cricket to the Northern Territory and market and promote this incredible destination to a global audience."*

*"We look forward to continuing to build our partnership, one that unites and inspires our community and showcases the Territory to the rest of the world."*





Darwin Festival

# Music & Culture

## Darwin Festival

ADG has proudly supported the Darwin Festival since 2011. The Festival is valued as the NT’s premier arts and cultural celebration.

In 2024, the festival attracted

- 177,000 visitors (record)
- Over 20 nights.

### Terminal Activation

Festival branding was featured at Darwin International Airport.

### Tourism Activation & Visibility

ADG supported an integrated tourism campaign through Travel Gateway, an online platform that serves as a starting point for travellers exploring experiences across the Northern Territory. The campaign included a \$6,000 competition package, offering a VIP trip to Darwin and tickets to major festival events — designed to boost destination visibility and drive visitor engagement.

Learn more at <http://www.travelgateway.com.au>

## Darwin Symphony Orchestra (DSO) Outreach Partner

In 2024, ADG expanded its support for DSO by becoming an Outreach Partner, enabling the orchestra to deliver regional music education programs and performances in remote communities.

This partnership promotes cultural inclusion and fosters youth engagement, including collaborations with Aboriginal artists and schools across the NT.

## BASSINTHEGRASS (via NTMEC)

As the NT’s largest and longest-running music festival, BITG has become a rite of passage for many Territorians and a key attraction for tourists.

### Terminal Activation

Leading up to the festival, ADG hosted vibrant live performances at Darwin International Airport, giving travellers a preview of the BITG experience.

### Supporting Local Talent

Among the 2024 performers was Prayer Corby, a Darwin artist who gained national recognition as a top 30 contestant on Australian Idol.

Other acts included Jaxon De Santis, Mel Gray, Manolis Kamitsis, Owie, Hello Bass, Yola Dewi, JLC, and Laruso, each showcasing the NT’s rich and diverse musical talent.





NRL Game Darwin – NT Major Events Company

# Sport

## NRL Competition Game

The Territory Eels returned to Darwin in 2024, for the NRL Competition game against the Dolphins igniting fanfare from the moment they arrived.

**Terminal Activation**

Press conference held at Darwin International Airport, creating buzz and fan engagement leading into the match at TIO Stadium.

These types of activations are integral in building community spirit and amplifying the NT’s presence in national sporting calendars.

## AFL in the Territory Top End & Central Australia

In 2024, ADG together with NTMEC secured a three-year contract with the AFL to host games in the NT.

These games attract nationwide audiences and draw visitors to both Darwin and Alice Springs, boosting local hospitality, transport, and tourism sectors.

**Terminal Activation**

Press conferences held at Darwin International Airport to welcome the Gold Coast Suns.

Promotion of match weekends, with back-to-back games elevating the NT’s reputation as a premier host for elite sport.

## SUPERCARS 2024 betr Darwin Triple Crown

**Terminal Activation**

Facilitated an interactive competition at Darwin International Airport, where travellers posed with a real Penrite Supercar to win hot laps and double passes to the 2024 event.

This activation blended sport, social media, and visitor engagement, generating thousands of impressions and reinforcing the NT as a motorsport destination.

# Recreation

## Million Dollar Fish

The Million Dollar Fish campaign is Australia’s richest fishing competition. Held during the shoulder season, this initiative draws thousands of visitors to the NT, stimulating the local tourism, hospitality, and retail sectors.

**Terminal Activation**

A dynamic activation at Darwin International Airport featured a boat giveaway, welcoming passengers with a taste of Territory adventure. This engaging experience built excitement from the moment of arrival and reinforces the NT’s reputation as a unique recreational destination.





# Airport Terminal Activations

As the first impression for many visitors to the Northern Territory, ADG's airport terminals are a platform to showcase local culture, creativity and vibrancy.

ADG supports and hosts terminal activations at Darwin International Airport and Alice Springs Airport, celebrating Territory life through music, art, performances and seasonal events.

These activations promote local artists, businesses and experiences while contributing to a memorable visitor experience that strengthens the region's tourism brand.

Activations at Darwin Airport included:

- Darwin Festival
- Darwin Symphony Orchestra
- Browns Mart Theatre
- NT Major Event Company activations

Activations at Alice Springs Airport included:

- Finke Desert Race
- Henley on Todd
- Beanie Festival
- Alice Springs Show
- NT Major Event Company activations

# Elevating the NT Experience

## Partnership with NT Major Events Company (NTMEC)

ADG's longstanding partnership with NT Major Events Company (NTMEC) continues to deliver significant benefits for the Territory economy, driving visitation, media exposure, and community engagement.

