

# 2025 MUNGALLA SILVER LINING SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

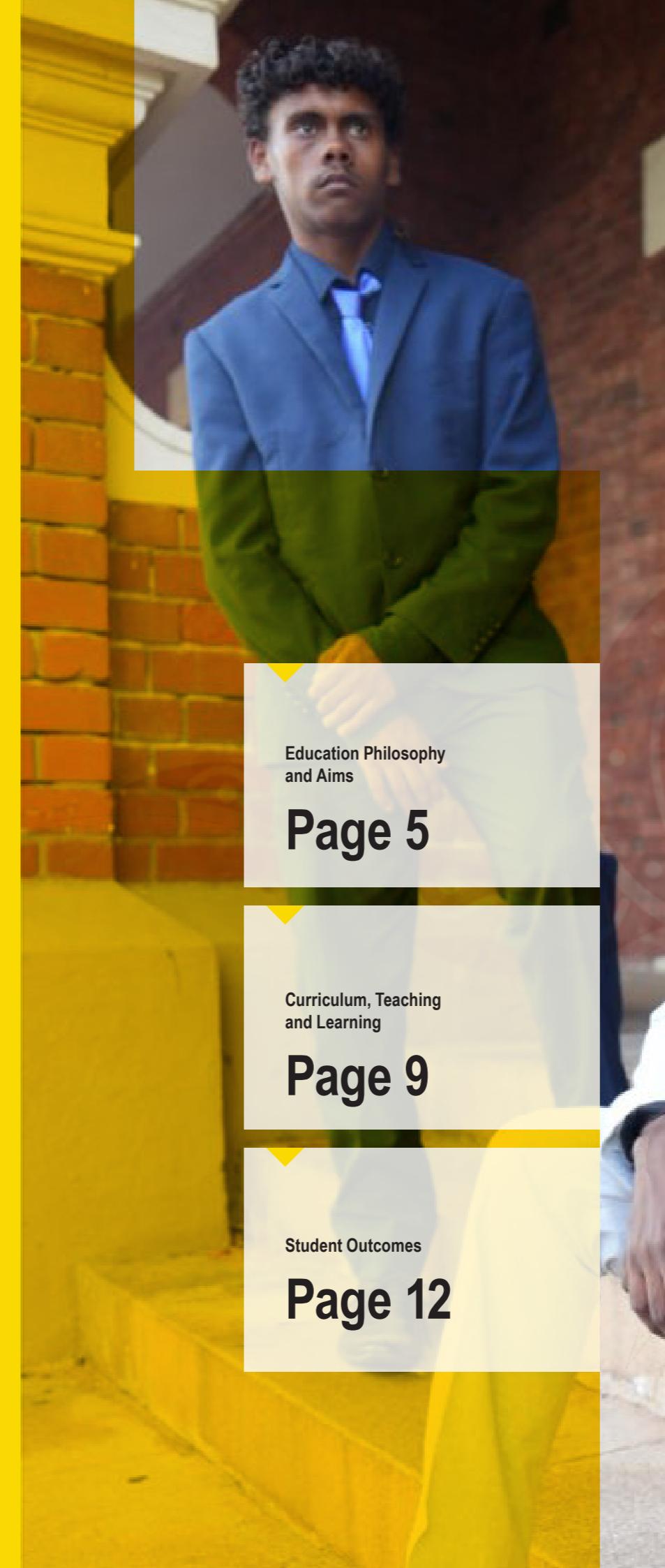
(Based on 2024 Data)



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## BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Dear Students, Families, and Friends of Mungalla Silver Lining School

I am constantly inspired by the resilience, determination, and sense of community that defines our small but vibrant school.

At Mungalla, we believe in the power of small numbers. With just 30 students, we have provided a personalised learning environment where every child is valued and supported. This approach is not about limiting opportunities but about enhancing them. By remaining intentionally small, we can offer focused attention, stronger relationships, and a deep commitment to the success of each individual student.

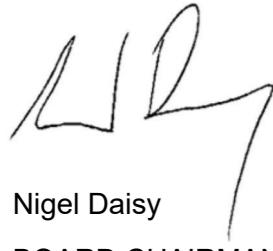
Our school serves Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, and we are proud of the ways in which we honour their cultures, traditions, and histories. With 80% of our staff being First Nations people, the cultural richness that our educators bring into the classroom is immeasurable. The Board of Directors is also made up entirely of First Nations people, who ensure that the school's values align with our community's needs.

