

MONTESSORI
CHILDREN'S
FOUNDATION



ABOUT the Masterman Montessori Indigenous Children's Trust

MCF's work across Cape York and the Torres Strait is underpinned by the generous bequest from the estate of Leslie Charles "Bob" Masterman who discovered Montessori education through his daughter, Ardyn.

The Masterman Montessori Indigenous Children's Trust was established in 2006 in order to fulfill Bob Masterman's legacy and realise his conviction that Montessori education was a way forward to improve life opportunities for Indigenous Australians.

Under the direction of MCF, the Trust aims to further the education of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the "Cape Area", encompassing the region of Queensland north of and including Cairns, through the application of the Montessori educational philosophy and method. Its activities focus on developing strategic partnerships with individuals, community groups, private businesses, and government agencies to ensure the sustainability of projects.

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Current Projects

The Masterman Montessori Indigenous Children's Trust currently supports MCF's work with communities in the Torres Strait and Cape York region, including:

- Three 3-6 programs with Tagai State College on Thursday Island
- Six community programs for parents and infants on Thursday Island, Badu, Kubin, Boigu, Erub and Poruma
- A long day care centre on Iama Island
- A school holiday program in Aurukun

Planning is also underway for an additional six parent and infant services and four 3-6 programs to be opened in additional communities of the Torres Strait between 2015 and 2018.

The terms of the bequest provide MCF with funds in perpetuity to work towards realising Bob Masterman's vision of educating Indigenous children through the Montessori approach. To work within the budget available, MCF prioritises expenditure to build successful projects, with the maximum potential for self-sustainability.

The fundamental work of Masterman Montessori Indigenous Children's Trust therefore is to develop strategic partnerships with individuals, community groups, private businesses, and government agencies to ensure the sustainability of projects. To this end, MCF's work focuses on building local governance of projects, supporting the training of local people, and establishing robust systems of quality control.

A great social mission that will ensure the child justice, harmony and love remains to be accomplished. This great task must be the work of education for this is the only way to build a new world and to bring peace.

Dr Maria Montessori

SUPPORT the Masterman Montessori Indigenous Trust

With additional funding from other sources, MCF would be able to expand programs in existing and additional communities. Demand is strong but a larger funding base is needed.

There are many ways you can support the work of MCF in the Cairns, Cape York and Torres Strait region:

- **Sponsor**
- **Pro Bono**
- **Volunteer**
- **Mentor**
- **Donate**

Visit www.montessorifoundation.org

