

# Meigim Kriol Strongbala



## 2019 Highlights

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### Background

- Kriol spoken by 20,000 people across Northern Australia
- Main language of all generations in Ngukurr
- 2016 Census – Kriol spoken at home by 88.8% of Ngukurr population
- 2019 Community Engagement Study and Plan by Yugul Mangi Corporation:
  - 91.5% said Ngukurr School should be bilingual (p.24)
  - 76.5% said Kriol literacy for adults is important/very important (p.25)
- Kriol literacy and resourcing objectives outlined in Community Plan (p.59)

### Starting out

- Dr. Greg Dickson commenced as program manager (May 2019) with 15 years experience working in Ngukurr, a PhD in linguistics and an accredited Kriol-English interpreter
- Further recruitment saw local employment of a part-time worker Carol Robertson who has experience as a Kriol-English translator. Other casual employees also came on board: Glenda Robertson, Dawson Daniels, Shania Miller and Caroline John-Forrest
- The program was named 'Meigim Kriol Strongbala' (Make Kriol Strong) by Carol Robertson in mid-2019



Carol Robertson works with Year 1/2 students to translate and sing Baa Baa Black Sheep in Kriol

### Kriol programs in Ngukurr School

- In 2019, we commenced programs in 4 of 8 classes at Ngukurr School, with weekly lessons delivered to the following classes:
  - Senior Girls
  - Senior Boys
  - Room 11 (Year 1/2)
  - Room 15 (Year 5/6)
- All programs are planned and align with the Northern Territory Education Department's Indigenous Languages and Culture (ILC) Curriculum. Specifically, Kriol programs fall within the First Languages Maintenance (L1M) component of the ILC Curriculum.
- Lessons covered many aspects, including:
  - Students translating own writing from English to Kriol
  - Kriol reading, writing and spelling activities
  - Reading and writing Kriol stories
  - Oral expression
  - Kriol songs (early years only)



Rayshaun Blitner shows off his bilingual report on Crocodiles

## Kriol programs for mums and babies in Ngukurr FaFT

- We also visited Ngukurr FaFT once a week to work with mums and their babies on the following:
  - Translating popular children's book into Kriol
  - Improving Kriol reading skills for mums to read to their children
  - Developing a Kriol roleplay



Translating popular children's books with Ngukurr FaFT

## Kriol programs for non-Indigenous residents

- Ngukurr residents also want non-Indigenous workers to learn Kriol. Ngukurr Language Centre offers a 2-day introductory course which many local non-Indigenous workers have completed
- Our program offers ongoing training for those who have done the 2-day course through fortnightly evening classes
- Participants develop oral and conversational Kriol skills and expand their vocabulary through games and activities in a relaxed social setting

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*A highlight of our work with Ngukurr FaFT was supporting local mums to present a roleplay of 'Det Brabili Jigibala Beya' (The Very Cranky Bear) to NT Education Minister Selena Uibo.*

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Assistant Teacher Sonia Joshua reads a Kriol story to her class

## Kriol training for Indigenous Assistant Teachers

- We provide fortnightly training for local Kriol-speaking Assistant Teachers working at Ngukurr School
- We assist them to develop their Kriol literacy skills and to improve and increase their use of Kriol resources in class



## Website and social media

- Fully bilingual [website](#) established in Sep 2019, regularly updated
- Website provides latest news and development for Kriol
- Website provides a distribution for key information and resources on Kriol
- Our program also runs social media accounts on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)
- Social media content is 100% Kriol and serves to:
  - Increase the usage of Kriol on social media
  - Promote good Kriol spelling and literacy practices
  - Celebrate and share work and resources being done of Kriol



A look at the Kriol version of the project website

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### Quick Numbers:

Website Visitors - 1271

Facebook page followers - 163

Twitter followers - 69

Instagram followers - 52

(as at March 13, 2020)

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Detail of Kriol Alphabet Poster released by Batchelor Press in December 2019

## Kriol Alphabet Poster

- A key collaboration and resource produced by Meigim Kriol Strongbala was a Kriol Alphabet Poster, developed with Batchelor Press - <http://batchelorpress.com/node/387>
- The poster features 21 one-letter sounds and 14 two-letter sounds with a great, bright design perfect for classrooms
- The poster comes in different sizes and was launched in December 2019 and has since been purchased by a number of schools and individuals
- It is a valuable tool for supporting the development of Kriol literacy practices in Kriol-speaking communities

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## Contacts for Meigim Kriol Strongbala

- Website: <http://meigimkriolstrongbala.org.au>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Meigim-Kriol-Strongbala-437644576832991>
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