As we reflect on another year of learning, we also recognise the challenges our students face in reconnecting with school and overcoming the obstacles they face in their educational journey. Many of our students come from communities that have been historically underserved, and it takes time to rebuild trust in the education system. At Mungalla Silver Lining School, we see each of these challenges as an opportunity to create a more supportive, understanding environment where every student can thrive.

We also want to express our deepest respect for the Nywaigi people who are the traditional custodians of the land on which our school stands. The cultural knowledge that the local First Nations community shares with us is invaluable, and we work to ensure that this knowledge is woven into our teaching practices.

Thank you to our families and the local community for your unwavering support. With your help, we will continue to build a school where our students feel safe, valued, and empowered to succeed.

Warm regards,



Nigel Daisy

BOARD CHAIRMAN  
Silver Lining Foundation Australia

## SILVER LINING FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA

The Silver Lining Foundation Australia is a First Nation charity working with Australian young people in areas of training and education. Established in 1999, the Foundation has been influential in helping to shape the lives of young Indigenous people in Queensland. The charity is governed by Indigenous people, and it runs programs on Traditional Land in Queensland.

Silver Lining Foundation Australia is committed to an Indigenous-led response regarding the growing amount of disengaged young people in regional and remote Australia.

## MUNGALLA SILVER LINING SCHOOL

Mungalla Silver Lining School is a small co-educational independent secondary (years 7-12) school established to cater to the diverse learning needs of disenfranchised Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners from our local community. The school delivers learning experiences that are culturally rich, age-appropriate, and academically achievable while maintaining the integrity and intent of the Australian Curriculum.

Students are at the centre of our practice, with their needs, backgrounds, perspectives, and interests reflected in the learning programs.

The school networks with vocational educators, health care professionals, local businesses, and community service providers, working towards establishing better options for healthy and meaningful futures.

Mungalla Silver Lining School acknowledges the United Nations statement regarding the *Right to [an] Education* that is "available, accessible, acceptable and adaptable." Furthermore, the school aims to deliver a culturally appropriate education in consultation with community elders.

## Our Local Community

Mungalla Silver Lining School is located 65 km north of Townsville, and 35 km south of Ingham at Crystal Creek, Mutarnee. In 2018, Mungalla Silver Lining School assumed governance of the property at Crystal Creek to provide opportunities for struggling students to re-engage with their education.

The school is named after the nearby Mungalla Station, which aims to improve opportunities for Nywaigi people through sharing the rich history and culture of the station through various enterprises including cultural tours. Mungalla Silver Lining School is another Indigenous-led response by the community elders in partnership with education and community services to create pathways to positive futures for their young people.

With the backdrop of Crystal Creek, lush tropical surrounds, and plenty of outdoor space, the property is an ideal location for students to engage in a



variety of cultural learning activities. Traditional owners of the country are the Nywaigi people, with various Elders involved in the school.

## Community, Cultural, and Family

The connectedness of family and community is fundamental for Indigenous communities. When events are scheduled, there is a strong tradition for the mob to gather. This may be for ceremonies, celebrations, or country-specific occasions. Students have often missed mainstream school to participate in these cultural events. As cultural learning is essential to the learning program, many of these activities are embedded into our curriculum, and participation in the experience is a vital part of our learning.

## Our Young People

Mungalla Silver Lining School works collaboratively with local high schools, support agencies, and community Elders to identify young people who have disengaged from mainstream schooling options for referral to the school.

The school offers a culturally appropriate, academically robust, hands-on, and highly individualised approach to learning which aims to prepare students for a transition to the workplace or further learning. The school welcomes both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.

Referrals to the school are primarily from community service providers and families. Many students have been unable to successfully engage in other schooling options due to significant social, emotional, and learning needs. The school continues to work collaboratively with community services to ensure that wrap-around support is provided for young people and their families. 28 students were counted in the Federal Census in 2024.

(Note: The school had additional enrolled students who did not meet the criteria for inclusion in the State and Federal Census).

## EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY AND AIMS

### Statement of Philosophy

To empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to confidently navigate the two worlds they live in, by prioritising cultural learning and growth, alongside academic learning.

### Aims

Mungalla Silver Lining School aims to:

**Embrace Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives**, cultural knowledge, and wisdom to foster strong, positive identities for our young people.

