

CATHOLIC REGIONAL COLLEGE MELTON  
MONDAY 10TH - WEDNESDAY 19TH APRIL 2023

# CAPE YORK INDIGENOUS IMMERSION

LOGGY CROSSING, MAARAMAKA, GREAT BARRIER REEF



“

**Our students will connect and learn from the custodians of the oldest surviving culture in the world.**

**They will give their time & passion, and bring back a rich understanding of Indigenous Australia.**

”

Once again, CRC Melton is giving students the chance to travel to the remote Indigenous homelands of the Cape York Peninsula.

Students will have the rare opportunity to make real connections with Indigenous Australians living on their own land who have maintained a deep connection to their culture and history. They will learn from Elders and Traditional Owners, and play with young Indigenous children eager for a window to the outside world.

The group will stay in safe areas on privately held Aboriginal land, not accessible outside of this setting. They will learn, make, gather, eat, give, grow and connect with Traditional Owners and Indigenous Australia.



Please note that this is an initial itinerary and may change due to the customary obligations and availability of our Indigenous partners.

### Day 1 - The Journey Begins

- 🕒 Early morning flight to Cairns
- 🕒 Bus to Loggy Crossing Homeland through the scenic Atherton Tablelands
- 🕒 Welcome to Country ceremony
- 🕒 Set up Camp

### Days 2-4 - Loggy Crossing Homeland

- 🕒 Time for a traditional artefact making workshop with community Elders
- 🕒 Learn about throwing spears with the woomera, a traditional hunting tool
- 🕒 Yarn with Elders as they share stories of living off the land to support their families
- 🕒 Painting class using traditional techniques
- 🕒 Discover how to make natural tar
- 🕒 Learn how to build a traditional Ganyah shelter for camping on Country
- 🕒 Dreaming stories around the campfire
- 🕒 Prepare a traditional Gurma underground oven feast

### Days 5-8 - Maaramaka Homeland

- 🕒 Welcome to Country ceremony
- 🕒 Learn about rainforest bush tucker and medicines with Uncle Gerry
- 🕒 Time for a Guugu Yimithirr language lesson with Auntie Irene
- 🕒 Hear Elders' stories about growing up in the nearby Lutheran missions
- 🕒 Contribute to a community project
- 🕒 Visit Hopevale community to drop into the art centre and meet some local kids at the youth group
- 🕒 Cool off with a dip at the swimming hole
- 🕒 Nightly reflections on the immersion

### Day 9 - Port Douglas - Great Barrier Reef

- 🕒 Snorkelling tour on the outer GBR
- 🕒 Final reflection and debrief

### Day 10 - Return Home

- 🕒 Drive back to Cairns and fly home

# FAQ

## **How do Elders and Traditional Owners feel about people coming onto their land? Will we be intruding?**

We are an organisation driven by our Indigenous partners in the homelands of remote Australia. Our mission is to give Indigenous people the help they need if they wish to welcome and open the hearts of young Australians to their country, culture, and way of life. We only make our resources available if we're asked to help. Traditional Owners are the ones that decide if and when people should come onto their land, not us.

## **What amenities are available? Will there be showers and bathrooms?**

There are flushing or drop toilets everywhere we go. Most of our partner homelands have shower facilities and swim spots which are perfect for scrubbing up, but you may have to go a few nights without. The amenities will be basic, but this is definitely not a bush survival camp so we will make sure you feel comfortable and safe.

## **What food will be available?**

While there will be opportunities for the group to forage bush foods, there will be three fresh food deliveries throughout the immersion with a focus on big healthy meals. We cater for every kind of dietary requirement and expect students and staff to participate in the preparation of food.

## **Are there community projects during the immersion?**

An important part of Red Earth's mission is to help create sustainable homelands so that Traditional Owners can live on their ancestral land. Elders tell us their vision for their homeland and the type of projects they would like help with, and students then fundraise for and sometimes physically work on those projects with their host communities.

