

Media Release – The Hon Shelley Payne MLC

Connecting to Country strengthens culture and communities

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- Funding supports 20 projects to preserve culture through activities on Country.
- Activities include artist camps, cultural mapping, a cultural perspectives program and recording of oral history.
- Connecting to Country grant program fosters inter-generational knowledge sharing.

Twenty projects throughout the Kimberley, Pilbara, Mid-West, Goldfields-Esperance and Metropolitan regions will share in \$469,384 through the Connecting to Country program.

Connecting to Country is a competitive grants program that supports Western Australian Aboriginal people and organisations to undertake on-country activities that foster the intergenerational transfer of knowledge, preservation of culture and strengthening of communities.

The program aims to:

- facilitate sharing of cultural knowledge and skills between generations, such as the preservation of language, stories and dance;
- recognise Aboriginal cultural leadership within the Aboriginal community and support leadership development in young people;
- contribute to stronger community mental health and wellbeing; and
- strengthen, protect and maintain traditional ways of maintaining cultural knowledge.

Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation will receive \$24,480 to co-design the program logic for a Wudjari Cultural Perspectives Program to be delivered in public schools in the Esperance region.

Connecting to Country is administered by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. More information is available on the DLGSC website:

<https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/funding/arts-funding/connecting-to-country>

Comments attributed to Member for the Agricultural Region Hon Shelley Payne MLC

"The Connecting to County program provides opportunity to strengthen and build connections within our communities", she said.

"It is fantastic to hear that Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation received funding to develop a program to be delivered locally".

Comments attributed to Culture and the Arts Minister David Templeman:

"The McGowan Government recognises the importance of investing back into our State's rich Aboriginal cultural knowledge to preserve and strengthen WA's diverse and extraordinary cultures.

"WA is home to the world's oldest living and continuous cultures, stretching back at least 60,000 years.

"Through supporting these on Country activities, we also strengthen communities and encourage vital inter-generational knowledge sharing."

Comments attributed to Aboriginal Affairs Minister Tony Buti:

"I am so pleased to see so many important and culturally secure projects being supported through these grants.

"Part of reconciliation and walking together is recognising the importance of Country and culture, which these grants aim to do through these 20 different projects."

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