

YEAR IN REVIEW 2024

# DANCE OF LIFE



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We have all travelled some distance to join the MITS family. We bring with us a variety of cultural knowledge, experience and language. We acknowledge that the land we live and learn on, always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

MITS is located next to a significant site, the MCG, where Wurundjeri people would gather and meet with other members of the Kulin Nation. We acknowledge we are on Wurundjeri land here in Richmond and pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from right around Australia.

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# DIRECTORS' REPORT

The names of the Directors of the Melbourne Indigenous Transition School in office during the financial year and until the date of this report are as follows. Directors were in office for the entire period unless otherwise stated:

Elizabeth Tudor AM (Chairperson), Rick Tudor OAM, Margaret Webb AM, Edward Tudor (Chief Executive Officer), Katrina Penfold, David Heaton, Meg Hewett, Dean Rioli (resigned October 2024), Alison Wunungmurra, Keryn Nossal, Maria Wilson and Samantha Rioli (joined December 2024).

## Operations and Principal Activities

The principal activities of MITS during the year were to provide education, opportunities, pathways and support to Indigenous students from remote and regional communities of Australia, principally through the provision of schooling and boarding in Melbourne.

## Results and Review of Operations

2024 was another year of growth and achievement for MITS and for our students. During the year, over 90 young Indigenous people were attending school in Melbourne at MITS or at one of our Pathways Schools, including 45 enrolled across MITS's Year 7 and 8 school program, and 86 enrolled across our MITS boarding houses.

We finalised and started to implement a new three-year strategy with five key focus areas and our MITS staff grew to over 70 people.

In December, we held our annual student Graduation Dinner at the MCG, where over 400 family members, staff, volunteers and supporters gathered to celebrate the achievements of our students, including 13 of our 2019 Year 7 cohort graduating Year 12 in Melbourne.

## Students

In 2024 MITS again welcomed 22 new Year 7 students: 19 from the Northern Territory and 3 from regional Victoria. A further four students joined our Year 7 cohort during the school year. 15 communities across the Top End and three communities across Victoria were proudly represented by our new Year 7 cohort.

These Year 7 students achieved an 85% completion rate, with 22 out of a total 26 students completing Year 7 with MITS in 2024. Our Year 8 MITS students experienced a 67% completion rate for our Year 8 program in 2024.

Year 7 student attendance in 2024 remained strong at 88% and Year 8 student attendance in 2024 was 78%.

In 2024 our students' academic growth was again impressive. In line with previous cohorts, our Year 7 cohort improved their reading and maths ability by an average of almost two year levels (in each case, using standardised PAT testing).

In 2024 MITS received 80 enrolment applications for our Year 7 Class of 2025. We interviewed 47 students, ultimately offering positions to 22 new students for Year 7 at MITS in 2025.

At the end of 2024, thirteen MITS students completed Year 12 in Melbourne – our highest number of Year 12 graduates to date.

## People

In 2024 MITS employed 61 full time and part time, plus further casual staff. Included in that team were 23 First Nations people working with MITS.

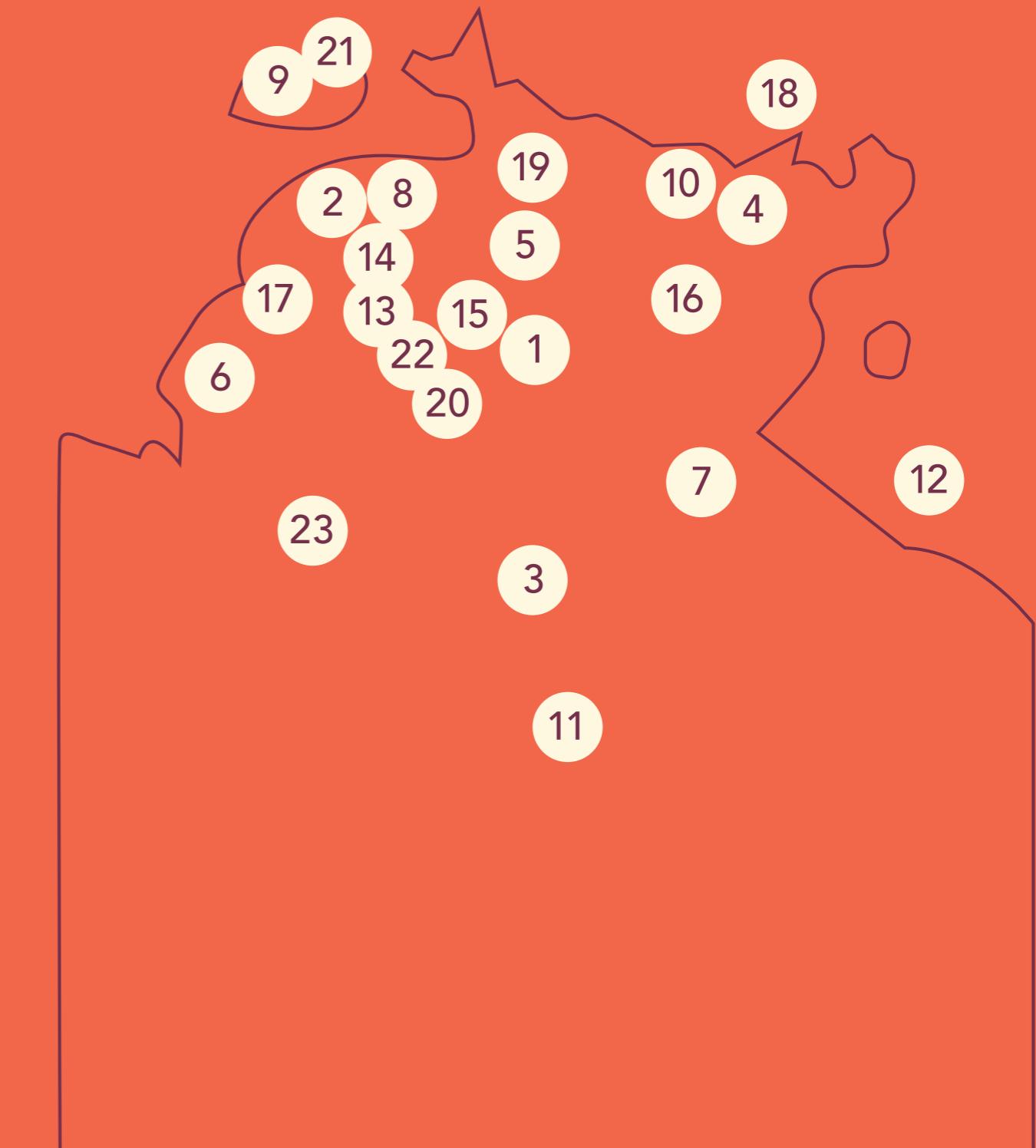
**EDUCATION  
OPPORTUNITY  
PATHWAYS  
& GROWTH**

# OUR STUDENT COHORT IS PROUDLY COMPRISED OF 8 COMMUNITIES ACROSS VICTORIA AND 25 COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE TOP END



## Victorian Communities that made up our student cohort in 2024

1. Sale
2. Bairnsdale
3. Lucknow
4. Lakes Entrance
5. Lake Tyers
6. Swan Hill
7. Echuca
8. Warrnambool



## Top End Communities that made up our student cohort in 2024

1. Barunga
2. Darwin
3. Elliot
4. Gapuwiyak (or Gapuwiak)
5. Jabiru
6. Nganmarriyanga
7. Ngukurr
8. Palmerston
9. Pirlangimpi
10. Ramingining
11. Tennant Creek
12. Vanderlin Island
13. Adelaide River
14. Batchelor
15. Beswick
16. Bulman
17. Daly River
18. Galiwinku
19. Gunbalanya
20. Katherine
21. Milikapiti
22. Pine Creek
23. Yarralin



**Connection to Country**  
Year 7 students participate in the annual Yaluk Langa Community Day on Wurundjeri Country

## 283 Church Street

With Richmond Football Club preparing to commence their redevelopment of facilities at Punt Road Oval, and Richmond High School needing to expand into the space generously provided for our Year 8 campus during 2023 and 2024, we had an urgent need to find an alternative location for our Year 7 and 8 classrooms from 2025.

