



Project Overview

Growing Deadly Brains® is a First Nations-led initiative and collaboration between Yiliyapinya Indigenous Corporation and Queensland Kids Partnership that brings together and honours cultural knowledge and neuro-knowledge. Growing Deadly Brains® aims to strengthen the social, emotional, and cognitive development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–8 years by translating complex brain science into practical, culturally grounded tools and support for families, caregivers, and early years practitioners across Queensland.

At its core, Growing Deadly Brains® centres the cultural strengths, knowledge systems, and aspirations of First Nations communities. By embedding neuroscience within culturally safe narratives and practices, the project aims to empower communities through shared language and understanding toward healthy brain development and lifelong wellbeing.

The project focuses on creating accessible resources, professional development opportunities that are publicly available and free. It also seeks to strengthen collaboration across services and systems, ensuring children experience consistent, nurturing and culturally aligned care no matter where they are supported.

Through a staged approach of mapping existing neuro-knowledge initiatives, establishing a Community of Practice, developing learning materials, embedding Growing Deadly Brains Coaches in communities, and launching a community-driven Brain Story campaign, the project is working towards a future where First Nations children thrive through culturally strong, neuro-informed practices embedded across communities, services, and systems.

Ultimately, Growing Deadly Brains® aims to foster environments where First Nations children grow up healthy, strong, and supported by practitioners and services that deeply understand and honour both cultural wisdom and brain development.

Opportunities to be Involved:

- Tell us about the Neuro-informed work you/your team/organisation is delivering, researching or advocating for
- Contribute to the development of the neuro-focused learning materials
- Pilot and evaluate resources within your community, or organisation or team
- Share your expertise in brain health, communications, advocacy or early childhood development for First Nations children (0-8 yrs)
- Join the community of practice or participate in events designed to support professional and organisational development.

For more information, please email
growingdeadlybrains@yiliyapinya.org.au

