



ESPERANCE COMMUNITY ARTS INC.

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Government of Western Australia
Department of Culture and the Arts



MEDIA RELEASE: Esperance to host Indigenous Hip Hop Project

21 May 2015: Esperance Community Arts (ECA) is pleased to announce that we have secured \$35,785 of funding from Lotterywest to support the Act-Belong-Commit Esperance & Norseman Hip Hop Project, starting in June 2015.

This six month project will contribute to 2015 NAIDOC celebrations in Esperance. It features a week-long visit from five members of the Indigenous Hip Hop Project, co-sponsored by Healthway and Act-Belong-Commit. IHHP have worked with communities around Australia to create a series of original music videos and documentaries, including the popular video recently created for Headspace, 'A Lot Going On' (see <http://www.headspace.org.au/yarn-safe/yarn-safe-news/powerful-new-yarn-safe-video-launches>).

The program begins in the first week of June with a visit from award-winning WA Musician, David Hyams who will run songwriting workshops for children, youth and adults (http://www.milestogo.com.au/about_miles-to-go-band.php). Children and youth from Norseman District High School, Wongutha CAPS, Nulsen Primary School, Esperance Primary School, Our Lady Star of the Sea and Munlignup and Cascade Primary Schools will have the opportunity to participate in these workshops.

Hyams will also run free songwriting workshops for adults on Tuesday 2nd June, 7-9pm and on Saturday 6th June 11am - 1pm and 2pm - 4pm at the Cannery Art Centre. Beginners and experienced musicians are welcome. You can contact Esperance Community Arts to save your place.

The IHHP team will visit Esperance from 22nd - 26th June to work with schools and community groups to run dance workshops. They will also make a short 'behind the scenes' documentary to record the week's events. IHHP's visit will culminate in a free community concert at the Esperance Civic Centre on June 26th.

The Lotterywest grant will also allow us to run a series of after-school workshops in terms 3 and 4 for children and youth interested in developing their skills and building their confidence to perform at public events such as the Festival of the Wind, the Esperance Agricultural Show and the 2015 Christmas Pageant.

This program also includes a series of workshops on performance skills for seniors who will be invited to record their stories for radio.

ECA is partnering with the NAIDOC Committee and other community organisations Escare, BOICO, Esperance Home Care, Dundas Youth Service and local performers to plan this program of free community events.

ECA Chairperson Thuriyya Ibrahim said that ECA supports community groups and local musicians, performers, writers, artists and crafts people of all kinds to promote a wide range of arts activities.

"We feel it is really important to encourage participation in creative activities to nurture a sense of belonging and inclusion in the Esperance community. The arts can be a great way of linking people into the community!"

For more information about any of these events contact Jane Mulcock on 9072 1158 or admin@esperancecommunityarts.org.au.

For more information or to organise a photo opportunity contact:

Jane Mulcock

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Esperance Community Arts – Shop 8, Museum Village, 54 Dempster Street ESPERANCE

Opening hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 10am – 2pm, Wednesday: 1pm – 5pm, Market Days: 10am – 1pm