**Create a safe environment** in which students can develop their emotional literacy, cultural knowledge, academic knowledge, skills, and confidence to achieve their full potential so that they may contribute positively to their families, their communities, and the broader society.

**Provide learning opportunities** that have real-world links to vocational outcomes.



## Core Values

Mungalla Silver Lining School's core values are:

<b>Country</b>	Look after country, and all that share it.
<b>Responsibility</b>	Understanding shared and individual responsibility, and the interconnectedness of us all.
<b>Culture</b>	Ensure culturally appropriate knowledge underpins all aspects of school life & learning.
<b>Belonging</b>	Understanding that belonging is an integral part of the human experience, and a need we all share.

## Mission Statement

The purpose of Mungalla Silver Lining School is to provide an educational environment in which young Indigenous people can grow culturally, emotionally, intellectually, and physically, empowering them to engage positively and successfully in their culture, their community, and the broader world.

## National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Strategy (2015)

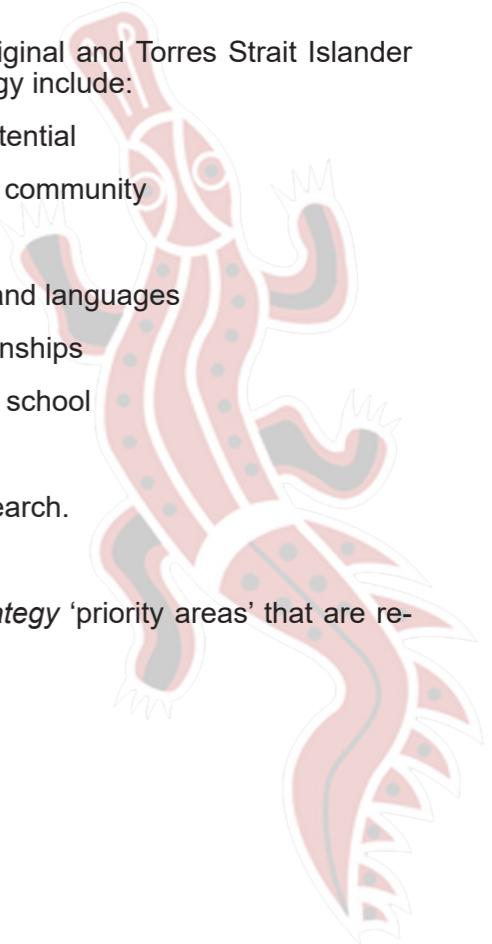
Mungalla Silver Lining School is an Indigenous-led response to the ever-growing disengagement and educational gap of young Indigenous people. The local culture of the Nywaigi people and maintaining relationships of trust and respect are foundational in meeting the educational needs of our students.

The School's Education Program is guided by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Strategy (2015). The principles that underpin the strategy include:

- ✓ High expectations for our young people to achieve their potential
- ✓ Equity of educational opportunities for young people in our community
- ✓ Accountable, transparent, and responsive practices
- ✓ Recognition of our community's culture, histories, values, and languages
- ✓ Time spent in our community to develop meaningful relationships
- ✓ Partnerships with the community to make decisions for the school
- ✓ A local approach that maximises educational outcomes
- ✓ Quality programs based on knowledge, evidence, and research.

The *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Strategy* 'priority areas' that are reflected in our Education Programs include:

1. Culture and Identity
2. Partnerships
3. Attendance
4. Transitions
5. Literacy & Numeracy



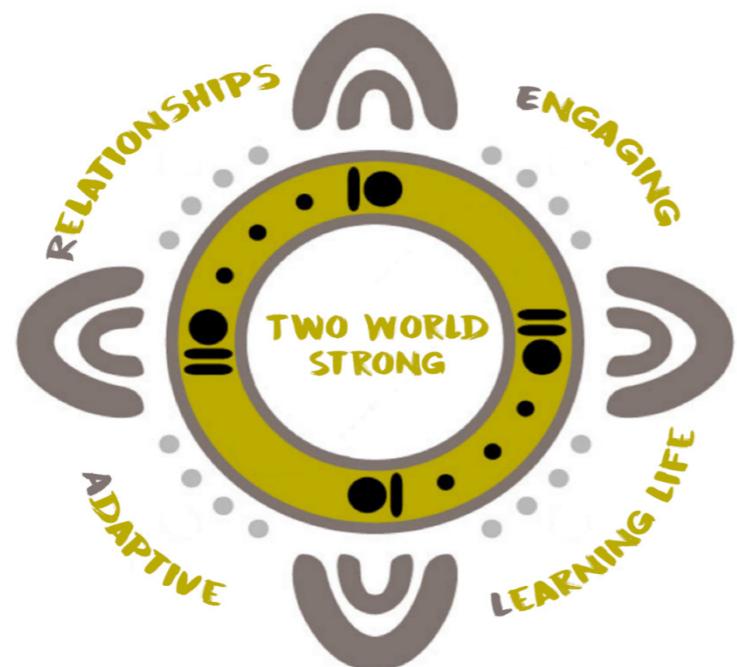
## PEDAGOGICAL FRAMEWORK – Keeping it R.E.A.L.