In late December 2024, we settled on the acquisition of 283 Church Street, a three-storey building a short walk from MITS's existing boarding houses, which was already familiar to many MITS staff and students as the previous home of Access Health. With the help of key partners, most notably Kane Constructions and Mcldowie Partners, we prepared to renovate the middle floor of the building to convert the space into two large classrooms, multiple student breakout spaces and staff offices. This property presents significant additional future opportunities for MITS.

In anticipation of works commencing in early Term 1 2025, we arranged to relocate the classrooms during the works period to Trinity Grammar School. We are immensely grateful to the Trinity Grammar School community for this support of MITS and our students.

## Lockington

During 2024 we also prepared to complete a renovation project in the Year 7 boarding house, Lockington, over the 2024 summer break. The project focussed on providing improved mechanical ventilation, creating new study spaces, modifying the kitchen to better suit student use and generally improving the amenity of the building for students and staff, to bring it closer into line with the level of amenity experienced in our other three boarding houses. Works commenced at the start of the 2024 summer break and continued into early 2025.

## Strategy

2024 saw the commencement of implementation of MITS's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan, which was formulated in 2023.

Working across five key platforms identified in the strategy – Living & Learning, Relationships, Staff, Partnering and Organisational Resilience – our boarding, school and administration teams agreed priority objectives and a set of detailed actions to support realising these objectives. Those actions were pursued through 2024, with regular reporting on progress being provided to the Board.

# YEAR 7 STUDENTS ACHIEVED AN 85% COMPLETION RATE, WHILE YEAR 8 STUDENTS ACHIEVED A RATE OF 67%

## Financial Performance

MITS experienced a surplus in 2024 and strong positive cashflow for the financial year. Our financial performance was positively impacted by strong enrolments, donation receipts of \$2,656,256 and careful expense management, including management of MITS's boarding houses to ensure they operate efficiently.

In 2024 MITS received operational funding support through the National Indigenous Australians Agency, in addition to ABSTUDY funding through the Department of Human Services and recurrent educational funding through the Australian and Victorian Departments of Education.

As in previous years, MITS continues to benefit from the extraordinary generosity of its corporate and individual donors and supporters, without whom MITS would not exist.

In late 2024 MITS established a loan facility for \$5.5 million to enable the acquisition of 283 Church Street, and completion of works to convert this building into classroom spaces. The acquisition and works were also financed through use of retained earnings and through the sale of MITS's investment portfolio. At the end of the financial year the loan facility was drawn to \$5,303,467. MITS intends to pay off this loan as soon as possible.

## Significant Changes in the State of Affairs

There were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Company during the reporting period.

## Significant Events after the Balance Date

Having already commenced internal demolition works in late 2024, after the Balance Date MITS commenced and completed renovation works to 283 Church Street. The works were completed in time for occupancy at the commencement of Term 2, 2025.

There were no other significant events for the Company after the Balance Date.

## Likely Developments and Expected Results

The Directors do not expect any significant changes to the operations of the Company.

## Indemnification and Insurance of Directors

The Company provided and paid premiums for Directors' and Officers' Liability and Legal Expenses insurance contracts, covering the Directors, Executives and Statutory Officers of the Company.

The insurance is in respect of legal liability for damages and legal costs arising from claims made by reason of any omission or acts (other than dishonesty) by them, whilst acting in their individual or collective capacity as directors' of the Company or officers of the Company.

## Members' Guarantee

The Melbourne Indigenous Transition School is a company limited by guarantee. According to the Company's constitution, there is only one class of membership. In the event of, and for the purpose of, winding up the Company, the amount capable of being called up from each member and any person or association who ceased to be a member in the year prior to the winding up, is limited to \$1.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors

Elizabeth Tudor AM | Chairperson  
27 June 2025

# CEO'S REPORT

Words from  
Edward Tudor



At MITS, we often call on the stories and knowledge systems of our students and their communities to give meaning to life within our school and boarding community. We reference the seasons of the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung to mark the seasons of growth that students move through at MITS. We reflect on Namarrkon – Lighting Man, from the knowledge of the Gunmok people of the Stone Country – to articulate the brilliant release of potential energy that students experience in Melbourne. And at Lockington, Bunjil, the Creator Eagle, sits above the front door, watching over and looking after students and staff as they come and go from their home-away-from-home in Melbourne.

Perhaps our most deeply engrained metaphor is that of the pandanus weavings of Arnhem Land. The MITS logo – with a student at its centre – is based on these pieces of art. If you've been to any of our boarding houses you will have seen these beautiful weavings, from Gunbalanya, Maningrida, Ramingining, Gapuwiyak, Milingimbi, Galiwin'ku, Jabiru and more.

These weavings hold two stories for us at MITS.

The first story, is one of hard work: the story of education. These weavings are the product of incredibly hard work for the women who create them. Their strength to remove pandanus fronds from the palms. The care to strip them into fine fibres. The patience to allow them to dry. The expertise to forage for bush dyes and colour each fibre. And then, the mastery of a complex skill, to create extraordinary pieces of weaving.

As in education, the process is long and laborious, requiring commitment, patience and care. The end product is only possible if each step is diligently followed.

The second story is one of cohesion and connection. Because individually, there is nothing particularly strong, or useful, or beautiful about a pandanus fibre. But when they are woven together they become all of those things – strong, purposeful, and beautiful.

Through this Annual Report we celebrate our brilliant MITS weaving – twined together through years of shared connection and care – and we thank the many people who are part of MITS.

Most importantly, thank you to our MITS mums and dads, aunties, uncles, grandmas, grandpas, and lots and lots of brothers and sisters! In our MITS pandanus mat, you are the core – the coil around which all other fibres are wrapped. You provide love and support to the students, and advocacy and trust to us at MITS. Thank you for your partnership and your belief in and support for MITS.

We thank our Home Community Schools. We acknowledge the years of preparation that you have done to enable your young people to continue their weaving in Melbourne.

And we thank our Pathways Schools in Melbourne for continuing that work, and for intertwining your school communities with ours, and those of our students.