ADG's partnership with NT Major Events Company highlights the Northern Territory's vibrant cultural landscape through terminal activations, media events, and sponsorship initiatives across both the Top End and Central Australia.

## 2024 Featured Events Supported by ADG:

Top End	Central Australia
Music & Culture	
Darwin Festival Darwin Symphony Orchestra (DSO) BASSINTHE GRASS	A Festival in Light: PARRTJIMA
Sport	
AFL: Games in Darwin and Alice Springs NRL: Parramatta Eels vs Dolphins Supercars: 2024 betr Darwin Triple Crown	AFL: Games in Darwin and Alice Springs MASTERS GAMES Red CentreNATS
Recreation	
Million Dollar Fish (Season 10)	



# Celebrating Culture Through Place

As the gateway to the Northern Territory, ADG recognises the importance of elevating Indigenous culture across its precincts. With 80 per cent of visitors to the NT expressing interest in Aboriginal tourism experiences\*, ADG has made strategic investments to ensure cultural visibility and engagement are embedded in the visitor journey.

These enhancements reflect ADG's commitment to cultural integrity, community collaboration, and creating meaningful experiences for visitors and locals alike.

## Gurumbai Trail Enhancement

In April 2024, the Gurumbai Cultural Trail was officially reopened following a significant redevelopment led in partnership with Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation (LNAC). This revitalised trail now features enhanced infrastructure that improves accessibility, safety, and usability for all visitors. Importantly, the project incorporates a suite of interpretive materials that elevate the cultural significance of the area to Larrakia people, embedding Indigenous perspectives into the visitor experience.

The Gurumbai redevelopment reflects ADG's commitment to place-based cultural investment and meaningful collaboration with Traditional Owners.

\*NT ABORIGINAL TOURISM STRATEGY 2020 - 2030





# Celebrating Indigenous Culture

## Cultural Installations & Collaborations

Since 2022, ADG has delivered a series of culturally significant visual installations and naming initiatives across its airport precincts, designed to elevate Indigenous culture and community pride. Highlights include:

- A 41-metre *Larrakia Welcome to Country* mural at Darwin International Airport, offering a powerful introduction to the region's Traditional Owners.
- The naming of 14 premium villas at Darwin Airport Resort to honour high-achieving Territorians, with stories of their contributions included in-room to inspire and educate guests.
- Two large-scale murals — *Journey of Travellers* and *Gunamidjindawa Dirula (Saltwater Dreaming)*— reflecting the spiritual and cultural significance of coastal Country.

## Wurrkal Mural

In 2024, the Wurrkal mural was added to the cultural landscape, painted on a large electrical box at the Mercure Darwin Airport Resort. Created by Gurindji-Waanyi artist Sarrita King, whose heritage spans the Victoria River and Gulf of Carpentaria regions, the mural celebrates the diversity of cultural and artistic expression across Northern Australia.

## Alice Springs Airport Collaboration

ADG's first collaboration with Lhere Artepe, the cultural authority for the Arrernte people, saw the installation of welcome banners along terminal walkways— ensuring strong visual recognition of Arrernte Traditional Owners for all visitors.



Image Top: Sarrita King Gurindji-Waanyi mural  
Image Bottom: Alice Springs Airport collaboration with Lhere Artepe



# Indigenous Training Academy

## Education and Empowerment

In early 2021, ADG redefined its purpose into three core elements, one of these being to enable education and employment opportunities for Indigenous Australians. This commitment led to the launch of the Airport Development Group Indigenous Training Academy (ITA) in April 2022.

The ITA empowers trainees with meaningful skills through nationally recognised qualifications in tourism and aviation. Seven trainees began their Certificate III in Hospitality, supported by an Indigenous mentoring program. In 2023, an additional 13 trainees commenced, with ADG expanding its educational offerings to include certifications in Horticulture, Business, IT, Electrical, Cookery, Leadership, and Mentoring.

Trainees and graduates are now based across ADG businesses including Darwin International Airport, Darwin Airport Resorts, and Alice Springs Airport.

