

Warburton Community inc



PMB 71 VIA KALGOORLIE WA 6430.....PHONE OFFICE : 08 89567642 ABN 26977854671,

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Hello Creative Australia,

My name is Nathan Smith, I am the elected Chairman for Warburton Community. I am a Traditional Owner for this place.

I am writing this letter to support the funding application for Wilurarra Creative. Wilurarra is really important program for Ngaanyatjarra people, especially those young ones, musicians and artists. I played music and worked with the Studio when I was younger, my children and all the young people go there now.

Wilurarra is a place for young people that is theirs, that they can make decisions about and be listened to, this place, Wilurarra, helps Ngaanyatjarra people with opportunities making music, and learning instruments, drums, guitars and keyboards, concerts, and recording. Wilurarra has the Studio and the Wilurarra Mangka Salon here in Warburton. The Kungkas (young women) go there too, they make things, art and craft, photos, designs. They've got their own stories too. And it is safe for them to get together there and talk.

Wilurarra gets their own money to run workshops and to pay artists, and Warburton helps out with money and buildings to make sure it keeps going. The Warburton Community board supports Wilurarra Creative. A lot of Ngaanyatjarra people are artists and we tell stories about our lives and our culture and living here on the Ngaanyatjarra Lands. At Wilurarra we can record our stories in songs and books and photos and films, Wilurarra takes bands on tour so they can sing their stories in other places, a lot of creative works made by young Ngaanyatjarra people happen here.

Wilurarra Creative is right for us yarnangu, we want it to keep going.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Nathan Smith in black ink.

Nathan Smith
Chairman of Warburton Community

24 July 2023

To whom it may concern,

RE: Letter of Support for Wilurarra Creative

I was recently contracted to undertake an evaluation of Wilurarra Creative, in Warburton Community, WA. I was asked to do this evaluation for two reasons, firstly I have been associated with the Ngaanyatjarra Lands as an educator and researcher since 1997 so I know the community well. Secondly, I was around at the inception of Wilurarra Creative (then Warburton Youth Arts) in 2004 and have watched it evolve since that time. Interviews for the evaluation took place April-May 2023. I interviewed 32 community members and Wilurarra participants past and present, and 23 stakeholders (Wilurarra employees, service providers and other arts workers and arts policy people). The interviews have been transcribed and analysed thematically. A draft report is well underway.

What began as a youth arts project in 2004 for the 16–30-year-old age group in Warburton Community has lasted some twenty years as a vibrant and diverse arts and creative cultural production program that resources that age group, and supports whole of community, intergenerational activity and learning.

Wilurarra Creative is unique not just in the Ngaanyatjarra Lands but across remote Australia. In a setting where the learning and creative needs of this age group are mostly unaddressed, Wilurarra Creative offers a site for learning new skills and intergenerational transmission through self-directed and peer-learning, and project-driven activity. It creates social enterprise and income generation for some of the poorest people in Australia. It enables musicians, graphic designers, hairdressers and stylists to flourish through music production, recording and concerts; art exhibitions and tours; and book design, layout and publication. At the same time, it provides internet and computer access, and a digital photo archive. This is important as these resources are not available in people's homes, nor can they be accessed through other service providers. This diversity of resources and activities has made Wilurarra Creative the envy of the Ngaanyatjarra Lands and across remote Australia.

The key findings of the evaluation indicate that Wilurarra's success over nearly two decades can be attributed to some core elements:

Wilurarra has paid attention to:

- building relationships and networks locally, nationally and internationally, including regular support from visiting arts mentors;
- creating long-term staffing models;
- creating open and equal systems and protocols, including a considered cultural induction for workers and a system of ensuring that there is consistency and support for Indigenous and non-Indigenous working together and understanding together; and
- building of ownership and responsibility leading to empowerment among young adult Wilurarra participants.

Lastly, Wilurarra Creative has a community development, rather the 'service delivery' mindset. It is strengths-based, and continually invites people - both Ngaanyatjarra people, other people and other agencies - to be active in continually making Warburton a community where people can thrive in a way that is purposeful in its context.

