

\$9 million in ABA grants spread across NT

Regions across the Northern Territory are set to benefit from more than nine million dollars worth of grants from the Aboriginals Benefit Account.

The Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin said a recreation precinct at Mutitjulu, an early childhood centre at Willowra, an Aboriginal cattle enterprise near Tennant Creek, a program to introduce students to the media industry in Alice Springs and the Garma Festival are among the beneficiaries.

Imparja Television in Alice Springs will receive a grant of \$132,150 to teach Year 12 students in Alice Springs all aspects of the television industry.

The Just Imagine 2009 program will cover work practises and budgets and the maintenance and operation of a wide range of media equipment.

The students' final project will be the production of a documentary, which will involve filming, editing and recording voiceovers. The documentary will be aired on Imparja

Television in December this year.

The Bluebush Cattle Aboriginal Corporation on the Karlantijipa North Aboriginal Land Trust receives \$496,533 for fencing, equipping a new bore and infrastructure projects.

The community's Gina Bennett said the corporation is slowly building up its herd of cattle.

"We've built up a small herd of about 250 head in the past couple of years," she said.

"We've struggled without any outside help to get to this stage so the grant will give us a welcome boost."

The Papula Apparr-Kari Aboriginal Corporation in Tennant Creek provided Bluebush with help to secure the grant.

There's funding also for the control of dogs in remote communities and to help

Aboriginal organisations improve services for their clients, including funding to help the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency buy new premises in Darwin and the refurbishment and upgrade of the Alice Springs office of the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association.

The ABA grants aim to fund priority projects which will help improve the lives of Aboriginal people living throughout the Northern Territory.

The ABA was established under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*.

It receives financial compensation from the Commonwealth Government equivalent to the value of royalties paid by mining interests on Aboriginal land.

Grants: Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association, Alice Springs, upgrade property, \$636,000;

Yothu Yindi Foundation, Yirrkala, Garma Festival 2010, \$150,000; North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency, Darwin, office building, \$941,000; Shepherdson College, Galiwinku, school bus, \$92,120; Imparja Television, Alice Springs, Just imagine 2009, \$132,150; Warluku-rangu Artists Aboriginal Corporation, Yuendumu, Restoration of the Men's Museum, \$250,000; Central Desert Shire Council, Engawala, Engawala Basketball court roofing and lighting, \$252,000; Animal Management in Rural and Remote Communities, NT wide, Dog health manuals for remote communities, \$76,663; Art-back NT Arts Development, Alice Springs, Indigenous traditional dance project, \$170,000; Papulu Apparr-Kari Aboriginal Corporation, Tennant Creek, Cattle Enterprise, \$496,533; Nauiyu Nambiyu Inc, Nauiyu Nambiyu, Vehicle breakdown and recovery, \$140,327; North-

ern Land Council; NT North Region, Women's consultations in Central Australia, \$100,000; Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association, Borrooloola, Sea ranger vessel, \$98,300;

Central Land Council, NT Central Region, Ceremonial and Funeral, \$500,000; Gurindji Freedom Day Committee, Daguragu/Kalkaringi; Gurindji Freedom Day 2009, \$50,000; Central Land Council, Willowra, Construction of early childhood centre and duplex accommodation for staff and visitors; \$2,602,374; Central Land Council, Mutitjulu; Construction of a youth and recreation precinct, \$2,257,500; Thamarrurr Development Corporation, Wadeye, Purchase construction machinery and upgrade housing and construction workshop OHS standards, \$500,000; TOTAL: \$9,444,967

Mutitjulu and Willowra community development projects get a boost

The Central Land Council has welcomed the commitment of Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) funds to its community development initiatives in two of Central Australia's most neglected communities.

The Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin announced that \$2,257,500 had been granted for a recreation precinct at Mutitjulu and \$2,602,374 for construction of an early childhood centre and accommodation for staff and visitors at Willowra.

CLC Director David Ross said that these funds supplemented the investments already put in by the communities.

"Traditional owners of the Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park committed \$500,000 of their share of the rent from the Park to building a pool at Mutitjulu and upgrading the recreation hall in that community," Mr Ross said.

"With \$105,000 from the Mutitjulu Foundation and the ABA

funds, this project is going to make a huge difference to the lives of the people there, especially the children," he said.

"The Willowra Early Childhood and Learning Centre is a critical

"Traditional owners of the Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park committed \$500,000 of their share of the rent from the Park to building a pool at Mutitjulu

project that has very strong community support.

"Willowra has suffered a disgraceful level of government neglect and has virtually nothing in terms of infrastructure despite being home to 300 people.

"Through the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT), Warlpiri traditional owners committed \$660,000 of their mining

royalties to building a centre but needed more to get the project up and running.

"WETT already pays for World Vision to run early childhood programs on Warlpiri lands and their

commitment of further funds and the \$2,602,374 from the ABA will enable the Willowra project to go ahead.

"Operational funding is still unclear, even after months of negotiation with the Australian Government.

"Willowra isn't designated as a 'Growth Town' under the Northern Territory and Australian

Government's Indigenous funding policies and therefore like some 25 other communities in our region, not eligible for much at all.

"But in Willowra alone there are at least 30 children under five who are set to benefit from an early childhood centre," Mr Ross said.

"Under the Growth Towns policy the only alternative for these children would have been to spend four hours a day travelling to Yuendumu and back every day.

"These types of community development projects which have community involvement and support make positive and tangible differences to peoples lives.