## Growth and Development of the ITA

The ITA is part of ADG's holistic and integrated approach to enable education and employment opportunities for Indigenous Australians, with the goal of equal participation across all business areas. This stems from creating pathways of opportunity, education, and employment and is a key pillar of ADG's Indigenous Engagement Strategy.

A dedicated ITA Training Manager coordinates the Academy and employment pathways program, providing leadership mentoring and support to trainees while identifying further opportunities both internally and externally. In 2024, new traineeships in Horticulture and Business were added, along with the first ADG trainee based at Alice Springs Airport. Alice Springs Airport is emerging as a key site for ITA expansion, with ongoing collaboration with contractors to onboard Indigenous trainees into their workplaces.

Since its launch, the ITA has supported over 20 trainees, with several graduates now employed across ADG businesses and contributing to leadership, operations, and mentoring roles.



Indigenous Trainees at the Gurumbai Trail





ADG Leadership and Mentoring Participants

# Mentoring, Recognition and Employment

## Indigenous Mentoring and Leadership

In 2024, all ITA trainees attended regular group mentoring sessions with external provider Tanyah Nasir Consulting. ADG secured a grant from the NT Government Targeted Programs for the 2024/25 Mentoring program, enabling all Indigenous staff to access culturally appropriate support through group and one-on-one sessions.

Recognising the need to strengthen internal mentoring systems, ADG supported a group of graduates to undertake a qualification in Indigenous Leadership and Support. This initiative has fostered peer support among trainees and encouraged positive role modelling for career advancement.

## Recognition and Training

ADG continues to seek external opportunities for further training and development for trainees. In 2024, trainees completed training in:

- Responsible Service of Alcohol
- Comprehensive First Aid
- Mental Health First Aid
- Cultural Competency
- Anti-discrimination

Trainees also participated in industry recognition programs including:

- GTNT Industry Awards
- NT Hospitality Awards
- NT Golden Plate Awards
- NT Training Awards

## Indigenous Employment and Community Engagement

In 2024, ADG employed 18 Indigenous staff across its businesses, representing 7 per cent of full-time equivalent (FTE) roles.

ADG plays a hands-on role in community engagement by facilitating:

- School and community tours focused on sustainability, aviation careers, and cultural heritage.
- Support for training and employment readiness programs aimed at young people across the Northern Territory.
- ADG remains committed to expanding the ITA and strengthening partnerships that support Indigenous education, employment, and leadership across the Northern Territory.

FOR FURTHER DETAIL, REFER TO ADG'S INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT REPORT, AVAILABLE AT: [REPORTS | AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT GROUP | NT](#)



ITA Graduate and GTNT 2024 Rising Star Commendation Award Winner



# Driving Grassroots Change

## ADG Community Grants Program Governance

Launched in April 2024, the first year of ADG's Community Grants Program awarded \$40,000 to 21 community organisations across Darwin, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

- Successful projects included:
- Upgrades to sporting club facilities
  - Cultural heritage projects led by Aboriginal artists
  - Environmental land care initiatives
  - Support for schools, disability services and mental health organisations

ADG's Community Grants Program strengthens grassroots capability and enhances social outcomes in communities across the NT.

### Approach

The program invited local organisations to apply for grants between \$500 and \$2,000, supporting inclusive, community-led initiatives in the following focus areas:

- Education
- Environment
- Health and Wellbeing
- Innovation
- Arts and Culture.

Beyond financial support, ADG staff actively engaged with recipients through event participation and community presentations—reinforcing ADG's commitment to place-based programs that deliver lasting, positive outcomes across the Territory.

The program is underpinned by a robust governance framework aligned with ADG's strategic pillars: Indigenous Advancement, Tourism Enhancement, and Community & Stakeholder Support.

Grant applications undergo a transparent, multi-tiered review process, managed with external facilitation and final assessment by ADG's Executive General Manager: of People, Culture & Community,. This ensures all funded initiatives deliver meaningful local impact and align with ADG's purpose.

Recipients must demonstrate outcomes in sustainability, inclusivity, and community benefit, while meeting corporate recognition and reporting standards to ensure transparency and long-term value.



COTA, Community Grant Winner



Riding for the Disabled Community Grant Recipients



Tracy's Echo, Community Grant Winner





Purple House Community Grant Recipient



Lutheran Care – Community Grant Recipient

## 2024 Grant Distribution

Across two grant rounds in 2024, ADG allocated a total of \$38,917 + \$13,700 In-Kind funding to support 21 community clubs and organisations.