Wilurarra Creative offers a model that is attractive to youth in the 16-30 age group and fits the cultural paradigm. It resources young people to be able to explore creatively who they are: to explore their own identity and collective identity as contemporary Ngaanyatjarra people. Wilurarra Creative is not just about art, it also attends to the cultural obligations that Indigenous young people have. Wilurarra understands that it is supporting Ngaanyatjarra well-being and the next generation of leaders. In other words, Wilurarra Creative pays attention to how to resource culture change while supporting culture maintenance.

Wilurarra matters because it is culturally relevant education and skills development and cultural maintenance support. That's the relevance. It's actually a space of connectivity and productivity that is of local relevance and regional relevance as demonstrated by the people who are there. **Ben Fox**

Given scant resources and limited support, Wilurarra Creative has achieved an enormous amount and is held in high esteem across Australia. It is setting a standard that other remote communities are following, as these quotes from Visiting Mentors indicate:

Basically Wilurarra Creative kicked off the whole entire youth fashion movement in many ways through all the Central Desert and parts of the north. Everybody is copying them; everybody is doing fashion shows in those regions. **Starlady**

There's such an appetite and people on the east coast would love to see more, they are blown away seeing what young people are doing ... there's a real positive element that comes out of Wilurarra and when it is shared, people are blown away. They have no idea of what happens in communities. They think it is all terrible, kids don't go to school. That's white Australian preconceived ideas, yet there is so much wonderful stuff that comes out of that place. **Kate O'Connor**

With no tertiary education or real training pathways on the Ngaanyatjarra Lands and no adult literacy provision, it is Wilurarra Creative who fills the gap, working with post-school age young adults and their community leaders to create long-term and culturally relevant opportunities to facilitate learning and further creative goals.

The fact that there is no vocational learning for that age group, in community it is vital for that program to be there ... Getting it distilled into some kind of document or learning to be distributed around Australia could be really beneficial. **Natalie McKeivitt**

Where others talk of school failure, early school leavers and unemployment, Wilurarra talks of success by providing an opportunity for 16-30 year olds to learn and fail, to experiment, to practice, to build, to create, to produce, and to learn responsibility and explore leadership. At Wilurarra, young people are learning from Indigenous and non-Indigenous mentors, older relatives and each other. They are expanding their creative practice, taking on meaningful roles and responsibilities, and extending and expanding their oral and written communication modes and technological skills.

The significance of the Wilurarra Creative and its potential as a best practice model for young adult learning and engagement in creative cultural production was recognised in the evaluation:

Wilurarra Creative is so significant and important to the Lands. It gives people an opportunity. In Warburton there is no arts centre, so no opportunity to make income. Wilurarra is the only facility like that in Warburton, the biggest community in the Lands. It gives youth training in activities that are actually beneficial to their lives. Wilurarra gives kids a platform to actually learn something. So if they ever wanted to leave the Lands they would have an opportunity in the city they could take skills they have learnt at Wilurarra. And there is no opportunity outside of schools to do that in the Lands. **Duncan Wright**

I've never seen anything like this program ... There's nothing else like it. I believe it should be a model for remote communities. If people are still continuing to live remote this sort of program is vital, it is necessary for that young voice to thrive. It's their voice. And it would be completely different in every community. That's what communities are like, they are all individual. It's their country and their different stories. **Kate O'Connor**

Wilurarra needs a nation of people to understand the value of that and a nation of decision-makers to understand the inherent value that is in that program across all of the areas. **Nigel Bird**

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support Wilurarra Creative and hold it up as a successful model that should be receiving far-reaching attention nationally and internationally.

Your sincerely,



Dr Inge Kral

27 July 2023



Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku
ON A JOURNEY

Tjulyuru Cultural and Civic Centre
Warburton Community

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Creative Australia

The Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku fully supports the application for multi-year funding for the continued operation of the Warburton Community based Wilurarra Creative Project.

Very remote communities are among the most discussed and least supported areas in Aboriginal Affairs.

The Australia Council for the Arts, now Creative Australia, has been a reliable supporter of the Wilurarra Creative program over time and made it possible to involve other partners to sustain and widen the range of activities on offer.

The Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku is one of those partners, and we are committed to providing accommodation for the project manager for the term of the 2024-2028 multi-year agreement.

Aboriginal Affairs is in a state of flux and uncertainty. This uncertainty falls heavily on young people, firming identity, and roles in life. Wilurarra Creative has a 20-year history of supporting young Ngaanyatjarra people as they find their path through artistic expression.

Wilurarra Creative's inclusive and diverse engagement has been a significant factor in Warburton Community having low levels of self-harm and suicide is very rare.

Wilurarra Creative is a sound project entrenched in the importance of the creative arts to the life of the Ngaanyatjarra community, just as much as the arts play a vital role in the life of the wider community.

Thank you for your attention,

Damian McLean
President
Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku

CACD Panel
Creative Australia

12 July 2023

Dear Panel,

Wilurarra Creative – Multi-Year Organisational Funding 2025 – 2028

I write in support of Wilurarra Creative's application for Four Year Organisational Funding from the Australia Council for the Arts. Wilurarra Creative is an important arts organisation that meaningfully engages Ngaanyatjarra communities and provides real, locally relevant pathways for some of the most remote young and emerging artists in our State. Regional Arts WA has partnered with, and invested in, Wilurarra Creative on many projects over the past 14 years and has observed the responsive and meaningful creative program it delivers in a complex and under-serviced environment.

Wilurarra Creative is one of Regional Arts WA core-funded organisations receiving Regional Arts Sector Investment (RASI) organisational funding 2021-2024 which is resourcing Wilurarra Creative to train, employ and capacity-build the next generation of Ngaanyatjarra cultural arts leaders. Regional Arts WA applauds Wilurarra's essential work in resourcing young peoples to have a voice within the community, and helping those young creatives to develop their skills in arts and culture so they become future leaders.

Wilurarra Creative has been a presenter for our Sand Tracks (remote First Nations music) tour in the Warburton community since 2010. This involves working with local musicians to host the concert, provide Sand Tracks industry workshops and perform. Wilurarra Creative has been a member of the advisory group and their artists designed the Sand Tracks 10-year Anniversary tour poster and T-shirt. Currently in 2023, we are working with Wilurarra Creative and NG Media to evolve the Sand Tracks model into a First Nations led tour; fostering creative direction and control of the tri-state tour by Ngaanyatjarra musicians.

Past projects that Regional Arts WA have supported Wilurarra Creative over the years are:

- *Alanya Projects* 2016-2019 captures authentic, positive stories as told by Ngaanyatjarra young people. Funding development of their second edition of t *Alanya*, created by over 170 young creatives
- *Wilurarra Studio Showcase* at the 2014 Regional Arts Australia Arts & Edges Summit in Kalgoorlie - an interactive replication of their remote studio where Ngaanyatjarra youth demonstrated their music, and arts talents to national delegates.
- *YCulture Regional* program supported Wilurarra's (then up-and-coming) Red Sand Beat Band on their first regional tour to perform their original desert reggae sounds during Kalgoorlie NAIDOC in 2016.

The breadth of the Wilurarra Creative program responds to the generation of young artists who are negotiating the complex intersection of traditional culture and modern technologies. Wilurarra Creative has a unique perspective in the Western Australian art sector. Regional Arts WA often draws on the experience of the Wilurarra Creative studio to inform best practice approach to delivery of arts programs.

We acknowledge the important role that Wilurarra Creative play in the Ngaanyatjarra Lands region, and thus in Western Australia, and look forward to a continued partnership with this leading First Nations community arts and cultural development organisation.

Yours Sincerely,

Pilar Kasat

Pilar Kasat (Jul 13, 2023 15:59 GMT+8)

Pilar Kasat
CEO

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Regional Arts WA receives core funding from the State Government through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and Lotterywest.



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28 July 2023

Wilurarra Creative's application for four-year organisation investment.

Dear Assessing panellists,

I am writing this letter to express my support for Wilurarra Creative's application for four-year investment for organisations funding. I am thrilled to endorse their work and highlight the significant impact they have made in the Ngaanyatjarra Lands over the course of a generation.