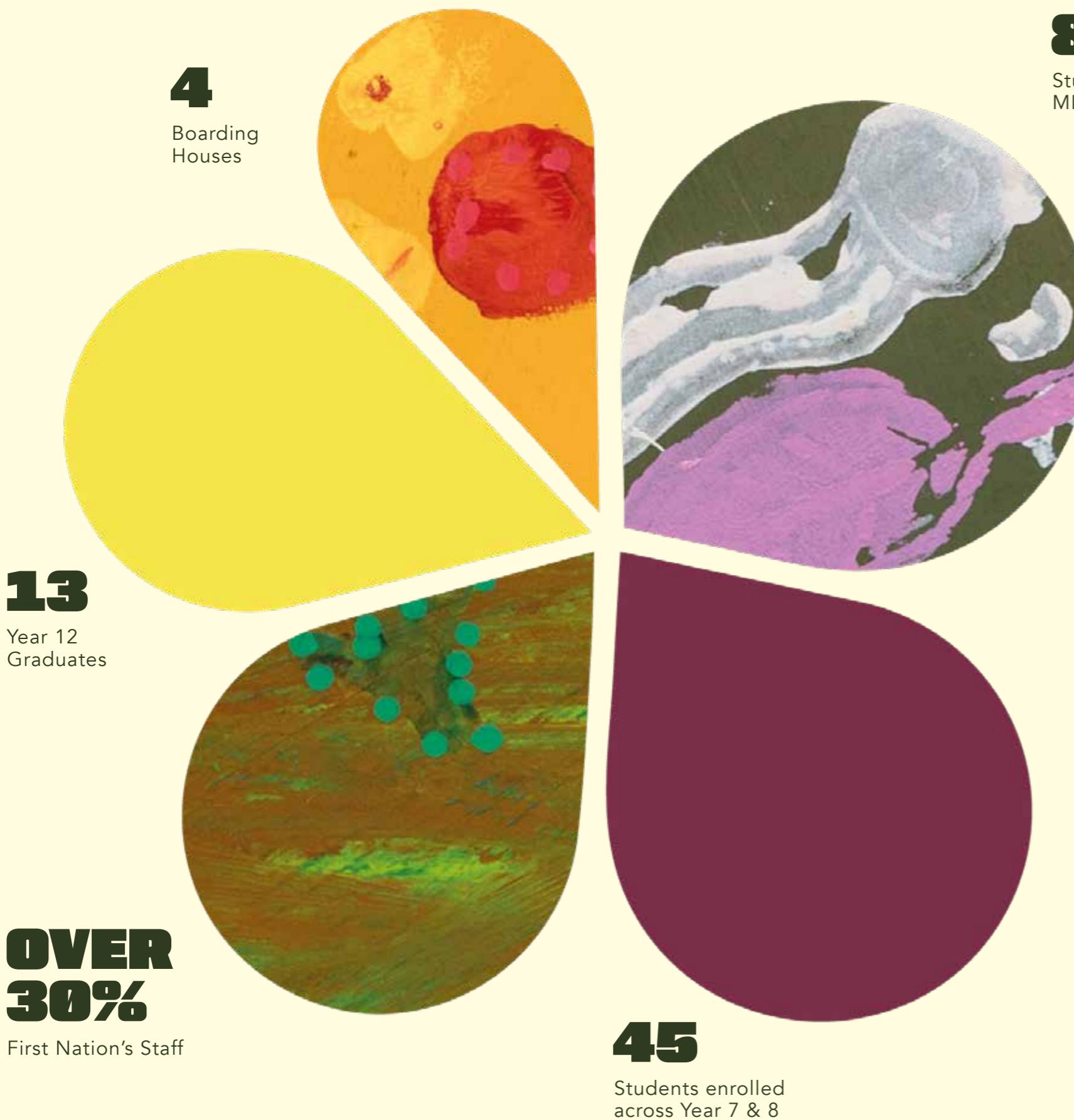
We thank the many partners and supporters who allow us to provide the most extraordinary programs to our students. From the Richmond Football Club, to the DECJUBA Foundation, to Kane Constructions, you each add colour and vibrancy to our MITS weaving and to the experiences of our students.

We thank our incredible volunteers: how lucky we are at MITS to have such a dedicated community of people who give their time and expertise to enrich the lives and experiences of our students while they're in Melbourne.

And of course, I thank our MITS staff – an incredible group of over 70 people – who go above and beyond for our students. From our school team in the classroom every day, to our boarding teams every night, morning, and weekend, to our kitchen, cleaning and operations teams making things tick behind the counter and behind the scenes, it is our MITS staff who hold our weaving together.

Just as a student sits at the centre of our MITS logo, in our brilliant MITS weaving, and in the pages of this celebration of 2024, our students are at the centre. Through these pages we celebrate their significant milestones – from completing their first year at MITS, to the thirteen inspiring young MITS people who completed Year 12 in Melbourne in 2024.

As you read this report – which brims with the opportunity, optimism and excitement of our 2024 school year – I hope you share in our joy and pride as our young people transform into "master weavers" through their MITS journey.



## KEY NUMBERS

**88%  
ATTENDANCE**

For Year 7's

**78%  
ATTENDANCE**

For Year 8's

**2+ YEARS**

Average Reading Growth

**100%  
OF PARENTS**

Report their children remain  
connected to family, country  
and culture while at MITS

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**22**  
**STUDENTS**  
**GRADUATED**  
**YEAR 7**  
**AT MITS**

# READING & MATHS ACADEMIC DATA

Growth was strong across all ability levels, with higher-achieving students making gains comparable to those starting at lower levels.

## 18 MONTHS' GROWTH

For Year 7 Reading

## 2 YEARS' GROWTH

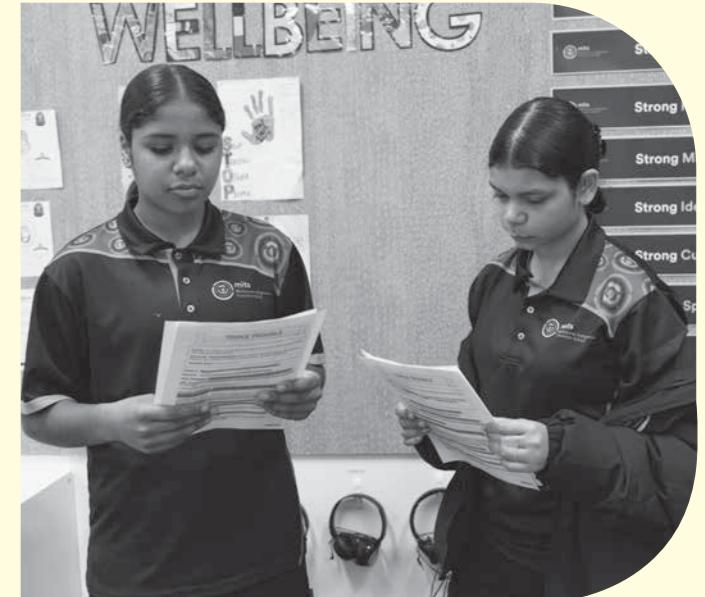
For Year 7 Maths

## NEARLY 4' YEARS GROWTH OVER 2 YEARS

For Year 8 Reading

**SOME YEAR 8 STUDENTS BEGAN WITH MATHS LEVELS BELOW GRADE 1 AND ALL PROGRESSIONED TO AT LEAST GRADE 4.**

For Year 8 Maths



A vibrant, abstract painting featuring a young Black man with glasses and a white t-shirt, set against a background of large blue letters spelling 'FARRELL' and a red and yellow patterned base.

## NICK FARRELL, KING BROWN

# SCIENCE WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE FACULTY OF SCIENCE

MITS is privileged to have formed a unique partnership with the Faculty of Science, University of Melbourne, that is providing our Year 7 and 8 students with extraordinary experiences in science education.

The partnership is led by Associate Professor Lisa Godinho, assisted by Indigenous undergraduate students of the Bachelor of Science (Extended) in the role of tutors and mentors to our students. The program offers our students access to all the resources and equipment of University of Melbourne science teaching laboratories to enrich their classroom science learning, as well as classroom incursions and on Country field trips.

Across the year, and consistent with the Victorian curriculum teaching program, our students undertake units in Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Geology. Highlights for the students have included acquiring their "Bunsen burner licence" and wearing PPE, using dissecting microscopes to look at dissected squid, using a nerve stimulator to move the muscles of the hand, visiting the zoology museum, examining the crystalline structure of rocks with a polarising microscope, making a 'never-ending fountain' in physics, creating electrical circuits and describing them, measuring the force of an earthquake with a seismophone, and using their chemistry skills to solve a "murder mystery"!

The benefits for our students are tangible - exposure to campus life and mentoring from University staff and Indigenous students with a passion for science, addresses directly the challenge of "you can't be what you can't see". Students enthuse about the opportunities available to them - several talking now of careers in botany, forensic science or geology. Additionally, the opportunity to access laboratory spaces, equipment and resources of the Faculty of Science, that would otherwise be inaccessible to MITS students, extraordinarily enriches our school program.

We are most grateful to Associate Professor Godinho and to the Faculty of Science, UoM, for their ongoing support of this partnership.



**Image above**  
Students measure biometric data in the labs at the University of Melbourne

**Image to the right**  
'Connecting to Land'  
Harry Chatfield





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# ART WITH THE MONASH UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF ART



**Top Image**  
'Jetch - Frillneck'  
Jermaine Munnich

**Bottom Image**  
'Connecting to Land'  
Harry Chatfield

This year marked the seventh iteration of the MUMA and MITS education partnership. Each year MUMA collaborates with leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, who then deliver a series of workshops with MITS Year 7 students. MUMA generously covers all costs associated with this partnership.

In 2024 this collaboration involved the art collective the Pitcha Makin Fellas. Based on Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung land (Ballarat), the Pitcha Makin Fellas are Gunditjmara man Uncle Ted Laxton, Dja Dja Wurrung-Gunditjmara-Yorta Yorta woman Aunty Alison McCrae and Dja Dja Wurrung-Gunditjmara-Yorta Yorta man Jack Shilvock.