Round one delivered \$18,947 to 10 recipients and Round two delivered \$19,970 + \$13,700 In-Kind to 11 organisations, with initiatives directly benefiting communities in Tennant Creek, Alice Springs, Darwin, and beyond.

Grants were distributed across the following three focus areas

- Indigenous Advancement
- Community and Stakeholder Support
- Tourism Enhancement.

Focus Area	Funded Initiatives
Indigenous Advancement	6
Community and Stakeholder Support	12
Tourism Enhancement	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>

In the following impact area

Impact Area	No. of Recipients
Education	2
Environment	2
Health and Wellbeing	5
Arts and Culture	4
Sports and Recreation	3
Indigenous Engagement	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>

In the following regions:

Region	No. of Recipients
Top End	12
Central Australia	8
Barkly	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>

## Community Grant Recipient Highlights

Location	Recipient	Funding	Support
Top End	<b>Riding for the Disabled Association</b> <i>"This grant enhances the safety and participation of our riders and helps us continue our mission to empower people of all abilities."</i>	\$2,000	30 riding helmets 6 pair of riding boots
	<b>50th anniversary of Cyclone Tracy</b>  <b>'Tracy's Echo'</b> <i>50 Years of Resilience, Aboriginal Seniors' Memories"</i>	\$2,000 + \$12,000 In-Kind terminal activation space	Cyclone Tracey Art Exhibition Darwin International Airport
Central Australia	<b>Keringke Arts Centre, Santa Teresa. Alice Springs.</b>  <i>"The new computer is fast and accurate. It helps us show the world what our artists are creating and supports visitors who rely on our tech access."</i> – Bryce Hartnett, Manager, Keringke Arts Centre	\$2,000	A computer for Aboriginal-owned Keringke Arts Centre  To enable the digital cataloguing of artworks. To improve access and workflow for artists.



# Investing in the Next Generation

## Charles Darwin University (CDU) Scholarships

Since 2015, ADG has supported a scholarship program in partnership with CDU. The partnership offers both financial support and employment pathways to local students.

Scholarship results:

- 7 students have received scholarships in law and environmental science
- 2 scholarship recipients were employed by ADG following graduation with one recently reaching their 5 year anniversary.

ADG's CDU Scholarship program has been revitalised in 2024 to include the following categories.

Fields of Study:

- Business
- Accounting
- ICT
- Engineering
- Project Management
- Environmental Management
- Law
- Marketing.

Scholarships are now available to support students undertaking Certificate IV level training and above, helping to build skills and pathways aligned with community and industry needs.

ADG has engaged extensively with CDU to promote these opportunities across their network with additional communication channels created to engage First Nation

## Workplace Giving

Through our Workplace Giving program, ADG employees collectively nominate local charities each year to support. In 2024, contributions, matched by ADG benefited:

- Dolly's Dream (Top End)
- Black Dog Institute (Central Australia)

Previous beneficiaries include:

Top End	Central Australia
Sikh Family Food Van	Butterfly Connection
Foodbank NT	Beyond Blue
Team Health	Salvation Army
Orange Sky	Men's Shed

These initiatives foster a culture of giving among our workforce while ensuring local not-for-profits receive meaningful financial support.

“Through this partnership, ADG is helping shape future leaders who will contribute to the NT’s growth.”  
– CDU SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, 2024

# ADG Teams Making a Difference

Workplace Giving	Amount	Support
Dolly's Dream	\$12,224	Anti-bullying school workshops
	“ADG and its employees are helping us make communities safer and kinder.” – Kate Everett, Dolly's Dream	Free 24/7 family support line
		Beacon cyber safety app
Black Dog Institute	\$5,238	Funds supported workplace mental health programs, school-based initiatives, and resources for health professionals. It also extended to national services, Indigenous-led projects, and educational webinars.







ADG team members accepting AAA Infrastructure Award



ADG team members 2024 NAIDOC Ball

## Stakeholder Engagement and Events

ADG builds trust and collaboration through strategic memberships, event sponsorships, philanthropy and community participation.

### Memberships

- NT Chamber of Commerce
- NT Property Council
- Australian Airports Association (AAA)
- NT Indigenous Business Network (NTIBN)
- Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA)
- Darwin Major Business Group
- Tourism Top End
- Tourism Central Australia
- SKÅL International Darwin
- Energy Club.