Mungalla Silver Lining School aims to consider all aspects of *Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning* in ways that keep it REAL! Our Pedagogical Framework highlights the evidence-based approaches that are central to what we do and the way we do it.

Central to the 'Keeping it R.E.A.L. framework' is the emphasis on an approach to Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning that is 'TWO WORLDS STRONG'. The framework acknowledges the importance of students becoming strong in their ability to engage in both their culture and in the wider community. Value is placed on both aspects of learning, with neither being emphasised at the cost of the other.

Keeping it R.E.A.L highlights 4 core elements that underpin our pedagogical framework; *Relationships, Engaging, Adaptive, and Learning Life*.

<b>Relationships</b>	Attachment Aware Approach, Restorative Practices, Relationship Framework, Wellbeing Focused.
<b>Engaging</b>	Explicit and responsive instruction, hands-on learning projects, student centred, strengths-based approach.
<b>Adaptive</b>	Data informed, responds to individual needs, inclusive universal design and differentiated learning.
<b>Learning Life</b>	Learning to Learn, transferrable skills, preparation for employment and further education, active and informed citizens, real-world problem solving, learning for life.



# CURRICULUM, TEACHING AND LEARNING

## Learning Areas and Subjects

Mungalla Silver Lining School offers a flexible curriculum program that caters for the needs of all students. Students in Years 7-12 participate in a variety of *Immersed Learning* activities, *Wellbeing Program*, and *Cultural Learning* experiences in addition to the core learning areas.

## Years 7-10 Curriculum

The School's Years 7-10 program has a significant focus on Literacy and Numeracy as well as providing students opportunities to engage with other learning areas in a way that is both culturally and developmentally appropriate.

Mungalla Silver Lining School's Years 7-10 Curriculum Programs consist of 6 Curriculum elements.

The 7-9 Curriculum is founded in the Australian Curriculum including all ACARA Learning Areas, General Capabilities, and Cross-Curricular Priorities. The Framework for Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages form a foundation for the cultural learning program.

## Senior Curriculum (Years 11-12)

The Senior secondary education program offered at Mungalla Silver Lining School is based on the QCAA senior syllabus and includes other courses recognised by the QCAA.

Students are given options regarding their senior program through the SET plan process.

In addition to the QCAA senior subjects and courses available, students may also continue with elements of the Year 7-10 program, including individual literacy and numeracy programs.

The School's Senior curriculum program consist of the 7 Core Curriculum elements, with *Immersed Learning*, *Wellbeing Program*, and *Cultural Learning*.



## STUDENT WELLBEING

The well-being of students is the foundation for developing a healthy learning community at Mungalla Silver Lining School. Student wellbeing is achieved through a learning community where young people are active participants in the learning community, and where their views and ideas are valued. Students who do not feel safe and supported in their school environment are at greater risk of disengagement from the school and the wider community.



## STUDENT DISENGAGEMENT

Mungalla Silver Lining School recognises the significant barriers students face daily which impact their attendance, engagement, and learning. Some of these barriers are influenced by factors including:

- *Remoteness*
- *Family & Cultural Needs*
- *Social Disadvantage & Poverty*
- *Health & Wellbeing*
- *Disabilities*
- *English as an Additional Language or Dialect*

The school recognises that student disengagement is rarely caused by a single factor or event and is usually the result of a complex process that has resulted from barriers related to the individual, family, school, and wider community.

