



## Northern Territory Indigenous Music & Cultural Economies: Keeping and Sharing

The project provides a capacity building program that will enable NT Indigenous communities to take a lead role in the documenting, storing and accessing their traditional ceremonies with a specific focus on music. A final stage of the project will focus on the production, marketing and distribution of economically sustainable commercial products and the development of cultural tourism enterprises. This phase of the project will involve training in the areas of business, marketing and cultural tourism. The project will initially engage with communities in Mandorah, East and West Arnhem Land and the Daly Region.

Charles Darwin University (CDU) will work in partnership with the National Recording Project for Indigenous Music and the Northern Territory Library. Through its Schools of Creative Arts and Humanities, and Australian Indigenous Knowledge Systems, CDU will work closely with NT indigenous communities in building their capacity in the core skills required to build a successful and sustainable project. Discussions with the NTL through their Libraries and Knowledge Centres Program have also identified possible areas of collaboration and joint capacity building.

The value of the project has been determined through long-term work conducted with Indigenous communities on the recording, documenting and archiving of music and dance. Discussions at the Garma Festival have also confirmed the value of such a project in the long term protection of Indigenous culture for present and future generations. Known examples show the critical value of the ability to retrieve lost music/dance and ceremonies many years later from previously-recorded archival material.

### **The project plan and benefits for NT indigenous communities:**

The approach to knowledge transfer and skills development for sustainability will include:

- increased community and public understanding and awareness of cultural values communicated between generations through music, dance and ceremony leading to sustainable cultural maintenance programs
- accredited training and development activities to empower communities to develop, access and maintain documentation held in community digital archives through accredited courses in methods of multi-media recording, data storage and retrieval, information and knowledge management, broad based business skills, project management, copyright and audio production
- workshops on outreach activities such as broadcasting, development of educational materials, packaging products for tourism market, publication programme (CDs and other appropriate community publications)
- budget to include project management costs, production costs, copyright licensing fees, Indigenous assistant/trainee costs
- training that will enhance opportunities for employment through use of material in developing economically sustainable products and through cultural tourism

One of the beneficial outcomes of the NT Indigenous Recording, Archiving and Production Initiative will be the building of capacity in a range of areas that offer future employment opportunities.

These include:

- Transferable skills development in documentation through recording and film
- Training in Information and Knowledge management
- Production of cultural tourism products
- Training in business, management and tourism

Employment outcomes will rely on the capacity of the project to partner with key organisations with specific training and employment needs and appropriately aligning with those needs. Recent discussions with the NTL for example have identified specific employment outcomes that could flow from the project that can be linked to their Libraries and Knowledge Centre Program.

All training activities in which Charles Darwin University is involved give due consideration to this outcome. In scoping the project the parallel activities of other organisations active in the region in which the program will be run are being considered so as to both harmonise and enhance the potential of employment outcomes both in the short and long term.