



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media Statement

August 20, 2018

\$67,000 in Federal Government funding to help preserve the Wangkangurru language: David Littleproud MP

Language preservation for the Wangkangurru language, from the Birdsville region, will be supported by \$67,000 in Federal Government funding through the Indigenous Languages and Arts, Maranoa MP David Littleproud announced today.

“Language plays a pivotal role in the health and well-being of our communities. This funding will help preserve the Wangkangurru language, the native language of the Wangkangurru/Yarluyandi people,” Mr Littleproud said.

“Red Ridge Interior Queensland does a great job to make sure the Wangkangurru language is preserved in Birdsville and other surrounding indigenous communities.

“Red Ridge will develop a master and apprentice model and Creative Talking Circles in partnership with the Mobile Language Team and Elders so language can be spoken, learned and taught to ensure it’s preserved well into the future.

“This includes the creation of new content which will be digitally recorded and available online, ensuring that pronunciation will forever be preserved and easily accessible.”

The Wangkangurru language is one of many languages traditionally spoken in the Lake Eyre Basin region and it is also deeply associated with the Simpson Desert, the Kallakoopah Creek and the lower Diamantina.

Mr Littleproud recently visited Birdsville for the book launch of *Looking for Tucker* - the first storybook written in Wangkangurru.

“The book launch was an important day for all the people of western Queensland and led the way in how we share Aboriginal culture as a nation,” he said.

“We have an enormous opportunity to help one of the most precious cultures in the world to be taught to all Australians, for this generation and for generations to come.”

For more information about the program and to view the full list of funding recipients visit: www.arts.gov.au/ILA

–ENDS–

Media Contact:

Annabelle Douglas

M: 0468 901 548

E: annabelle.douglas@aph.gov.au
