

OUR

REFORM JOURNEY





OUR 
FOUNDATIONS




65k+

Our Deep Past

For tens of thousands of years, Cape York Peninsula is home to a richly diverse range of Aboriginal peoples.

1800s

Colonisation

Aboriginal people suffer dispossession and severe disruption: violent frontier conflicts, disease and displacement, break-up of families, erosion of social norms.

Communities suffer powerlessness and lack of voice in decision-making affecting their futures.

1967

Referendum on Aboriginal Rights

Include Aboriginal people in the national census. Allowed the Commonwealth Government to make laws for Aboriginal people (previously only states could).

FOR THE LOVE OF OUR PEOPLE
30 YEARS OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation **Launch**

Land reform and tenure resolution sought to progress Indigenous-led economic development and land management.

1996

Cape York Partnership **Launch**

Created to drive the Cape York Agenda.

1995

Apunipima Health Council **Launch**

Locally-led health solutions are demanded by community.

Injinoo Health Conference sees representatives from 17 Cape York communities and homelands meet to address poor health outcomes.

1994

Cape York Land Council **Launch**

Land rights and native title interests are an urgent concern for communities.

The Lockhart River Summit unites Traditional Owners envisioning Aboriginal leadership and self-determination - the first of 28 summits over 34 years.

1990

RECLAIMING OUR DESTINY

The Genesis of the Cape York Agenda
1990-2000

Wik decision in High Court rules that native title can co-exist with pastoral leases, expanding on Mabo decision (1992).

1999

Welfare Reform Priorities **Policy**

Passive welfare dependency is rife - community has had enough.

(1997) 'Bringing Them Home' report on Stolen Generations.

Wujal Wujal Land & Health Summit articulates community priorities of land rights, health, self-governance and youth empowerment.

2000

Family Development Strategy **Policy Innovation**

Advocacy grows for a new approach to empowerment based on responsibility, culture, Indigenous leadership.

CYP & Queensland Government work together to promote corporate and philanthropic partnerships for Cape York.

Walk for Reconciliation sees 250k people march over Sydney Harbour Bridge.

'Our Right to Take Responsibility' is published by Noel Pearson.

Weipa Business Summit engages multiple stakeholders in discussions of discuss economic futures and business opportunities.

Alcohol Management Plans **Launch**

COAG Trials **Policy**

Safety is a priority for communities, amid rampant alcohol misuse.

CYP, Apunipima and Aurukun Justice Group develop community-driven reforms (including targeting alcohol abuse), rolled out in Aurukun (2002) and then right across the region.

Work Placement scheme shows participation in enterprise and work is best means of youth behaviour change.

2002

CYP precipitated the Qld Government commissioning the Cape York Justice Study by Tony Fitzgerald QC which highlighted levels of violence, substance abuse and social dysfunction.

Jawun **Innovation**

(formerly Indigenous Enterprise Partnership)

Corporate Australia begins to engage actively with its social responsibility.

Untapped opportunities exist for corporate and philanthropic partnership to support Indigenous capability uplift

2001

ON OUR TERMS

Leadership, Education, Partnership
2001-2005

REFORM, AT SCALE

Seeing the Results of Change
2007-2013

MPower Innovation

(formerly Family Income Management)

Communities want control of family finances as part of wider reform efforts.

This CYP led financial literacy / capability program is extended to 7 communities, and Westpac provides banking and financial expertise as a project partner.

Innovative digital solutions are sought to bridge the digital divide, improve educational outcomes, and preserve cultural heritage.

2003

Negotiation Tables Innovation

Queensland Government adopts CYP's proposal of Negotiation Tables as a model for Government-community partnerships.

2004

Cape York Institute Policy Innovation

With a need for permanent, Indigenous-led solutions, Griffith University auspices Cape York Institute (CYI).

The Howard government announces it will disband the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), a national Indigenous representative body.

2005

Welfare Reform Design Policy Innovation

Across Cape York, communities focus on welfare reform solutions.

CYI proposes Cape York Welfare Reform trial to the Queensland Government.

Student Education Trusts Innovation

(now READY, SET and GO)

SET enables families to save for education expenses, promoting the power of budgets and personal responsibility - this shift restores agency, raises expectations, and positions parents as equal partners in their children's education.

