



The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP

Minister for Indigenous Australians
Member for Hasluck

MEDIA RELEASE

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New Culture Camps for Young Yolngu people

The East Arnhem Regional Council will run a series of camps over two years for young Yolngu people to deepen their connection with their culture, backed by \$150,000 from the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA).

These camps will see Yolngu youth immerse themselves in their culture, engage with their Elders, develop their leadership skills and participate in positive social activities.

Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP, said that being connected with land and culture is vital for young Indigenous Australians.

“Culture is core to a person’s identity and how they relate to the world,” Minister Wyatt said.

“We know that when young Indigenous Australians have strong bonds with their culture, they are more likely to thrive and less likely to suffer from social, emotional and mental health issues – that’s why we’re helping support more ways they can participate in cultural practices.”

The camps are being held in six communities:

- Galiwin’ku
- Gapuwiyak
- Milingimbi
- Raminging
- Yirrkala
- Gunyangara

“This is about ensuring Yolngu culture is instilled in the next generation by providing young Yolngu people the opportunity to gain skills in leadership, continue learning and practicing their local language, and help enhance positive relationships with their peers.

“Elders will also share traditional practices, such as cultural ceremonies, spear making, hunting and fishing, without the distraction of outside influences.

“Yolngu youth will also be encouraged to take ownership and management of these camps, determining for themselves what is of interest to them and where they want to take it.

“Preparing young people with leadership skills for the future is essential to improving their social and emotional wellbeing, self-esteem, and confidence to attend and succeed at school.”

Media contact: Marie Hogg, Senior Media Adviser, 0431 299 518

Authorised by Ken Wyatt AM, MP, Member for Hasluck.