

ABOUT US

Allies and Friends.



JENAE TIEN JENKINS
SHOW CREATOR / EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Expand Your Library (EYL) partners with communities and organisations to enhance cultural engagement, ethical storytelling, media and public speaking, and workplace structural change. Known for impactful projects like the award-winning *Bloodlines to Country* podcast with First Languages Australia and the *Race Reporting Handbook* with Media Diversity Australia and the Australian Human Rights Commission, EYM Consulting champions inclusivity and drives vital conversations on equity and social justice.

expandyourlibrary.com.au



EXPAND YOUR MIND CONSULTING

ALLIES AND FRIENDS is the brainchild of Jenae Tien Jenkins, a multidisciplinary consultant, author of *Deck of Diversity*, award-winning multimedia producer, and Director of Expand Today Pty Ltd, which operates through two key divisions: **Expand Your Library** and **Expand Your Mind Consulting**. Jenae curated the skilled and creative production team that brought this series to life, working alongside dedicated Co-Producer Alarna Zinn. With the generous support of ABC Kids Early Education, Jenae shaped the project's direction and content, ensuring a strong focus on cultural inclusivity and allyship. ABC Kids Early Education's partnership was instrumental in bringing this important work to life.

expandyourlibrary.com.au @expand_yl



EXPAND YOUR LIBRARY (EYL)

Expand Your Mind Consulting partners with community and organisations to enhance cultural engagement, ethical storytelling, media and public speaking, and workplace structural change. Known for impactful projects like the award-winning *Bloodlines to Country* podcast with First Languages Australia and the *Race Reporting Handbook* with Media Diversity Australia and the Australian Human Rights Commission, Expand Your Mind Consulting champions cultural inclusivity and fosters vital conversations on diversity and allyship.

expandyourmind.com.au

ABOUT US

Allies and Friends.



ALARNA ZINN
CREATIVE PRODUCER

Alarna Zinn is an award-winning illustrator and designer based in Brisbane. Alarna is a keen collaborator known for her unique approach and presence within the creative community. Alarna is a passionate and creative person and draws much inspiration from children's art and stories which has led her to work on children's books, animation concepts and editorial projects.

She has extensive experience in children's public programming, designing initiatives that engage diverse audiences. Alarna's expertise also includes collaborating with institutions and creatives to develop successful programs and build partnerships that achieve meaningful outcomes.

alarnazinn.com @alarnazinn

Jaclyn Bates is an illustrator, maker and arts facilitator based in Meanjin/Brisbane. Passionate about storytelling and the arts, Jaclyn delights in creating and sharing stories, engaging with children through art and exploring illustration and picture books from all over the world.

Jaclyn has a strong background in working to explore language and literacy with children, both in Australia and overseas. She has worked with community art spaces in Brisbane to create inclusive exhibitions and events that bring independent art to new audiences.

Jaclyn has worked with the crew on Allie and Friends to help the brilliant children who are part of the show feel safe, confident and valued as they share their experience and knowledge and let their true selves shine.

jaclynbates.com @howtojac



JAC BATES
PRODUCER, CHILD ENGAGEMENT LIAISON

ABOUT US

Allies and Friends.



**DOJO MEDIA CO
FILM AND PRODUCTION CREW**

CJ Cannon is an award-winning photographer and videographer with over 12 years of experience. Specialising in fashion, food, and event photography, CJ brings a unique ‘fly on the wall’ documentary style to each project. With a keen eye for detail and a passion for capturing moments as they unfold, CJ’s work offers a candid yet meticulously composed perspective creating imagery that tells a story with authenticity and depth.

As Co-Presenter for Expand Your Library, CJ brings a burst of energy and humour, filling classrooms with laughter and joy. His engaging presence and positive cultural representation foster strong connections within communities, making each show a memorable and inclusive experience for all.
cjcannonphoto.com @cjcannonphotography

Logan and Raphael from Dojo Media Co. are the talented filmmakers behind the filming and editing of ‘Allies and Friends’. Their passion for impactful storytelling is evident in their work, and they are dedicated to creating content that can contribute to a better world. With a strong background in both documentary and narrative-style shoots, Logan and Raphael create visually compelling and emotionally resonant films that engage audiences and leave a lasting impact.

For them, ‘Allies and Friend’ was an ideal project, aligning perfectly with their goal of crafting stories that explore meaningful concepts for children.
dojomediaco.com @dojomediaco



**CJ CANNON
PHOTOGRAPHER AND CO-PRESENTER**

ABOUT US

Allies and Friends.