Work Placement Scheme Innovation

Youth seek private sector job opportunities as part of their rightful place in the economy.

WPS pilots with meat industry, and later Mission Australia.

'Orbiting' - from home to more advantaged places for good quality work and education opportunities, while maintaining cultural connection - is acknowledged as vital.

Higher Expectations Program Innovation

(later Cape York Leaders Program)

Education is recognised as the cornerstone of development.

Educated youth need support to bridge the educational divide including through supported access to boarding schools and tertiary education.

Leadership succession, via youth empowerment, is a priority for Elders.

MultiLit Launch

Effective literacy instruction is seen to improve education outcomes and bridge literacy gap.

2007

'From Hand Out to Hand Up' report

Cape York Institute Leadership Academy

Through widespread engagement, community Welfare Reform pillars are agreed: rebuilding social norms; education; employment; and housing.

Tania Major, Higher Expectations Program's (HEP's) first student, is Young Australian of the Year.

Indigenous leadership seeks empowerment across community, corporate and government, sectors.

Essay: 'White Guilt, Victimhood and the Quest for a Radical Centre (The Griffith Review)' is published by Noel Pearson.

2008

Student Case Management Innovation

(formerly Attendance Case Management)

Attendance Case Management Framework launched to promote 100% school attendance.

Welfare Reform Trials Policy

Aurukun, Coen, Hope Vale, and Mossman Gorge commit to rebuild social norms and reduce welfare dependency.

Australian and Queensland Governments commit \$96m for a 4-year trial of the proposed reform.

Pride of Place Innovation

Pride of Place is a CYP backyard renovation project where family members save and commit 'sweat equity' complimented by Garden Clubs and competitions.

'Radical Hope: Quarterly Essay Education and Equality in Australia' is published by Noel Pearson.

2009

Family Responsibilities Commission Innovation

Family Responsibilities Commission Act passed in Queensland Parliament, allowing a world first trial to link collective responsibility with government assistance.

Local Commissioners are engaged in a unique community-led statutory body in welfare reform communities.

ABSTUDY Bypass Reform Innovation

CYI advocacy leads to ABSTUDY Bypass Reform for CYWR communities, so Indigenous students can use ABSTUDY to attend boarding schools away from home. This expanded on the 'special consideration' from ABSTUDY given in 2004 to CYLP's secondary scholarship program.

2010

Strong Families Innovation
(formerly Parenting Program)

CYP invests in parenting skills, family relationships, and safe, nurturing environments for children with CYP's Strong Families.

Closing the Gap framework adopted by COAG (Council of Australian Governments) to reduce Indigenous disadvantage in health, education, and employment.

Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy Innovation

Built on the 'science of learning', combining Direct Instruction with the Class, Club, Culture model for academic, creative, character, and cultural excellence.

Direct Instruction is rolled out via CYAAA at campuses in Coen and Aurukun (Hope Vale in 2011).

Bama Services Innovation
(formerly Djarragun Enterprises)

CYP creates meaningful employment opportunities in construction, landscaping, facilities and cleaning through CYP's Bama Services.

Mossman Gorge Gateway Innovation
Opportunity Hubs Launch

'Lighthouse initiatives' are introduced in the 4 welfare reform communities (Hope Vale, Coen, Aurukun, Mossman Gorge).

CYP O-Hubs are opened to deliver innovative solutions for financial literacy and wellbeing at local level (Aurukun O-Hub opened 2011).

Mossman Gorge Gateway Centre is established to create economic empowerment on Country through cultural tourism.

2012

'Radical Hope, Education and Equality in Australia' is published by Noel Pearson.

'Up from the Mission' Selected writings published by Noel Pearson.

Bush Owner Builder Innovation

CYP co-designed and innovated an on-Country and Homeland housing solution.

Djarragun College Launch

CYP takes on Djarragun to provide a culturally rich quality academic, sporting, arts, and vocational pathways opportunity.

2011

Cape York Leaders Program Innovation

Education, the most important reform, sees a range of initiatives (HEP Secondary, HEP Tertiary & Leadership Academy) streamlined as CYLP.

2013

Home Pride Innovation

CYP supporting families to create a safe home environment for our children.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Act is a symbolic step toward constitutional recognition.

