



Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield

Minister for the Arts

David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Joint Media Statement

October 20, 2016

Federal Government funding to preserve endangered Western Qld language

AN endangered language unique to Western Queensland will forever be preserved thanks to \$76,900 in Federal Government funding, announced today by Arts Minister Mitch Fifield and Maranoa MP David Littleproud.

"I'm pleased to announce Red Ridge was successful in its application for \$76,900 under the Federal Government's Indigenous Languages and Arts program," Mr Littleproud said.

"This exciting project intends to use the funds to publish an early-learning educational book which captures the language of the Wangkangurru/ Yarluuyandi Simpson Desert People of Birdsville.

"The project – called Ama Anya Wangka-Thimpa-rda, which translates to Mum and Dad's talking book – will use art and photos to compliment sentences in the endangered language to document significant cultural stories before they're lost.

"I congratulate Red Ridge on its commitment to not only preserving this language but also documenting culturally significant stories in such an exceptional literacy and educational tool which will be enjoyed by generations to come."

Minister Fifield said the Coalition Government will provide \$22.8 million to showcase Indigenous cultural and artistic expression and support the maintenance of Indigenous languages.

"The Indigenous Languages and Arts program supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to keep their cultural identity strong by funding arts and languages organisations and projects," Minister Fifield said.

"These projects will contribute to a vibrant and diverse Indigenous cultural landscape where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are empowered to maintain, celebrate and promote their arts and languages."

The Indigenous Languages and Arts program helps to maintain and encourage participation in Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures by providing support for projects and organisations for language and arts projects. For more information, check out:

www.arts.gov.au

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