Students were invited to create a series of wooden panels depicting animal-life of significance to each student, be it totemic or an affinity of their own. We then had these artworks projected onto the students and photographed, thanks to The Thrills and photographer Dan Magree. The result is the stunning artwork which fills many of the pages of this Annual Report.

# ONE - ROAR - BOA



MORGAN SAUNDERS, THE LONG NECK

# ARTS EXPO

The MITS Boarding Program now proudly presents a Celebration of the Arts evening annually. Inspired by NAIDOC week themes and messaging, students are supported by boarding staff and close community connections to produce artworks which include a range of textiles, visual arts, music and media. The purpose is for students to express themselves through whichever creative medium they choose.

In August 2024 we opened the doors of our Senior Fellas boarding house at 364 Church Street to all MITS staff and families for an evening of celebration and sharing. The evening was a real highlight in celebrating the natural talent and enthusiasm our MITS boarding community exudes in all areas of the Arts.

First Nations people have a long history of producing unique pieces of Art that encapsulate their individual sense of Culture, Country, Ceremony and story-telling. On this special night we are encouraging our students to be proud of their Culture, themselves, their families and communities, and extend to our community what we know the Arts mean to the First Peoples of Australia.

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# STUDENT SPORT AT MITS

An important part of the MITS experience for our students is forming connections with other young people within our local community. It ensures our students feel a sense of belonging while studying away from home.

One of the best ways to forge these connections is through local team sport. Many of our students arrive at MITS with a passion for sport and thanks to the generosity of the MCC Foundation, we are able to register them in local teams.

Two clubs that are replete with MITS students are the Richmond Junior Football Club and the Collingwood All Stars Basketball Club. In 2024 we had 50 students playing across Richmond Junior FC teams and around 20 basketballers playing with the All Stars. The MCC Foundation, long-term partners of MITS, generously fund all the costs associated with accessing these sports, including any registration fees and uniforms.

In 2024 there were many highlights on the sporting field, including best-on-ground performances, best and fairest awards and premierships!

# STUDENT CHEF PROGRAM

Our Student Chef program forms one of the many 'life skills' initiatives we offer within our MITS boarding program. Run by our Kitchen Team, it contributes to improving student's cooking skills within their daily lives.

The program includes choosing a healthy recipe, going to the supermarket, buying ingredients in line with their budget and preparing a large meal for a group of more than 20 people.

The program is supervised by a MITS kitchen staff member who ensures that the daily workplan is followed, food safety procedures adhered to and there is effective communication among all participants.

Student Chef has become a really popular initiative which is having a positive impact on our students. They are learning how to work as a team and follow instructions in the kitchen, develop a love of healthy cooking, promoting community service (they are cooking for their fellow students!) and developing essential skills in commercial cooking practices.

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# BOARDING HOUSE VIRTUAL TOUR

Take a virtual tour of our 371 Church Street Boarding House, Courtesy of Ross Coulter.



# WELLBEING SPOTLIGHT

We know that our students must feel safe, strong and supported in Melbourne in order for them to achieve both inside and outside of the classroom. Our students show incredible courage when choosing to access an education away from home, but this can come with challenges. Our Wellbeing Program works to ensure each student possesses the psycho-social tools they need to thrive in Melbourne.

In 2024, our Wellbeing Program expanded in order to better support more students. This growth occurred on two fronts.

Firstly, in September we employed our first Male Student Counsellor. This was in response to our male students accessing wellbeing supports at a lower level than our female cohort. With our existing Wellbeing team consisting of females only, we knew that investing in a male staff member would help address this issue. Since then, we have seen a much higher uptake in seeking support from our male students, resulting in stronger retention within our program.

Secondly, we continue to deepen and expand our partnerships with external health service providers. One example is our ongoing relationship with Headspace. We have formed a relationship with our two closest centres – Headspace Hawthorn and Headspace Collingwood. Our reason for partnering with Headspace is simple, they are a national brand and also have a strong, online presence. This ensures that regardless of where our students end up after their time at MITS, they should be familiar with the way Headspace deliver mental health care and feel confident and comfortable enough to access this support. We are lucky enough to have regular visits from their Community Engagement team, to build non-threatening, activity-based, relationships with our students. This assists in educating them and supporting them to feel comfortable to access further support, should they require them.

We are excited to continue seeing our students excel and grow during their time at MITS, underpinned by strong wellbeing.





CURTIS BAIRD, CROW

# COMMUNITY

# PARENT & FAMILY REPORT

MITS exists to support the educational aspirations of our students and their families. Our 2024 MITS Parents and Family Survey reveals overwhelmingly positive feedback from families regarding their children's experiences.

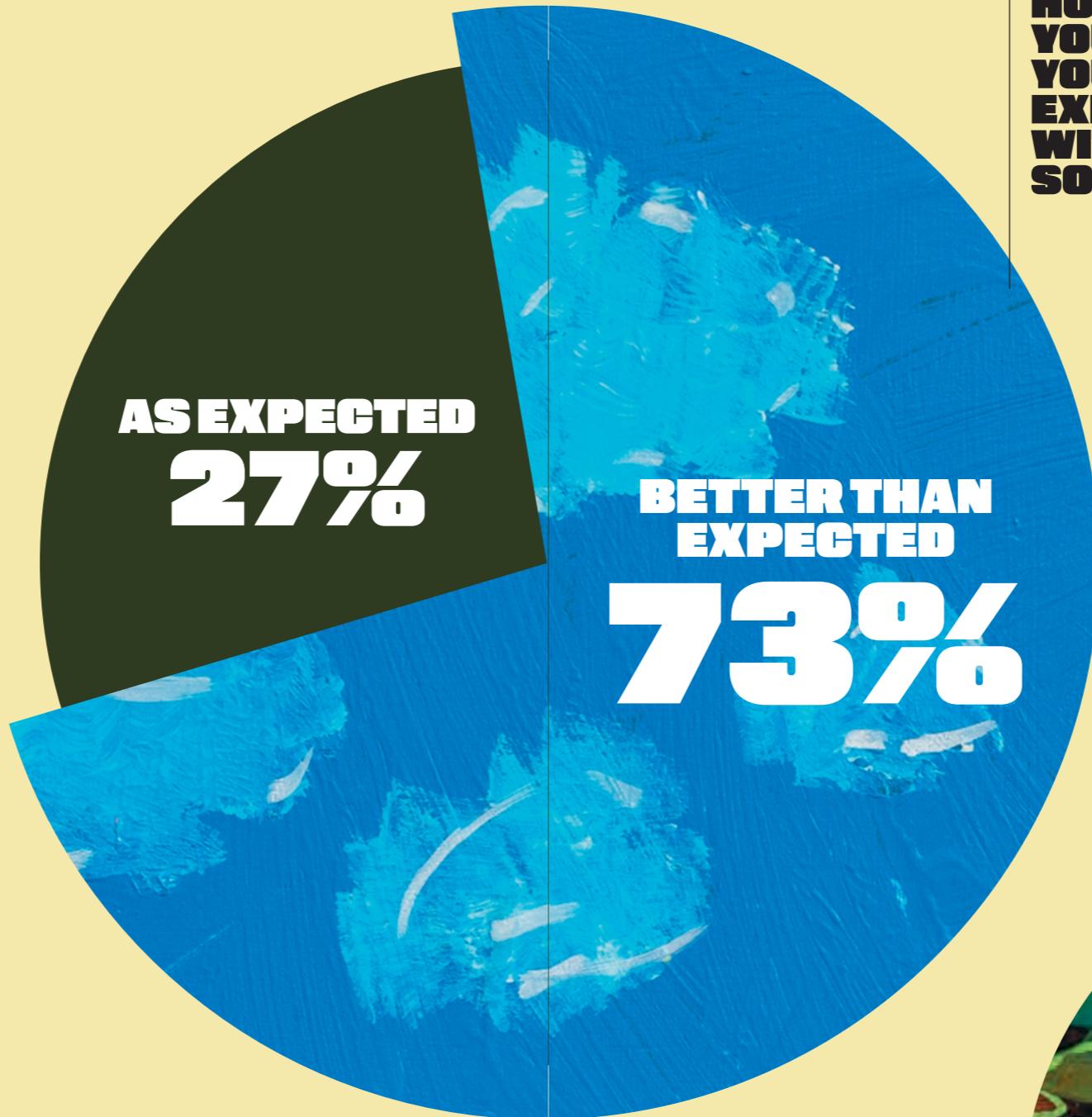
Our families expressed very strong satisfaction in our communication, wellbeing support and academic progress. Families consistently noted that their children feel "Very safe" and "Very supported," with many highlighting the value of cultural connection and friendships formed across communities.

