



Songlines:

The living narrative
of our nation

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MEDIA RELEASE

CANBERRA COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE NAIDOC WEEK

4 July 2016: The Canberra community will come together tomorrow to celebrate NAIDOC Week, a time to recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Hosted by eight local community organisations, the NAIDOC Week community celebration will feature musical and dance performances, reading circles for children, an Indigenous art workshop and a 'Human Library' – an interactive experience to promote learning and conversation. Dr Chris Bourke MLA, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs will be among the Human Library participants.

The community celebration will be MCed by Klair Carney, a proud Wiradjuri woman born in Canberra, who is the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program Coordinator at Northside Community Service.

"NAIDOC to me has always been a time for celebration of the Indigenous cultures of Australia as well as education. I think that it is important for all Australians to understand and take value in the culture that shapes this country", said Ms Carney.

"The Aboriginal and Torres Strait culture is not only ours but all of Australia's. This event is a celebration and collaboration of Canberra's culture and services, and it's a fantastic opportunity to hear the local knowledge and stories with our human library."

The 2016 NAIDOC Week theme is *Songlines – The living narrative of our nation*, to highlight the importance of Songlines and celebrate how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain connected to Country and share sacred stories and ceremonies.

The organisations hosting the event are Marymead, Northside Community Service, YWCA Canberra, The Smith Family, Woden Community Service, ACTCOSS, Community Services #1 and Karralika.

When: 11am – 2pm, Tuesday 5 July

Where: Marymead, 255 Goyder Street, Narrabundah

- ENDS -

Media are invited to attend.

Klair Carney is available for interview.

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