### Sponsored Events

Tourism:

- Brolga Awards
- QANTAS Awards.

Business:

- GTNT Business Industry Awards
- Blak Business Awards.

Industry:

- AAA Awards
- Urban Development Institute.

Sport:

- Darwin Golf Day
- Alice Springs Golf Day
- Darwin Cup.

Charity & community events:

- Star Ball
- Careflight Ball
- Darwin Cup
- NAIDOC Ball
- NAIDOC March.

## NAIDOC Week 2024 Activities

- Welcome to Country event held at Darwin International Airport
- Morning tea and trivia in Alice Springs
- Morning tea for team members in Darwin and Cairns
- Indigenous Trainees painted a banner and participated in the annual Darwin NAIDOC march
- Participation at the NAIDOC Ball

### Cultural Tourism Digital Platform Indigenous-Focused Trivia Event

Promoting awareness of murals, the Gurumbai Cultural Trail, and Indigenous Training Academy via this online platform.

**“These events are not just celebrations; they are powerful moments of visibility, truth-telling, and respect.”**

– EDDIE FRY, CHAIR ADG ADVISORY COMMITTEE



# Cultural Engagement: Darwin Airport Resorts

The Darwin Airport Resorts, opened in late 2023 and owned by ADG, has quickly become a hub for major events and forums, promoting the Northern Territory as both a corporate and cultural destination. In partnership with Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation, and through independent initiatives, ADG has delivered guided experiences that reflect the pillars of its Indigenous Engagement Strategy, including:

- Participation through the establishment of the Indigenous Training Academy.
- Tourism enhancement, featuring culturally informed murals and storytelling across the precinct that celebrate Aboriginal culture and promote cultural tourism.
- Cultural Engagement and Relationships, including an overview of ADG's Indigenous Advisory Committee and its partnership with Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation, the cultural authority for the Larrakia people, which led to the development of the Gurumbai Cultural Trail.

Together, ADG and Larrakia Nation have co-led cultural tours and hosted forums within the resort precinct, providing over 150 visiting delegates with a deeper understanding of Larrakia Country and demonstrating ADG's commitment to respectful engagement with Traditional Owners.

These include:

- Inter-airport environmental and safety forums
- Indigenous ranger and youth mentoring programs
- Training academy information-sharing sessions in partnership with CareFlight

These initiatives demonstrate ADG's commitment to inclusive learning, collaboration, and cultural exchange.

# HIGHLIGHT STORY

ADG proudly supported and participated in the 2024 First Nations Land and Water Management Forum held in Darwin.

This forum with more than 640 delegates in attendance provided a platform for Indigenous rangers and Indigenous Protected Area providers to connect and share traditional and contemporary knowledge.

Gurumbai Cultural Trail Airport Development Group (ADG) proudly partnered with Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation (LNAC) to showcase our signature environmental and cultural initiative, the Gurumbai Cultural Trail, as part of the Forum.

The trail, nestled alongside Darwin Airport Resorts, provides educational and tourism opportunities by showcasing the stories of the Larrakia people. Larrakia Nation Rangers also support Airport Development Group's environmental management of this area, ensuring its cultural and ecological values are respected.

This project is an example of a real and tangible partnership that has multiple benefits for long term sustainability.

Gurumbai is the Larrakia name for Rapid Creek and means 'elbow', referring to the shape of the creek at its mouth.

*"Our collaboration with ADG is a model for how business and First Nations communities can walk together."*

David Kurnoth Host Program Manager, Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation





## About Airport Development Group

Airport Development Group (ADG) has been a leading contributor to the Northern Territory community for more than two decades.

Under Australia's airport privatisation program, ADG acquired leases from the Australian Government for three Northern Territory airports in June 1998 — Darwin International Airport (DIA), Alice Springs Airport (ASA) and Tennant Creek Airport (TCA).

Each lease is for 50 years, with an option of a further 49 years. ADG now owns and operates the three airports, and is custodian to more than 4,000 hectares of land surrounding the airports.

ADG also has significant investments across hotels, property, and utilities.

ADG is proud of the successful partnerships it has developed that aim to support economic and social programs to empower the lives of Indigenous Territorians.

The company is proudly 100 per cent Australian, owned by superannuation fund managers, IFM Investors (77.4%) and Palisade Investment Partners Limited (22.6%), that grow the retirement savings of around 75,000 Territorians.

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