Mungalla Silver Lining School provides a pathway to re-engagement through understanding the barriers to learning experienced by its students, then creating an environment to mitigate these factors. By understanding the powerful impact of students' attitudes, motivation, and behaviour toward learning; staff focus on student strengths and celebrate successes to alleviate shame and fear of failure.

## YARNING CIRCLES AND RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Yarning Circles are an important process within both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. This practice allows a learning community to develop the skills for respectful and honest interactions where members can have a space to hear from others and the chance to respond. Students participate in a daily Yarning Circle where relationships are further developed, cultural learning takes place, and matters impacting the community are discussed and resolved. The use of Yarning Circles provides the basis for building a healthy environment where Restorative Practices can be implemented.

Mungalla Silver Lining School uses a restorative approach to developing healthy learning communities where individuals are held responsible when they have caused harm to others. The approach provides opportunities for individuals to accept responsibility for their role in conflicts and take the necessary steps to repair the damage caused.



## STUDENT OUTCOMES

Mungalla Silver Lining School is committed to providing the highest quality Indigenous Special Assistance Education for young people who have disengaged from education for a variety of complex reasons. The school acknowledges the privilege and responsibility that comes with providing students with another chance at education.

Mungalla Silver Lining School is committed to the implementation of policies, processes, and practical strategies which emphasise the importance of tracking and assessment, regular monitoring of students, and strategies for engaging relevant students.

### SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The average student attendance rate for the whole school in Semester 1 2024 was 66%, with 33% of students attending 90% or more of the time. Please note, the average attendance rate for each year level has not been included due to the low number of students in each year level.

The school implements a variety of evidence-based models and strategies to promote the engagement of students with complex needs in the teaching and learning process. These models include:



- ✓ Community Breakfast and Lunch Program
- ✓ Student-centred Approach
- ✓ Attachment Informed Schooling
- ✓ Restorative Practices
- ✓ Cultural Learning
- ✓ Connecting with Country
- ✓ Explicit or Direct Instruction
- ✓ Learning to Learn

- Door-to-door school pick-up by Education Support staff who undertake wellbeing check-ins for students and families.
- Clear communication with students and parents/carers regarding expectations around school attendance and school policy for approved absences
- Daily communication with parents/carers regarding school absenteeism (often initiated by the school)
- Ongoing tracking of absenteeism to identify students who require early intervention and family support strategies to maximise school attendance (e.g., initiating home visits and support and advice from community elders)
- The proactive monitoring of student attendance including community visits and an integrated approach by other community youth service providers (e.g., drug/alcohol support services, housing support, mental health support)
- Working with students, parents/carers, and other stakeholders to identify barriers to school attendance, and strategies to overcome these barriers
- Notification to relevant government agencies when reporting extensive absenteeism or non-attendance is required (e.g., Centrelink, EQ Regional Office)

## NAPLAN RESULTS

Data is not available due to the low number of students who participated in NAPLAN in 2024.

(Please note, a school's NAPLAN test must have a minimum of 11 participants and an 80% participation rate for a comparison to be available.)

## YEAR 10 – 12 RETENTION RATES

In Term 1, 2022, there were a total of 11 students enrolled in Year 10. In 2024, 2 of these students graduated Year 12 (retention rate of 18%).

## YEAR 12 OUTCOMES

Mungalla Silver Lining School was proud to have 2 students graduate Year 12 in 2024.

- ✓ Both students were awarded a Senior Education Profile & Senior Statement
- ✓ Both students gained points towards the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) to continue working towards post-school studies.

## POST SCHOOL DESTINATIONS

There were fewer than five respondents to the 2025 Next Step survey from students who completed Year 12 at Mungalla Silver Lining School (Mutarnee). Therefore, information about the post-school destinations of Year 12 completers from 2024 is not available due to data confidentiality.

## OUR STAFF

In 2024 Mungalla Silver Lining School had 1 principal and 3 teaching staff (FTE 3.6) and 16 non-teaching staff (FTE 10.3). Our staff operates as a collaborative professional team, sharing a wide range of skills and experience in supporting young people with diverse backgrounds and learning needs. The school employed 10 Indigenous staff (8.8 FTE). 80% of school-based staff were Indigenous.

