

Media Release

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Shire of **Ngaanyatjarraku**
ON A JOURNEY



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Sue Hanson, Senior Linguist / Manager, GALCAC at work in the Warburton Office

Partnership aims to close communications gap



NG Media radio broadcaster Simon Butler providing community updates

The Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku has formed a partnership with NG Media to improve communications and access to information in the local community.

The newly formed partnership will support the Warburton Language Centre in providing community updates in native languages. Furthermore, the agreement will provide the Shire with regular radio segments from the Warburton Remote Indigenous Broadcast Service to provide timely updates to the community in their first language.

Shire President, Damian Mclean said this partnership was formed strategically to support communications infrastructure and improve Shire communications with the community.

“The Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku is proud to support a partnership that we believe will help improve the way we communicate with our communities,” said Cr Mclean.

“As a local government, transparency and communicating clearly are incredibly important. Partnering with NG Media will help us provide accurate and timely information which we hope will build community confidence and trust over time.”

“It’s important that this information is tailored to the needs of the people living within our Shire and English is not the first language for the majority of our community members.”

Western Australia has the highest number of native speaking First Nations people in the country. The Ngaanyatjarra land consists of eleven Indigenous communities, most of whom speak the Ngaanyatjarra language.

Radio broadcaster Michael Cooke from NG Media said radio is a vital platform for sharing stories and keeping the community updated.

“Storytelling is an important part of our culture and NG Media provides a medium for people to express themselves and share their stories,” said Mr Cooke.

“We believe in giving Yarnangu (Ngaanyatjarra people) a place to share their stories, their songs, and their lives as a learning resource.”

“Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, NG Media has been a key organisation in sending out health messages throughout the regional communities to help keep locals informed both in English and in Aboriginal language,” he said.

“Working in partnership with the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku, we look forward to providing the most up-to-date information, and keeping the community informed on what’s happening inside and outside of the community borders.”

Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre Senior Linguist, Sue Hanson said the pandemic has highlighted the Indigenous language barriers and the crucial need for accessible information.

“The role of the Language Centre plays in the Goldfields region is now more critical than ever,” said Ms Hanson.

“In the times of COVID, effective communication and sharing information is paramount to staying healthy, therefore we’ve been working tirelessly to ensure First Nations people have access to materials in their first language.”

“We want to thank the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku for their support and enabling interpreters to work from the Goldfields community.”

You can tune into the NG Media radio show via the channel 107.7FM to listen to community announcements, music and stories. NG Media Warburton RIBS is currently looking for locals interested in broadcasting. If you are interested in the position, please email manager@ngmedia.org.au to learn more.

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