Whilst I write this letter from my role as Patron of the Nannup Music Festival (2016-present), I've collaborated with Wilurarra since 2011 in my role as the Regional Officer at West Australian Music (2003-2022), and in my current position with as as Regional Development Officer for the Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission (since 2022). Work with Wilurarra over this time, includes:

- Coordinating music industry skills development workshop for First Nations musicians in Kalgoorlie (some 1000kms from Warburton) in partnership with APRA/AMCOS in 2016
- the pleasure of welcoming Wilurarra and one of their bands, The Red Sand Beat Band, to the Nannup Music Festival in 2017, and I was fortunate to witness their captivating performance.
- Also in 2017, I had the honor of working Red Sand Beat Band as a mentor at Bush Bands Bash in Alice Springs.
- I spent two weeks at the Wilurarra studio in Warburton facilitating a community album for commercial release alongside some of Western Australia's most renowned sound engineers and producers. The caliber of the Red Sand Beat Band's skills, both in live performance and the studio were as good as any among the 15 other regional albums we produced across Western Australia. In fact, the professional audio engineers we collaborated with insisted that the artists be credited as co-producers of the album. This is a credit to Wilurarra, whose investment into resourcing Ngaanyatjarra musicians with instruments, practice opportunities and appropriate, literacy/language appropriate industry development, has led to excellent musicians who can also confidently produce their own music
- In June 2023, in my current role, we created an inaugural gathering for arts and cultural organisations across the Goldfields-Esperance region – an area that covers more than one eighth of this continent's land mass. Wilurarra played a pivotal role in shaping various aspects of the event and actively participated with their directors and young leaders. They led a region-wide mapping exercise fostering collaborative conversations during the gathering.

Wilurarra's approach is successful because it is embedded within the community. It facilitates self-determined activities for young Ngaanyatjarra adults aged 16–30 which empowers participants to design, develop, and lead activities that align with Ngaanyatjarra expressions of artistic excellence. Wilurarra is the best definition of co-led and co-designed activity that I have witnessed in my time working with music and First Nations artists. As a key valve in the heart of the Ngaanyatjarra Lands, Wilurarra provides invaluable opportunities to musicians from all Ngaanyatjarra Lands communities. A notable example was touring the incredible Moonlight Reggae band from Wanarn Community to Bush Bands Bash in Alice Springs in 2022.

I have yet to encounter an organisation like Wilurarra through my travels and I have visited practically every town in Western Australia. Their dedication to supporting self-determined cultural outputs for Ngaanyatjarra artists in remote communities is a best-practice example of what it should be across Australia. I strongly encourage your support for their program and their unwavering commitment to making a lasting impact.

Yours Sincerely,
Nigel Bird, Nannup Music Festival Patron, 2016-current



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WA

REGIONAL
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Warburton Community Incorporated



PMB 71 VIA KALGOORLIE WA 6430.....**PHONE OFFICE** : 08 89567642 ABN 26977854671,
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Dear Creative Australia assessors,

Warburton Community is the largest community of the very remote Ngaanyatjarra Lands, and a service centre for the region. Warburton Community Inc. has an elected Ngaanyatjarra Board of directors, who oversee administration of the community, it's assets and programs – including Warburton Roadhouse, Mily Store, the Warburton Airport, Warburton Arts Collection and Wilurarra Creative.

Wilurarra Creative is a program of Warburton Community Inc, focussed on 16-30 years old Ngaanyatjarra people, who are a high proportion of our population.

Warburton Community has made a long-term commitment to support Wilurarra Creative because it is essential to our remote community. Wilurarra Creative is the primary resource for Ngaanyatjarra young adults on the Lands, and drives skills development, positive engagement and greater social cohesion in our community.

Warburton Community will do everything we can to ensure Wilurarra continues, including rent-free provision of the Wilurarra Creative Studio building and Mangka Salon (including repairs, maintenance, power, water); 1.5 FTE employment of Ngaanyatjarra and non-Ngaanyatjarra program Directors; staff oncosts; accounting and audit costs and other program support. This is an estimated (combined in-kind and cash) contribution of \$281,939 per year.