	Principal /Teaching Staff	Non-teaching Staff
Number of Staff	4	16
Full-time equivalent	3.6	10.3

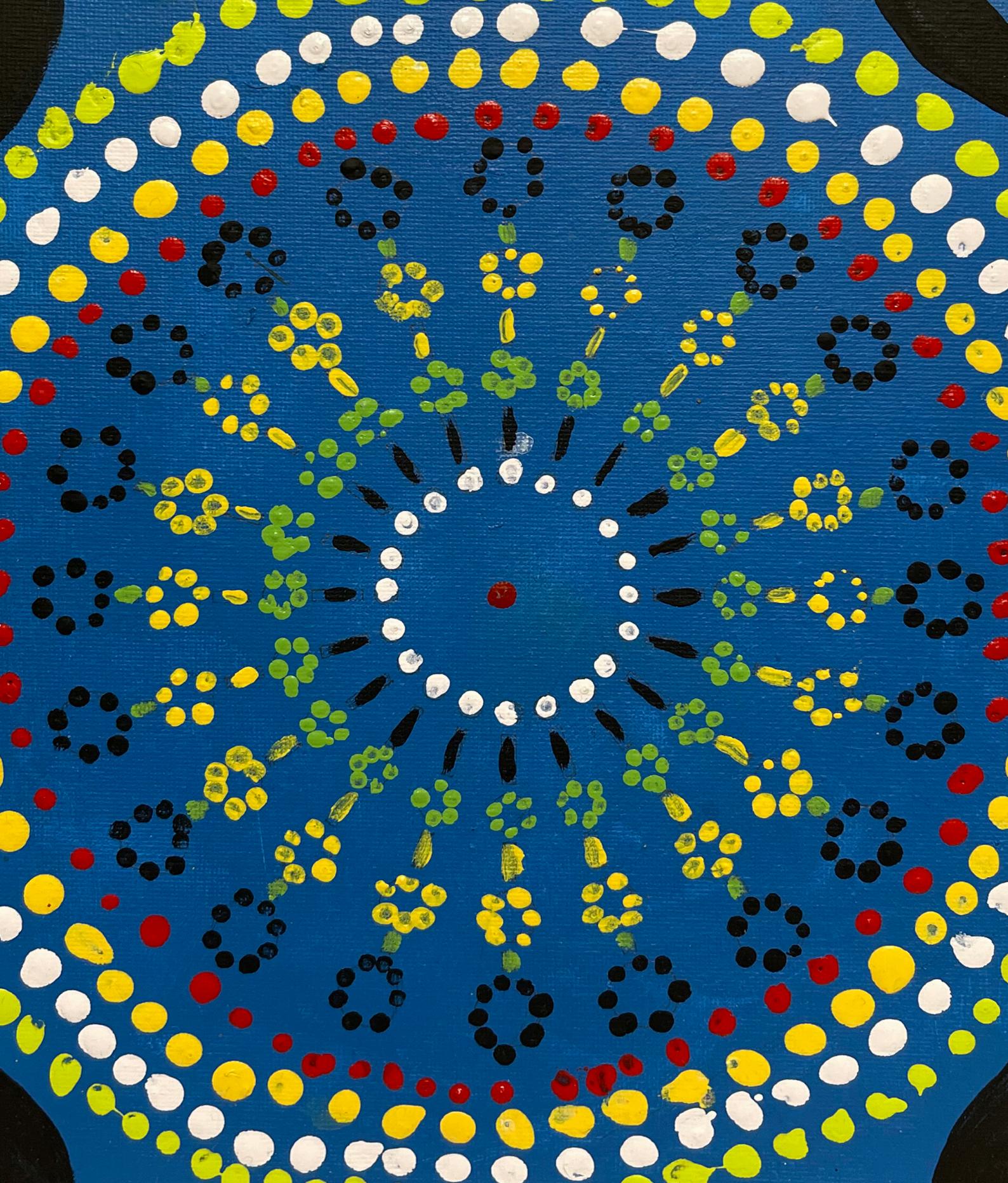
## TEACHER AND SCHOOL LEADER QUALIFICATIONS

Highest level of qualification	Number of qualifications
Doctorate	-
Masters	-
Graduate Diploma	-
Bachelor Degree	3
Diploma	-
Certificate	1

## SCHOOL FUNDING

Information regarding the school's funding sources can be found on the My School website.





Artist: Telannah Morseau (2023)



# SILVER LINING FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA

Mungalla Silver Lining School acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners of this country throughout Australia, and their connection to land and community.

We pay our respect to all Traditional Owners, and to their Elders past, present and emerging.