Parents praised MITS for fostering independence, emotional growth, and exposure to broader opportunities. One parent shared, "My son tells us that he loves being at MITS and wants family and friends to have the good opportunity he's been given." Another noted "It's a great opportunity for our kids to expand their horizons (and) mix with different people." A third noted "I would recommend MITS to family so they can give their children a big and bright future".

**HOW LIKELY ARE YOU TO RECOMMEND MITS TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS?**



**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR CHILD'S EXPERIENCE WITH MITS SO FAR?**



DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOUR CHILD IS SAFE AT MITS  
**100%**



# CELEBRATING OUR YEAR 12 GRADUATES

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The Year 12 Class of 2024 have an incredible story to tell, having lived and schooled through the COVID-19 period in history. They began their MITS journey in 2019 when 11 girls and 11 fellas from the Northern Territory and regional Victoria came to Richmond to start in Year 7 at MITS. All went well at Lockington Boarding House and in school at Richmond Football Club (with the Tigers winning the Grand Final defeating GWS Giants that year, and MITS mob forming the guard of honour!).

In 2020 the students returned for Year 8, ready to transition to their Pathway Schools (MITS was a Year 7-only school back then). We opened our first MITS Senior Boarding house at 139 Richmond Terrace (for girls), and the boys moved in with Host Families.

A brief period of normality ensued, but by late March the effects of COVID-19 began to impact everyone's lives – state borders were closing, social gatherings were limited, a 2 week quarantine period was enforced for anyone entering the NT (at Howard Springs) and all school learning became online (and often inaccessible due to Internet issues and access in students' communities).

MITS made the decision to move its entire operation to Darwin, to enable students to continue to engage with their education, and from July till December 2020, this group of students lived and schooled at the Michael Long Centre in Marrara. It was busy and hectic setting up school and life in Darwin, but everyone rose to the challenge, and in doing so those of us who were part of this challenging period also watched the incredible bonds that students and staff alike developed, as we navigated this unknown landscape together.

In 2021, this intrepid bunch returned to Melbourne for their schooling, still interrupted by various lockdowns and the mandatory two-week quarantine period every time they returned home to the NT for each school holidays.

By the middle of 2023 most MITS Seniors (girls and fellas) were living in MITS-run boarding house, with a couple choosing to stay with Host Families until they finished school. The boarding house environment created a culturally strong community and built even closer connections between these students. An ever-growing supportive boarding and volunteer program also grew around the students - including study, medical and wellbeing support, sporting activities, student chef program, life skills, money management, careers speakers, university visits, connections with local Aboriginal organisations and events, camps, work experience, part time jobs and healthy food programs.

In 2024, 13 students graduated Year 12 in Melbourne, and a further 2 completed Year 12 closer to home – our highest completion rate ever. The Year 12's achievements were celebrated at the MITS Gala Dinner in October, at Valedictory Dinners at their Pathway Schools in October and November and at the MITS Celebration Dinner in December. Beaming smiles, some tears and an overwhelming sense of pride filled the MCG, as families, younger students, Pathways School staff and the broader MITS community celebrated this extraordinary group of young people.

## 13 STUDENTS GRADUATED YEAR 12 IN MELBOURNE, AND A FURTHER 2 COMPLETED YEAR 12 CLOSER TO HOME, OUR HIGHEST COMPLETION RATE EVER

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# PAULINE MANAGAYGAY

Ramingining, Northern Territory  
MITS Year 12 Captain

Words from Pauline's speech to the  
2024 MITS Gala Dinner

Good morning everyone.

My name is Pauline, and I am one of the 13 students graduating year 12 in 2024. I stand here in front of you with a lot of nerves, but also with confidence and pride to say that I have officially finished my school journey to the end of Year 12.

I come from a community called Ramingining. This is a small community that is in East Arnhem Land. 560 kilometres from Darwin. 4061 kilometres from Melbourne, Ramingining is very tropical with bright colours and if I could describe something I love about my hometown it is that I have cousins everywhere, it's like I'm almost related to everyone in the community. It was hard for me to leave home, I just had to make the sacrifice for my education and deal with homesickness, family business and everything but I overcame it by making wonderful friends.

I didn't know what I was doing when I first applied to MITS, but then I then realized that I made a great decision coming here. Coming here taught me new things like learning about two worlds the Balandia world and Yolngu world. My mum always told me "Education is the most powerful weapon to use to change the world" The Nelson Mandela quote I didn't understand at first, then it came to me, now I realize that someone has to make a change in their world. I came to MITS so I could get a better education for myself, for my family and be the next role model.

After MITS, I was selected to go to Kingswood College in Box Hill from Year 8 onwards. Being at school at Kingswood was a lot to get used to, especially finding my way around a school that has just under 1000 students (my home Community is about 800 people!) I have had the chance to do a lot of different subjects, activities, see many different places and was pushed out of my comfort zone. I have made many new friends along the way also.

Kingswood has really supported me, as well as MITS.

Something I love about MITS is that different mobs come together and make a strong bond with each other, just like I did when I made friends with beautiful girls. It was hard being in Melbourne like moving away from families but I'm going to miss Melbourne.

Now I would like to thank my Parents for everything that you guys had done for me. Also, I want to thank all MITS for the great opportunities and fun times I had with everyone here. And lastly my crazy friends, I will miss you guys thank you for always making me laugh, even when I was at my lowest and helping me get through tough storms.



# SAMUEL WARRIOR

Pirlangimpi, Tiwi Islands  
MITS Year 12 Captain



Words from Sam's speech to the  
2024 MITS Gala Dinner

Hello everyone

My name is Sam Warrior and I'm from the beautiful Tiwi Islands in the Northern Territory. My home is Pirlangimpi, or Garden Point on Melville Island. I live with my family, my mum Deanne, dad Matatia, and sisters Helena, Demaga, and Maletta.

My dad is from the Torres Strait Islands and is a carpenter with our local council, and an amazing artist. And mum is from the Rioli family, and works at our high school. She is also studying law part time at Charles Darwin University.

I love my parents, my sisters, and my whole community.

I came to Melbourne in 2019 to start my journey at MITS. It was scary at first being so far away from home, my dad leaving after a few days and me realising I wasn't going back with him, and being somewhere that gets cold, that's full of buildings and not as much bush but my parents know this is a good opportunity for me.

Things haven't always been easy, and I've had some challenges including being at two schools, running away from two host families, thinking what is this Tiwi boy is doing in Melbourne.

I've had lots of tears and frustration and also had to push myself to do things on my own, when friends haven't returned with me to Melbourne for school.

I miss the warm air, the smell of home, hearing my language spoken, family laughing, and footy season. I don't miss the snakes or crocodiles.

I think about fishing, hunting, playing with my friends, being close to the water, going to swimming holes, and fishing, the beautiful sunsets, and one of the things I love the most is to take some sausages and camp in the bush with my friends – especially Max who was at MITS but returned home to continue school.

I've found my place at Parade College and I've had a lot of success. I have completed my VCE Vocational Major in building and construction, and last year I completed my Cert 2 in furnishings. I even sold a table I made to a MITS staff member!

At the end of last year I went on the Year 12 prep camp and even though I thought about not going, I decided to set challenges for myself and step up. I got back from camp and told the boarding team that I want more challenges, saying to them "I want to smash challenges next year!"