SUE RAY
MUSIC COLLABORATOR

Sue Ray, a proud Gamilaraay woman, is celebrated for her own authentic country/blues and roots sound. Sue has been recognised with three QMusic awards, and multiple nominations including Best Country Album at the AIR Independent Music awards, Female Artist of the year at the 2012 QMusic awards and Most Promising New Talent at the Deadly Awards. Sue co-wrote, performed and contributed to the musical essence of Allies and Friends. At the strum of her guitar, the kids came running and dancing and we will be forever grateful for her musical magic. Thank you also to Jason Millhouse from Recordworks and Dr Lachlan Goold from Magoo Sound.

Thank you Molly McHugh and Ayla Middleton.
@sueraymusic

Melinda is a singer-songwriter based in Brisbane, with music always on her mind. She can often be found humming a tune as she goes about her day. She is ecstatic to have contributed musically to Allies & Friends and hopes it will empower all children to embrace their uniqueness while fostering curiosity and acceptance of others. A proud Neurodivergent mum to two amazing Neurodivergent kids, Melinda believes that our differences should be celebrated, as they are what make our world better.

Musicmelinda@pm.com



MELINDA GOSS
MUSIC COLLABORATOR

ABOUT US

Allies and Friends.



SPECIAL THANKS ABC KIDS EARLY EDUCATION

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support, guidance and allyship of ABC Kids Early Childhood Education Producer, Laura Stone.

Laura has been an incredible advocate for bringing 'Allies and Friends' to life. Her commitment to fostering a culturally safe environment has allowed our team to explore and develop new concepts with confidence. Laura's deep understanding of the importance of cultural diversity and allyship in education has been instrumental in ensuring inclusive and impactful processes.

She has journeyed with me every step of the way, allowing me to challenge the status quo and push the boundaries of what's possible in children's educational content and media.

A big thank you to Bryson Hall, ABC Kids Series Producer, and the team at Play School, with whom I had the privilege of working as a Diversity Consultant on Play School: All Together—a special episode focusing on the amplification of Allyship and Diversity.

The episode was inspired by the Allies and Friends Early Education Toolkit we created. I also had the opportunity to work as a 'Through The Windows' Writer and Producer for that episode, bringing along the Allies and Friends film crew (Alarna Zinn, Dojo Media Co, CJ Cannon and Jac Bates) and some children from the Allies and Friends series. We were excited to work with the children and community members we had built relationships with, extending another opportunity for them to be on Play School—something every kid who's lived in Australia dreams of... or is that just me?



ABOUT US

Allies and Friends.



SPECIAL THANKS TO COMMUNITY

Sarah Louise Gandolfo

Thank you for providing expert advice, peer-reviewed resources, and academic review that inspired the work of Allies and Friends. Your insights and thorough review have been instrumental in ensuring the quality and effectiveness of our educational materials.

Early Childhood Education and Care Coaching and Mentoring.

slmconti.wixsite.com/sarahlouiseec



Together, we are building a vibrant, connected environment, and we're grateful to have you with us on this journey. A BIG Allies and Friends heartfelt thank you to Reconciliation Australia, our focus group participants, audition families, online community, friends, neighbours, Early Childhood Educators and families both new and new and old. Your support, encouragement, and involvement have been invaluable in bringing the vision to life. We deeply appreciate your dedication to fostering inclusivity and celebrating diversity within the community.

A special thanks to Syed Naqvi, President of the Pakistan Australian Cultural Association, for connecting us with the Kumur family and Noreen Jawad.

[@njinspirehome](https://www.instagram.com/njinspirehome) pacaqld.org



NOREEN JAWAD

Christine Mudavanhu

Thank you for your invaluable assistance with community engagement for the focus group participants who inspired the creation of the Allies and Friends educational online resources, including impactful case study stories and research. Your commitment to diversity, inclusive education, and community involvement has significantly contributed to the development and impact of our resources.

utanoglobal.com

ABOUT US

Allies and Friends.



**SPECIAL THANKS
CANOSSA KINDY**

Canossa Kindergarten

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Canossa Kindergarten for allowing us to film at their wonderful facility. The staff exemplify how seamlessly inclusion can be embedded into everyday practices for every child, regardless of background.

Filming in a space that actively practices what we preach is invaluable. Their openness to consulting sessions and efforts to connect their community with ours while promoting Allies and Friends is truly commendable.

'Canossa Kindy is a place where children's competence, ideas, and abilities are valued, respected, and listened to. We view each child as individually capable and full of immense potential. The environment here is carefully created to provoke each child's natural curiosity and innate ability to question and wonder. Families' hopes and dreams for their children are valued and embraced, and we celebrate their differences and welcome them as partners in their child's journey'.

- **Canossa Kindergarten**

canossakindergarten.com.au

