

# Country Program – Australia

The BHP Billiton Foundation works to improve long-term economic, social and environmental sustainability at a national level through Country Programs, which complement the work of its Global Signature Programs. The Foundation currently has Country Programs in Australia, Canada and the United States.

The Australia Country Program is focused on Indigenous governance and supporting the development of disadvantaged young people.

|                         | Indigenous governance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Harnessing the potential of young people                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| <b>Aim</b>              | Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations in their drive towards more effective governance and self-determination.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Aid the development of the most disadvantaged young people through initiatives related to early childhood, education in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) and mental health and wellbeing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Objectives</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using initiatives to improve governance and strengthen institutions, enable and empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, groups and organisations to create lasting positive change</li> <li>Provide and support platforms that enable advocacy and thought leadership on effective governance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations.</li> </ul>                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance public policy related to early childhood and increase community awareness of the importance of the first 1,000 days in a child’s development.</li> <li>Enable more girls and disadvantaged young Australians to access and benefit from STEM studies and career pathways.</li> <li>Improve the wellbeing and mental health of young people in Australia by supporting initiatives which enhance development of evidence-based policy.</li> <li>Enhance public policy supporting disadvantaged and vulnerable children to thrive throughout their young, school and future adult lives.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Success measures</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people recognise that the enhanced governance capacity of the organisations which represent or provide services to them has helped to improve their quality of life.</li> <li>National and State public policy settings recognise the critical role of effective governance in enhancing the quality of life and capacity for self-determination of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More disadvantaged and vulnerable young Australians can access and benefit from STEM-related education pathways.</li> <li>Contribution to evidence-based public policy to enhance the wellbeing and mental health of young people in Australia.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

## What we do

The BHP Billiton Foundation was established in 2013 and works to address some of the most critical global sustainable development challenges facing our generation. By working in partnership with others we seek to raise the bar, find new solutions and set new standards for the future.

## Who we are

We are a charity funded by BHP Billiton, a leading global resources company, and through our programs we address challenges that are directly relevant to the resources sector. Our global programs focus on Natural Resource Governance, Environmental Resilience and Education Equity.

For more information, visit [bhpbilliton.com/foundation](http://bhpbilliton.com/foundation).

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The Australia Country Program has a portfolio of projects that will contribute to achieving the program aims by:

- Convening a breadth of organisations with relevant expertise to collectively address common challenges through cross-sector dialogue and problem-solving
- Taking a sustainable approach to implementation which allows three to five years to effect change with a view to being self-sufficient after that time
- Strengthening the capacity of civil society and institutions in recognition of the challenge of effective implementation of Indigenous projects that enable positive change in the lives of citizens
- Drawing on expertise from leaders in relevant fields, including within BHP Billiton, to support project design, implementation and monitoring
- Focusing on learning, building evidence and sharing good practice, together with partner organisations, to enhance outcomes and impact
- Supporting transformative change through leadership, innovation and technology implemented locally by capable organisations which are informed by national and global learnings.

## Australian STEM projects

The BHP Billiton Foundation has developed innovative partnerships to improve STEM outcomes for key target groups. Over A\$55 million has been committed to Australian programs to increase interest and academic achievement in STEM subjects and related professions.

### Choose Maths – AMSI

The Choose Maths project, in partnership with the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (AMSI), is designed to change perceptions of studying mathematics with the aim of increasing uptake from girls and young women. Core components include professional development for teachers, additional curriculum resources for schools across the country, scholarships, networking support and an awards program to recognise excellence in both teaching and learning.

### BHP Billiton Science and Engineering Awards – CSIRO

The Foundation supports the BHP Billiton Science and Engineering Awards, which aim to increase the number of students taking their science and engineering study to a tertiary level. The Awards are a partnership between the Foundation, CSIRO and the Australian Science Teachers' Association and have been recognising excellence among young scientists for 35 years.

### Indigenous STEM – CSIRO

Through its partnership with CSIRO, the Foundation is investing in the Indigenous STEM project to increase interest and academic achievement among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in STEM subjects and related professions. The integrated elements within the five-year Indigenous STEM project build on successful education programs and include reward and recognition for student achievement.