

2024



!gnite[®]

impact report



ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Creating change through economic empowerment

JULY 2023 TO JUNE 2024



Ignite® is a SSI social enterprise that supports a community of people interested in exploring self-employment.

Our program objective is to reduce or mitigate the multiplier effect of intersectional barriers for people in entrepreneurial pursuits to;

- Participate and access networks
- Develop skills and capability
- Economically participate

Our niche is that we support those who cannot access mainstream supports due to systemic, cultural, financial, social and accessibility barriers and remain the least likely to receive support.

This report outlines our impact in the 2024 Australian financial year.

CONTEXT

- Self-employment opens doors for individuals facing workforce barriers – whether due to language challenges, disability, or other obstacles.
- Many Ignite clients face multiple, complex barriers – with 88% of female clients experiencing at least one intersectional challenge and 47% facing two or more.
- Accessible, tailored support is a proven* catalyst for success.
- Only 36% of new clients feel confident about finding employment – highlighting the importance of Ignite’s role in building self-assurance and readiness for economic participation.

* Ignite’s program evaluation (UTS)(2016,2019)

453

Skill- building outcomes achieved

245

Individuals mentored 1:1

62

Businesses operating independently

PROJECT	DETAILS	OUTCOME
Ignite Female Founders	Improving business skills, and supporting women to participate economically through entrepreneurship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 91% of participants feel confident to start and grow a business. • 98% report better access to business connections and networks.
IgniteAbility	Self-employment support for people with disability, their families and carers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of participants feel better equipped to handle challenges. • 91% report that the Ignite program helped them reach their goals.
Ignite First	Bespoke program co-designed with and to support Aboriginal entrepreneurs in the Armidale community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 First Nations clients mentored • Over \$200k in funding achieved directly for the Cultural Centre. • 6 businesses established



Since working with Ignite, my health and wellbeing has got a lot better. Challenging myself to do something for myself has made a big difference. Every day I have more confidence in myself to conduct workshops and move forward with my business.

Kate Briggs- KJB Creations- Ignite First participant



Ignite creates impact for clients by tailoring our support in multiple ways:

- We provide a range of skill building activities ranging from group workshops to 1:1 mentoring.
- A facilitator walks alongside and guides a client through a tailored plan.
- We offer support online, face to face and we travel to locations that suit the client.
- In the IgniteAbility program we offer a self-paced online option.
- We curate connections with industry experts.
- Our support ranges from skill building and starting a business to scaling and growing existing ventures. Clients can join at any stage.
- We pace our support to match the needs of the client, allowing the client choice to pause and restart.
- Due to our extensive network, we can support business development in a wide range of industries.



95%

Of clients would recommend Ignite to a friend.

76%

Of businesses started with Ignite support are still in operation after 2 years.

93%

Of clients report gaining increased knowledge, skills & capabilities from the Ignite program.

80%

Of women we support who are from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background.

29%

Of IgniteAbility clients have created businesses that support people with disability.

55%

Represents the increase in our clients' sense of belonging and community since they joined Ignite.

Evaluating our impact

To monitor and evaluate outcomes of the Ignite programs, Ignite is using a mixed-method approach for evaluation. This includes an 11 question social impact interview conducted mid and post program, a 5 question survey conducted after a workshop, a 6 question Most Significant Change interview and a CRM tool for milestone and progress gate reporting.

Evaluation is ongoing and will continue to June 2025. Adjustments to the program in response to the evaluation results include improved accessibility of tools and resources, information expanded to include multiple levels of capacity, and increased support for social enterprise development.



Impact highlights



Our social impact reporting shows our greatest change that we achieve for clients is to build their confidence and resilience to handle challenges and pursue employment.

Regardless if they progress to starting a business, the skills we equip them with, and the networks we introduce them to, helps establish foundational skills resulting in 100% of clients reporting confidence to seek potential employment.

Do you feel equipped to handle challenges you might face in the future?

Maria, Ignite Female Founders participant



Has Ignite helped your ability to seek potential employment?

100%
Answered Yes

Do you feel well prepared to start or grow your business?

91%
Answered Yes



Social Return on Investment

\$7.70

*ThinkImpact – Lendlease social value assessment, including Darling Harbour Bright and Coffs Harbour Ignite programs.

Savings to Government

\$1,154,790

Based on \$25,662: principal carer JobSeeker (Services Australia Payment rates 2023 .Excluding family tax benefit, childcare subsidy.

Our clients report

Biggest Barrier	Biggest Impact
• Lack of self-confidence	• Self-development
• Lack of network	• Confidence
• Lack of understanding about compliance	• Independence
• Lack of finance	• Confidence
• Preconceived ideas relating to cost	• Confidence
• Barrier to employment due to disability	• Structuring ideas into steps
• Volume of ideas	• New outlook on how to approach business
• Cultural differences	• Trusted information

Clients were asked to answer in a few words;

- What was their biggest barrier to starting a business?
- What is the biggest impact they have experienced from the Ignite program?

Most common answers are:

“I really can’t express in words how grateful I am to IgniteAbility. I think it’s a wonderful program, and has such incredible scope to support such a varying group – those of us with disability – the very group who really need this kind of support”

“A huge amount of gratitude. Even if I did have to stop the business due to my health, I feel I am able to do something else.”

“Your support means a lot for me. I also wanted to share with you that you were the first person in Australia to acknowledge my past experiences and skills, and who gave me the chance to help others (and to myself to regain my self-confidence). Actually, I might have cried a little after our first interview because of happiness.”

“My Ignite facilitator gave me structure and taught me to revise my skills and abilities, taking it step by step. I was quite overwhelmed, and my memory is not so good because of the trauma and PTSD”.

“Ignite has helped me more than anything or anyone else in Australia. As a women Ignite has enabled me to feel like I can do it and built up my confidence.”

Enjoy watching our IgniteAbility impact video to learn more about how we support clients with disability.



[Click to watch](#)



Acknowledgements

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SSI for their continued belief in the Ignite program and ongoing financial commitment to funding and in-kind support.

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The Australian Department of Industry, Science and Resources for their funding support through the Women in STEM and Entrepreneurship grant.

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To all of the Ignite team members and facilitators, volunteers, service providers, educational institutions, current and previous clients and industry experts who donate their time or provide in-kind support to enable our ongoing impact.



*We thank you
for your
continued
support of our
programs.*



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