## **What is the pre-departure program like?**

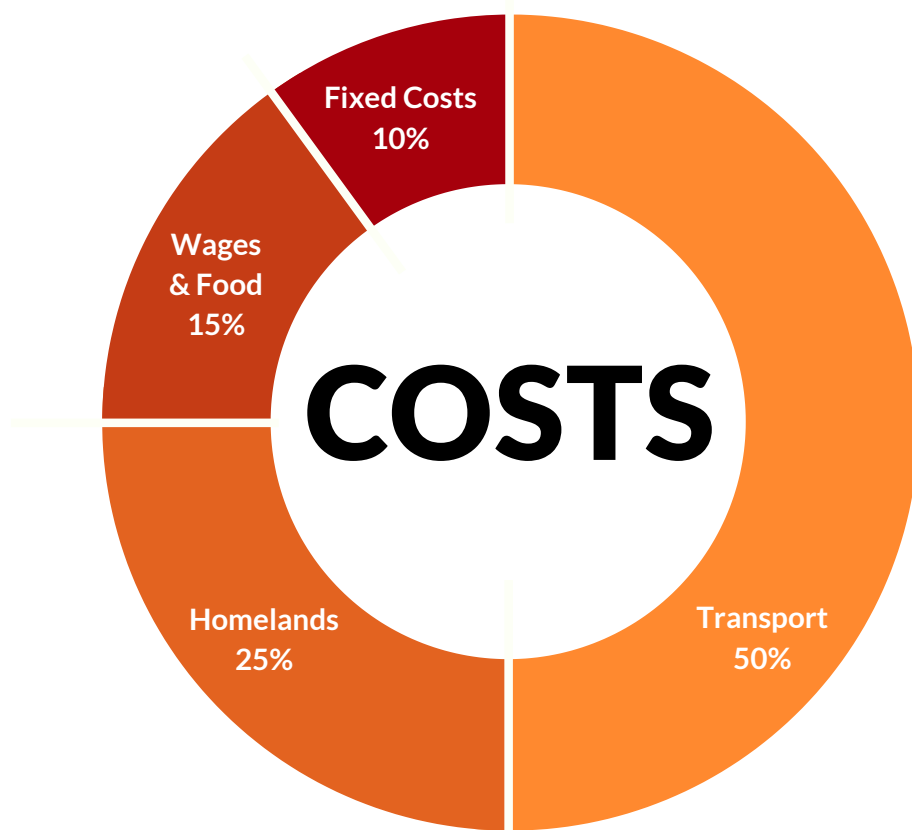
Red Earth takes its responsibility to ensure that each person attending an immersion gives, grows and leads very seriously. We design a pre-departure program tailored for your specific region and itinerary, and will meet with the group twice in the lead up to departure to ensure everyone is prepared for the journey ahead.

## **Will we be safe?**

We take safety very seriously, and it informs every aspect of an immersion. You can read more about our approach to safety on our website at <https://www.redearth.edu.au/safety/>

## **Could there be variations to our itinerary?**

Changes to your proposed itinerary and activities are likely and part of travelling to remote Indigenous communities. The availability of our partner homelands may change for practical or cultural reasons, but conversations and personal connection with Traditional Owners and their families are at the heart of all Red Earth immersions. Our strong network of partner homelands means we can guarantee an authentic experience with deep connections regardless of where your group travels to.



- Approximately 50% of the cost goes directly to **transport** including flights, four-wheel-drive buses, support vehicles and fuel. The remoteness of our partner communities make these costs a necessity.
- A key aspect of our mission is to provide training and economic opportunity to those who live in remote **Homelands** so that these communities may become sustainable and self-sufficient. We pay Traditional Owners for their time, for the use of their land, provide ongoing training, and invest in infrastructure and sustainability projects.
- We supply three **healthy meals** a day plus snacks, as well as all of the equipment needed to make the immersion is comfortable and safe.
- The immersion will be lead by 2 qualified Red Earth **staff** and accompanied by at least 2 school staff.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Dates: Monday 10th - Wednesday 19th April 2023**

**Length: 10 days, 9 nights**

**Staff: 2 Red Earth staff, 2 School staff (minimum)**

**Fee: \$4,220 pp**

**Virtual Info Night: 6pm Wednesday 24th August 2022 on Zoom**

*All students need to be fully vaccinated and hold up-to-date COVID-19 vaccination status to participate. COVID-19 travel insurance is strongly recommended.*

*Please visit [redearth.edu.au/COVID-19](http://redearth.edu.au/COVID-19) for more information.*

