

Warumungu and Warlpiri DVD on legal rights launched in Tennant Creek



Over 200 people attended the launch of a legal rights film in Tennant Creek on 4 June. The launch, held at the Nyinkka Nyunyu Aboriginal Art and Culture Centre, marked the end of a collaborative process between local community members and organisations, legal services and government services such as courts, police and FaCS.

The DVD, entitled 'Family Problems: Your Rights When Things Go Wrong' is part of the NT Legal Aid Commission's *Indigenous Families Project*. The DVD has been developed and filmed in Tennant Creek over 18 months with local actors, filmmakers and interpreters. Territory filmmaker David Nixon was also a major contributor to the project. The DVD includes 3 distinct stories which provide information about the legal process and implications of restraining orders and child protection. Each story is separately translated into Warumungu and Warlpiri with English subtitles.

The *Indigenous Families Project* is being undertaken territory wide with films completed in Arnhem Land, Tiwi islands and the Barkly Region.

The principles sustaining the project is the need for cross cultural education in regards to family and law issues, and that people within the communities and language group concerned are best placed to conceive the appropriate resources for their region and people.

The process consists of a series of meetings with local law men and women, heads of organisations and service providers working on the ground in the area of family services and law. If the community is interested in being part of the project, workshops are planned where the local law experts and service providers can interact and work together to determine the priorities for the community in terms of legal education.

The workshops provide an opportunity to educate the service providers about the existing Aboriginal legal systems, and educate them on working with interpreters.

When the content is determined, the local multimedia team, and a group of creative people, local law experts and interpreters work at developing the script.

The video is then shot with local actors, interpreters and technical crew. In the process, all involved can access professional training and develop their skills as well as expand their professional horizons.

The launch opened with hot food and drinks and addresses by Elder Ross Williams, Lawyer Russell Goldflam and Federal Magistrate Terry, interpreted by Sandra Morrison. The food and speeches were then followed by an evening outdoor screening of the film in the grounds of Nyinkka Nyunyu.

For more information about the Project, please contact Fiona Hussin at the NT Legal Aid Commission on 89993000.