This year there have been lots of challenges and opportunities to grow. I have received awards for outstanding achievement this year which I am proud of, and I was awarded the Torchbearer award as the top Indigenous student at school. I was so proud to have my parents, MITS staff, and my Melbourne mother and brother attend the school assembly. I was so nervous speaking in front of two thousand students.

But I challenged myself!

For the last three years I've been doing my vocational major in Building and Construction at school. Once a week I go to the Bundoora Campus which takes me over an hour to get to. I start my day at 5.30am to catch a train and tram to be there for a 7am start. It hard, it's early, it's cold, and sometimes I have to get pushed out the door to go... But I challenge myself!

Because I know what it's like being far away from home I support other MITS students, especially the Year 7 students. I visit the Year 7 boarding house during the week and help with home-work and make sure the boys are feeling supported and not mucking around. We play games, we talk and I tell them to be strong and challenge themselves.

At least they don't have to be at Howard Springs!

My school have asked me if I would like to train as a teacher-aid next year. When they asked me if it's something I'm interested in I got a shock and I didn't know what to say or think. I still don't know what to say, and this is my sixth year in Melbourne so I may want to go home and work with my dad, or explore other opportunities.

In the future I want to work with young people, I want to show the young mob how to be good people, and how to overcome challenges. I want to be a leader for myself and my community.

Whatever I do I will always have a connection to MITS and the special people in my life in Melbourne and at home that have helped me. They are all my family and I could not have done this without them. They have pushed me, and supported me... and I know I am loved.

I would like to congratulate everyone in the MITS class of 2019, whether they are here in Melbourne or at home. We're not all here tonight but we have challenged ourselves and we have made it!

Finally to everyone gathered here:

Thank you for giving your time and energy to us  
Thank you for making us feel welcome  
Thank you for giving us a place we can call home.

# DONOR SPOTLIGHT

## DECJUBA FOUNDATION



MITS relies on our generous community to support our work – through donations, pro bono support, volunteering and advocacy. Donations continue to underpin our ability to grow and better support more students each year.

One of our largest philanthropic partners is DECJUBA Foundation, who first donated to MITS back in 2021. Their contribution supports the school and boarding positions of our entire cohort of 11 Year 7 girls each year. It means that when our girls first arrive at MITS, we are able to provide them with the very best experience across our classroom and boarding house, setting them up for future success.

DECJUBA's incredible support has extended beyond their annual donation to include work experience opportunities for our students and warm jackets for visiting families from the Northern Territory!

Gill Whelan, General Manager of the DECJUBA Foundation says:

"It's amazing to watch these students thrive at MITS and know we can play a part in their journey. At DECJUBA Foundation, we're all about giving people the chance to learn, grow, and dream big. Whether it's supporting school, work experience, or just making families feel welcome, we're proud to stand with MITS and help create brighter futures together."

We thank DECJUBA Foundation and the many others who support our students and MITS.



Image to the left  
'Blue Wren'  
Jaydah Hood

# FINANCIALS



BETHANY ROSAS, EVIL DREAM BIRD

## AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

To the Directors of Melbourne Indigenous Transition School

In relation to our audit of the financial report of Melbourne Indigenous Transition School for the financial year ended 31 December 2024, and in accordance with the requirements of Subdivision 60-C of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a. No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of any applicable code of professional conduct; and
- b. No non-audit services provided that contravene any applicable code of professional conduct.

*Ernst & Young* *Alison Parker*

Ernst & Young

Alison Parker

Partner

27th June 2025



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## STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Note	12 months ended 31 Dec 2024 \$	12 months ended 31 Dec 2023 \$
Revenue	3	9,542,589	8,862,679
Capital Works Funding		—	7,250,000
Employee benefits expense		(5,620,957)	(4,832,973)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(1,385,233)	(1,376,652)
Repairs and Maintenance expense		(391,839)	(131,988)
Travel expense	4(a)	(142,388)	(81,090)
Event and Engagement expense		(177,067)	(234,278)
Other school and boarding house operating expenses		(910,389)	(819,871)
Other operating expense		(582,080)	(376,439)
Investment income		70,016	51,841
Surplus from continuing operations attributable to members of the entity		402,652	8,311,229
Total Comprehensive income for the year attributable to members of the entity		402,652	8,311,229

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	5	775,203	2,295,560
Trade and Other Receivables	6	494,011	101,804
Other Assets	8	189,124	141,210
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>1,458,339</b>	<b>2,538,574</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, Plant and Equipment	7	28,272,193	22,409,404
Financial Assets	9	132,358	537,342
Right of Use Assets	10	3,700,729	3,753,462
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>32,105,279</b>	<b>26,700,207</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>33,563,618</b>	<b>29,238,781</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and Other Payables	12	649,327	2,030,474
Employee Benefits	13	194,944	183,278
Lease Liabilities	11	163,680	197,873
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>1,007,951</b>	<b>2,411,625</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Employee Benefits	13	111,695	89,306
Lease Liabilities	11	3,957,917	3,957,916
Loans & Borrowing	14	5,303,467	—
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>9,373,080</b>	<b>4,047,222</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>10,381,031</b>	<b>6,458,847</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>23,182,587</b>	<b>22,779,934</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Reserves		—	—
Accumulated Funds		23,182,587	22,779,934
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>23,182,587</b>	<b>22,779,934</b>

# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

(1) Transfer between capital profit reserve to accumulated funds

In 2016 MITS received a one-off grant of \$1.125m from the Australian Government for the capital works at MITS Boarding House for year 7 students. The one-off grant was accounted for as income in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in accordance with MITS' accounting policies. In the same year, MITS created a Capital Profit Reserve to separate the income received from the one-off grant from the accumulated funds of MITS that relates to the ordinary course of operating the school.

In the prior period (FY2023), MITS transferred this amount to accumulated funds such that the treatment of this historic grant from 2016 has been treated in the same manner as the grants received for the new 364 Church Street and 371 Church Street boarding houses.

The result of this transfer does not have an impact on the Statement of Comprehensive Income nor total Equity.

	Accumulated Funds \$	Capital Profit Reserve \$	Total \$
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## 2024

Balance at 1 January 2024	22,779,934	–	22,779,934
Surplus attributable to members of the entity	402,652	–	402,652

Balance as at 31 December 2024	23,182,587	–	23,182,587
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## 2023

Balance at 1 January 2023	13,613,705	855,000	14,468,705
Surplus attributable to members of the entity	8,311,229	–	8,311,229

Transfer between capital profit reserve to accumulated funds (1)	855,000	–	855,000
Balance as at 31 December 2023	22,779,934	–	22,779,934

# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the Year Ended  
31 December 2024

	Note	12 months ended 31 Dec 2024 \$	12 months ended 31 Dec 2023 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
Receipts of donations, funding and event income			
		9,614,393	16,112,679
Payments to suppliers and employees		(9,141,433)	(8,515,766)
GST received		384,600	198,340
Net cash provided by operating activities:	18	857,559	7,795,253
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Proceeds from sale of financial assets		475,000	–
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(7,793,834)	(5,733,992)
Net cash used in investing activities:		(7,318,834)	(5,733,992)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>			
Net loan withdrawal	14	5,303,467	–
Payment of lease liabilities		(362,549)	(363,424)
Net cash used in financing activities provided by/(used in)		4,940,918	(363,424)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents held (used in)/provided by		(1,520,357)	1,697,837
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		2,295,560	597,723
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	5	775,203	2,295,560

The financial report covers Melbourne Indigenous Transition School (the Company) as an individual entity. Melbourne Indigenous Transition School is a not-for profit Company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Victoria, Australia.

The registered office is located at 371 Church Street, Richmond, 3121.

The functional and presentation currency of Melbourne Indigenous Transition School is Australian dollars.

Where necessary, comparative figures have been reclassified and repositioned for consistency with current year disclosures.

## **NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

### **(A) Basis of Preparation**

The directors have prepared the financial statements on the basis that the company is a non-reporting entity because there are no users who are dependent on its general purpose financial statements. The financial statements are therefore special purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements of Australian Accounting Standards, Corporations Act 2001 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012.

Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated. The directors have prepared the financial report that complies with the recognition and measurement requirements of Australian Accounting Standards as issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and other professional reporting requirements. It contains only those disclosures considered necessary by the directors to meet the needs of members.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals and historical cost basis.

#### **Going Concern**

The company has prepared a cash flow forecast to support the going concern assumption based on the expectation that operational funding income from the Commonwealth and State Government Departments in addition to Donation income from its corporate and private supporters remains an open source of income. At the date of this report the Board of Directors have no reason to believe the Departments or the key donors to MITS will not continue to support the Company. On this basis the directors have determined that it is appropriate to prepare the financial report on a going concern basis.

### **(B) Income Tax**

No provision for income tax has been raised as the Company is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

### **(C) Revenue and other income**

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Company and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates. The Company applied AASB 1058 which sets out the principles for the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure for not-for-profit entities that apply to transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than fair value principally to enable a not-for-profit entity to further its objectives and the receipt of volunteer services. Such transfers with consideration significantly less than fair value primarily to enable a not-for-profit entity to further its objectives may be called grants, bequests, donations or appropriations and are usually made voluntarily.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

#### **Grant Revenue**

Grant revenue is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income when the entity obtains control of the grant, it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the entity and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

When grant revenue is received whereby the entity incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

#### **ABSTUDY Funding**

ABSTUDY funding is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income when it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the ABSTUDY funding claim will flow to the entity and the amount of the funding can be measured reliably.

#### **Donations**

Donations and bequests are recognised as revenue when received.

#### **Interest revenue**

Interest is recognised using the effective interest method.

#### **Event and Other income**

Event and Other income is recognised on an accruals basis when the Company is entitled to it. The company is entitled to event income when the event has occurred and the performance obligation to the customer has been completed.

### **(D) Goods and services tax (GST)**

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows in the statement of cash flows are included on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

**(E) Property, plant and equipment**

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Where the cost model is used, the asset is carried at its cost less any accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses.

Costs include purchase price, other directly attributable costs and the initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and restoring the asset, where applicable.

**Depreciation**

Property, plant and equipment, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the assets useful life to the Company, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset are shown below:

Fixed asset class	Depreciation rate
Buildings	4-5%
Fixtures and Fittings	10%
Computer Equipment	33%
Computer Software	33%

At the end of each annual reporting period, the depreciation method, useful life and residual value of each asset is reviewed.

Any revisions are accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.

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**(F) Impairment of non-financial assets**

At the end of each reporting period the Company determines whether there is an evidence of an impairment indicator for non-financial assets.

**(G) Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value. Bank overdrafts are shown within short-term borrowings in current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

**Employee benefits**

Provision is made for the Company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year of the date of the reporting period have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than one year after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements. Cashflows are discounted using market yields on high quality corporate bond rates incorporating bonds rated AAA or AA by credit agencies, with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cashflows. Changes in the measurement of the liability are recognised in profit or loss.

**(I) Right of Use assets and lease liabilities****Right-of-use assets**

At commencement date of the lease, a right-of-use asset is recognised and measured at cost, less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses, and adjusted for any remeasurement of lease liabilities. Unless the Company is reasonably certain to obtain ownership of the leased asset at the end of the lease term, the recognised right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of its estimated useful life and the lease term. Right-of-use asset are subject to impairment.

Low-value assets recognition exemption to leases has also been applied. Lease payments on low-value assets are recognised as expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

**Lease liabilities**

At commencement date of the lease, a lease liability is recognised and measured at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term. In calculating the present value of lease payments, the Company uses the incremental borrowing rate at the lease commencement date, if the rate implicit in the lease cannot be readily determined. After the commencement date, the amount of lease liabilities is increased to reflect the accretion of interest and reduced for the lease payments made.

The carrying amount of lease liabilities is remeasured if there is a modification, a change in the lease term, a change in the insubstance fixed leased payments, a change in the assessment to purchase the underlying asset, or a change in the amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee.

**Significant judgements**

The Company determines the lease term as the non-cancellable term of the lease, together with any periods covered by an option to extend the lease if it is reasonably certain to be exercised, or any periods covered by an option to terminate the lease, if it is reasonably certain not to be exercised. After the lease commencement date, the lease term is reassessed if there is a significant event or change in circumstances that is within its control and affects its ability to exercise (or not to exercise) the option to renew.

**(K) Financial assets****Initial recognition and measurement**

Financial assets are classified, at initial recognition, as subsequently measured at fair value through profit or loss. The classification of financial assets at initial recognition depends on the financial asset's contractual cash flow characteristics and the Company's business model for managing them. With the exception of trade receivables that do not contain a significant financing component, the Company initially measures a financial asset at its fair value.

Purchases or sales of financial assets that require delivery of assets within a time frame established by regulation or convention in the market place (regular way trades) are recognised on the trade date, i.e., the date that the Company commits to purchase or sell the asset.

**Subsequent measurement**

For purposes of subsequent measurement, financial assets are classified as financial assets at fair value through profit or loss. Financial assets

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at fair value through profit or loss are carried in the statement of financial position at fair value with net changes in fair value recognised in the statement of profit or loss. This category includes derivative instruments and listed equity investments which the Company had not irrevocably elected to classify at fair value through other current investments. Dividends on listed equity investments are recognised as other income in the statement of profit or loss when the right of payment has been established.

#### (L) Financial liabilities

##### Initial recognition and measurement

Financial liabilities are classified, at initial recognition, as financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss, loans and borrowings, or as payable. All financial liabilities are recognised initially at fair value and, in the case of loans and borrowings and payables, net of directly attributable transaction costs. The Company's financial liabilities include trade and other payables, loans and borrowings.

##### Subsequent measurement

For purposes of subsequent measurement, financial liabilities are classified in two categories:

- i. Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss
- ii. Financial liabilities at amortised cost (loans and borrowings)

##### Financial liabilities at amortised cost (loans and borrowings)

This is the category most relevant to the entity. After initial recognition, interest-bearing loans and borrowings are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the EIR method. Gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss when the liabilities are derecognised as well as through the EIR amortisation process.

Amortised cost is calculated by taking into account any discount or premium on acquisition and fees or costs that are an integral part of the EIR. The EIR amortisation is included as finance costs in the statement of profit or loss.

##### Derecognition

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged or cancelled or expires. When an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, such an exchange or modification is treated as the derecognition of the original liability and the recognition of a new liability.

The difference in the respective carrying amounts is recognised in the statement of profit or loss.

The directors make estimates and judgements during the preparation of these financial statements regarding assumptions about current and future events affecting transactions and balances.

Estimation is involved in accounting for the useful lives and residual values of property, plant and equipment. Further detail is contained in Note 1 Summary of Material Accounting Policies.

These estimates and judgements are based on the best information available at the time of preparing the financial statements, however as additional information is known then the actual results may differ from the estimates.

## NOTE 2 MATERIAL ACCOUNTING JUDGMENTS, ESTIMATES & ASSUMPTIONS

## NOTE 3 REVENUE & OTHER INCOME

(1) Capital works funding relates to grant monies received from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts used for the construction and capital works of 371 Church Street. As construction of boarding houses is not a recurring activity and the receipt of these monies is not in the ordinary course of business, this funding is considered to be non-recurring in nature.

### Revenue from continuing operations

#### Recurring revenue

	12 months ended 31 Dec 2024 \$	12 months ended 31 Dec 2023 \$
Donations	2,656,256	2,890,790
ABSTUDY Funding	1,895,778	1,665,122
Departments of Education and NIAA Funding	4,810,017	4,157,141
Event Income	147,356	149,626
Other Revenue	33,182	—

#### Non-Recurring revenue

Capital Works funding (1)	—	7,250,000
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### Total Revenue

9,542,589	16,112,679
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## NOTE 4 EXPENSES

(A) Travel costs related primarily to travel by MITS students between their homes and MITS, as well as travel by MITS staff to remote communities when chaperoning students home or as part of our community engagement program. A large proportion of travel costs may be reimbursed by ABSTUDY.

(B) The auditor of MITS is Ernst & Young Australia.