Good to Great Schools Australia Launch

GGSA created to transition schools from poor to great through 'science of learning' curriculum innovation including D.I., and professional development supporting CYAAA and schools Australia-wide.

Cape York Employment Launch

CYP provides an Indigenous-led Community Development Program and trials Job Guarantee policy innovation.

Cape York Enterprises Cape York Timber Launch

Real job opportunities exist in the regional economy for Indigenous people.

Entrepreneurs and businesses need support, resources, investment and incubation.

2014

'A Rightful Place: Race, Recognition and a more complete Commonwealth' is published by Noel Pearson.

2016

Pama Language Centre Launch

Language preservation is a cornerstone of cultural wellbeing.

CYP assists communities to record, revitalise, and maintain their ancestral languages.

Empowered Communities Innovation

Empowered Communities is launched as an Indigenous-led framework for new, more balanced partnership with governments - true power-sharing.

The Recognise campaign promotes constitutional reform to recognise Indigenous Australians.

'War of the Worlds' on genocide and colonialism is published by Noel Pearson.

2015

INNOVATION, INSPIRATION

Consolidating and making our Agenda national

2015-2024

Cape York Girl Academy **Innovation**

Australia's first boarding school co-designed with Cape York women for the unique needs of girls disengaged from their education – often through early pregnancy.

'We're Black, We Don't Matter' **Policy**

- landmark report exposes high rates of undiagnosed disability and neurodevelopmental conditions among Cape York students.

2017

'A Rightful Place: A Road Map to Recognition' is published by Noel Pearson.

Homelands **Innovation**

Families co-design with CYP a custom savings account for on-country land expenses and development costs.

Uluru Statement from the Heart calls for a Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution. **Policy**

Pama Futures **Policy**

Empowered Communities in Cape York. **Innovation**

A First Nations structural reform aligning government decision making with community priorities.

2019

Essay: 'The New Platform Papers Vol 2, From the Heart: The Voice, the Arts and Australian Identity' is published by Noel Pearson.

2023

Pama Platform **Innovation**

A digital divide further isolates remote First Nations people.

O-Hub Opportunity Products (incl Bayan, Personal Saver) are streamlined in one app.

CYP's Pama Platform wins Gold in the Service - Community category at the 2021 Sydney Design Awards.

2021

'Mission: Essays, Speeches and Ideas' is published by Noel Pearson.

Mayi Market **Innovation**

A fresh food box delivery solution is co-designed with Cape York women to address long-overdue food affordability and quality concerns.

CRISIS: Aurukun Community displacement Crisis Support.

2020

National agreement on Closing the Gap adopts new targets, codesigned with Indigenous communities, expanding the focus to 16 socioeconomic outcomes including justice and housing.

CRISIS: COVID-19 Pandemic.

Ngak Min Health **Innovation**

Co-located with Djarragun College this innovative health clinic supports young people through school with comprehensive and culturally appropriate health care services.

Voice Referendum **Policy**

CYP plays a leading role in Indigenous Voice to Parliament proposal.

Cape York Land Claim 1 (2021) (followed by Land Claim 2 (2023) and Land Claim 3 (2025).

CRISIS: CYP coordinates the Wujal Wujal Tropical Cyclone Jasper human and social recovery support.

2024

Justice Reinvestment **Policy**

Community leaders concerned about rise in crimes against the person.

CYP secures one of 30 Justice Reinvestment initiatives.

2025

CYP30 **Event**

30 years of family empowerment reforms prove the Gap can be closed in a generation. CYP launches a 20 year vision for the next chapter of reform.

The Personal Responsibility + Opportunity Agenda for early years, education and employment opportunity guarantees. **Policy** **Innovation**

Together, We Will Close The Gap

With the right support and partnership, based on a long history of strength and learning, the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people's life outcomes can be closed.

Negative legacies of colonialism and bad policy can be unravelled.

Indigenous communities need a voice at decision-making tables.

Together, We Will Close The Gap Through Responsibility and Opportunity.

VISION

Together We Will Close The Gap **2025+**

2025+



CAPE YORK PARTNERSHIP



**OUR
FUTURE**



We will
CLOSE THE GAP
with responsibility and opportunity



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