



Department of Culture and the Arts
Government of Western Australia



Department of Local Government
and Regional Development
Government of Western Australia



Media Statement

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Attention: News Editor/Chief of Staff

100 Indigenous stories for 100 years

The stories of 100 Western Australian Indigenous communities will be digitally recorded for future generations to view over the next 100 years.

ScreenWest Chief Executive Ian Booth will announce the new Indigenous Community Stories initiative (ICS) at the Message Sticks Indigenous Film Festival Perth screening tonight at Cinema Paradiso.

Mr Booth said ICS will record, preserve and archive the stories, accomplishments and reflections of Indigenous communities and community members across Western Australia.

"This project is one of the most critical in saving and conserving Western Australia's unique and precious cultural heritage," said Mr Booth.

Leading Noongar cultural spokesperson Dr Richard Walley OAM said storytelling has always been a crucial part of Aboriginal life and culture.

"It hands down our spiritual connectedness with 'country' through oral culture, song, dance and painting as well as entertainment. Recording these stories is vital to saving and strengthening the spirit of our culture," he said.

Mr Booth said the oral history recordings could encompass life experiences, culture or history of individuals or groups, and may be in song or dance form, or told in traditional language.

Indigenous Community Stories is a joint initiative between ScreenWest and the Film & Television Institute (FTI), and supported by Lotterywest and the Department of Local Government and Regional Development.

FTI CEO Graeme Sward said "Cultural maintenance has never been more pressing and the opportunities to record the stories with High Definition digital equipment for future generations to access has never been so great.

"As well as preserving culture for future generations to access, many of the stories will be used for community educational purposes and possibly be developed into programs for television, film, online and new media applications."

The first round selection of community stories is scheduled to close on 1 September 2008. For more information visit the ScreenWest website: www.screenwest.com.au

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