### (a) Travel Costs

142,388	81,090
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### (b) Auditors' remuneration

Amounts received or due and receivable by Ernst & Young for:

Audit of financial statements	—	—
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## NOTE 5 CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Cash at bank and on hand	775,203	2,295,560
Short-term deposits	—	—
	775,203	2,295,560

## NOTE 6 TRADE & OTHER RECEIVABLES

The carrying value of trade receivables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value due to the short-term nature of the balances.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the fair value of each class of receivable in the financial statements.

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current		
Trade receivables	30,000	101,804
GST receivable	464,012	—
Total current trade and other receivables	494,012	101,804

## NOTE 7 PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

The increase in buildings at cost reflects the purchase of 283 Church Street, Richmond which is initially to be used as the school for year 7 and 8 students and will replace the temporary arrangement with Richmond High School in financial year 2025.

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Land and Buildings		
At cost	31,380,845	24,586,086
Accumulated depreciation	(3,245,003)	(2,196,372)
Total buildings	28,135,843	22,389,715
Fixtures and Fittings		
At cost	99,545	102,45
Accumulated depreciation	(99,545)	(82,764)
Total fixtures and fittings	–	19,689
Computer Equipment		
At cost	281,798	8,824
Accumulated depreciation	(245,422)	(8,824)
Total computer equipment	36,376	–
Capital Work in Progress		
At cost	99,974	–
Accumulated depreciation	–	–
Total capital Work in Progress	99,974	–
Total property, plant and equipment	28,272,193	22,409,404

### (A) Movements in carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	Land and Buildings \$	Fixtures and Fittings \$	Computer Equipment \$	Capital Work In Progress \$	Total \$
Year ended 31 December 2024					
Balance at beginning of period	22,389,715	19,689	0	–	22,409,404
Additions at cost	6,794,759	–	42,041	99,974	6,936,774
Transfer from Capital work in progress	–	–	–	–	–
Depreciation expense	(1,048,631)	(19,689)	(5,665)	–	(1,073,985)
Balance at the end of the year	28,135,843	–	36,375	99,974	28,272,193
Year ended 31 December 2023					
Balance at beginning of period	15,044,554	32,552	6,010	1,089,806	16,172,922
Additions at cost	7,171,177	–	2,815	–	7,173,992
Transfer from Capital work in progress	1,089,806	(2,909)	–	(1,089,806)	(2,909)
Depreciation expense	(915,822)	(9,955)	(8,824)	–	(934,601)
Balance at the end of the year	22,389,715	19,689	–	–	22,409,404

## NOTE 8 OTHER ASSETS

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current		
Prepayments	181,624	133,710
Rental Bond	7,500	7,500
	189,124	141,210

## NOTE 9 FINANCIAL ASSETS

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Investments at fair value	102,899	507,883
Bank Guarantee	29,459	29,459
	132,358	537,342

Financial asset investments at fair value through profit or loss include a portfolio of non-derivative equity instruments and interest rate securities that is managed by Macquarie Bank Limited. Fair values of these equity shares are determined by reference to published price quotations in an active market.

Bank guarantee relates to amount held by Macquarie on behalf of MITS in respect to the 371 Church Street, Richmond building.

## NOTE 10 RIGHT OF USE ASSETS

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Balance at beginning of period	3,753,462	4,171,497
Additions	258,298	29,710
Amortisation expense	(311,031)	(447,746)
Total right of use asset	3,700,729	3,753,462

The right of use assets relate to MITS's leases of properties at 16 The Vaucluse, 139 Richmond Terrace, 324 Church Street and 371 Church Street and vehicles.

## NOTE 11 LEASE LIABILITIES

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current	163,680	197,873
Non-current	3,957,917	3,957,916
	4,121,597	4,155,789
Balance at beginning of period	4,155,790	4,498,288
Additions	196,694	20,926
Interest payments	131,460	121,243
Payments	(362,345)	(484,667)
Total lease liabilities	4,121,597	4,155,790

## NOTE 12 TRADE & OTHER PAYABLES

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current		
Trade payables	482,804	1,868,744
Other payables	166,523	82,318
GST Payable	–	79,412
	649,327	2,030,474

All amounts are short term and the carrying values are considered to be a reasonable approximation of fair value.

## NOTE 13 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Current</b>		
Provision for employee benefits	194,944	183,278
<b>Non Current</b>		
Provision for employee benefits	111,695	89,306
	306,639	272,584

## NOTE 14 LOANS & BORROWING

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Current</b>		
Bank loan	–	–
Non Current		
Bank loan	5,303,467	–
	5,303,467	–

During the year, MITS entered into a \$5.5 million bank loan facility for the purposes of purchasing the 283 Church Street, Richmond building. This building was purchased during the year and will be fit out and used for schooling purposes for the year 7 and 8 students.

The facility is subject to a BBSY+1.8% interest rate and is due to expire in November 2026. The facility can be drawn down and repaid throughout the loan period and therefore the full amount is not drawn down at 31 December 2024.

A future breach of covenant may require MITS to repay the loan earlier than its expiry date. Under the agreement, the covenant is monitored on a regular basis and reported to management to ensure compliance with the agreement.

There were no breaches of financial covenants in the current period or at 31 December 2024.

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## NOTE 15 CAPITAL & LEASING COMMITMENTS

## NOTE 16 (A) MEMBERS' GUARANTEE

The Melbourne Indigenous Transition School is a company limited by guarantee. According to the Company's constitution, there is only one class of membership. In the event of, and for the purpose of, winding up the Company, the amount capable of being called up from each member and any person or association who ceased to be a member in the year prior to the winding up, is limited to \$1.

At 31 December 2024, the liability of the members was \$10 (2023: \$10).

## NOTE 16 (B) CONTINGENCIES

In the opinion of the Directors, the Company did not have any contingencies at 31 December 2024 (31 December 2023: Nil).

## NOTE 17 CASH FLOW INFORMATION

(A) Reconciliation of result for the year to cashflows from operating activities

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Surplus for the year	402,653	8,311,229
Non-cash flows in surplus:		
Depreciation and asset write-off	1,385,233	1,376,652
Fair value of investments	(70,016)	(51,841)
Interest expense on lease liability	–	121,243
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
(increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	71,804	(25,072)
(increase)/decrease in other assets	(47,914)	(88,881)
increase/(decrease) in trade and Other payables	(1,302,856)	(1,933,253)
increase/(decrease) in GST receivable/	384,600	79,412
increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	34,055	5,764
Cashflow from operations	857,560	7,795,254

The financial report was authorised for issue on 27th June 2025 by the Board of Directors.

Having already commenced internal demolition works in late 2024, after the Balance Date, MITS commenced and completed renovation works to 283 Church Street. The works were completed in time for occupancy at the commencement of Term 2, 2025.

There were no other significant events for the Company after the Balance Date.

## NOTE 18 EVENTS AFTER THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD

## NOTE 19 COMPANY DETAILS

The registered office of and principal place of business of the company is:

Melbourne Indigenous Transition School  
371 Church Street, Richmond, VIC, 3121

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# DIRECTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

In accordance with a resolution of the directors of Melbourne Indigenous Transition School, I state that in the opinion of the directors:

- A) the Company is not a reporting entity as defined in the Australian Accounting Standards;
- B) the financial statements and notes of the Company are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission Act 2012 including:
  - i. giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 December 2024 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
  - ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial statements and complying with the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profit Commission Regulation 2013;
- C) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

On behalf of the Board



Elizabeth Tudor AM  
Chairperson  
27 June 2025

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MITS

## Opinion

We have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Melbourne Indigenous Transition School (the School), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2024, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the School is in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- a. Giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 December 2024 and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date; and
- b. Complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022.

## Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial

report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the directors' financial reporting responsibilities under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

## Information other than the financial report and auditor's report thereon

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information is the directors' report accompanying the financial report.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Responsibilities of the directors for the financial report

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial statements is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Ernst & Young

Alison Parker  
Partner  
27th June 2025



Building a better  
working world



JOSEPHINE MARKHAM, WEDGE TAIL'S VIEW



**mits**  
Melbourne Indigenous  
Transition School

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