In recent years, changes to state and federal funding have impacted remote communities, and Warburton has undergone a significant loss of community-controlled funding, impacting our ability to support Wilurarra Creative, Warburton Arts and other important community programs. This loss of funding has been compounded by increasing costs of living and already high costs of service provision in such a remote location.

The socio-economic impacts of poverty place further financial pressures on our Ngaanyatjarra population, including increased costs associated with violence, crime, anti-social behaviour, drug use, imprisonment and adverse contact with the criminal justice system. The demolition of community housing due to asbestos risk, including two properties used to house Wilurarra Creative's staff, has created another financial burden.

Wilurarra Creative has survived because the dedicated, long-term staff, are community-embedded, adaptable, resourceful and have been successful at securing their own program and project investment through a variety of funding sources. We strongly urge Creative Australia to continue to provide multi-year program funding to Wilurarra so it may continue to deliver dynamic, meaningful local programming and strong social and cultural impacts across the region.

Regards,

Steve Austin
Community Development Advisor
Warburton Community Incorporated

Nathan Smith
Chairman
Warburton Community Incorporated

Dated 17th July 2023

18 July 2023

To whom it may concern

Re: Wilurarra Creative's Application for organisational funding

As CEO of the Ngaanyatjarra Council Aboriginal Corporation, the principal governance body for the 11 communities of Ngaanyatjarra Lands, I endorse Wilurarra Creative's application for a four-year organizational funding from Australia Council for the Arts. Warburton Community is the most remote and has the largest (residential and transient) population of the all the Ngaanyatjarra Lands communities.

Wilurarra Creative is vital to Warburton community and the Ngaanyatjarra Lands. Wilurarra Creative's dedication to Community Development values centered on Ngaanyatjarra co-design and direction, ensure high project participation and meaningful opportunities for Ngaanyatjarra young people. Wilurarra Creative resources artistic excellence in Ngaanyatjarra young adults; to produce great contemporary Ngaanyatjarra music, artwork, and publications, that gives voice to their experience. This results in improved social and emotional well-being outcomes, employment and economic development that positively impacts the whole region.

The longevity of an independently funded remote, 'youth arts' program such as Wilurarra Creative is rare; Wilurarra has been highly successful over the past 18 years in attracting program funding from a variety of sources. They have many local and regional partners and, most importantly, a strong, enduring support and engagement from Ngaanyatjarra people young and old.

Organisational funding from 2025-2028 will allow Wilurarra Creative to build on existing funding and investment relationships, and resource continued creative, economic, social, and cultural development of our region into the future.

Ngaanyatjarra Council Aboriginal Corporation confirms that we will continue to support Wilurarra Creative with technical and administration assistance; with an estimated in-kind value of \$57,322 per year.

Look forward to hearing of Wilurarra Creative's success with this application.

Kind regards

NGAANYATJARRA COUNCIL AC



Gerard Coffey

CEO

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Coordinated Art Projects

31/7/2023

To: To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support and recommendation for Wilurarra Creative in their application for Australia Council's Four Year Investment for Organisations funding. I worked closely with Wilurarra Creative on a previous exhibition, and I can attest to the meaningful role they play in engaging young people on the Ngaanyatjarra Lands as well as providing local and state-wide opportunities for young and emerging First Nations artists.

Running alongside the 2021 Revealed Exhibition at the Fremantle Art Centre (FAC), the Wilurarra Creative hub was recreated in the exhibition titled *Straight Outta Wilurarra*. The exhibition was a contemporary, fun, thought provoking and immersive experience that looked at the creativity of the young Ngaanyatjarra people living in Warburton and its surrounds. Playfully it featured a photographic studio, selfie booth, hair salon and art works. The inclusion of interactive displays encouraged active engagement from the audience, resulting in a dynamic and memorable event that resonated with attendees. Fremantle Arts Centre sponsored the travel expenses for 15 artists and musicians from Warburton Community to attend the exhibition, perform during the opening night and participate in the Revealed Artist Talks.

Wilurarra Creative's invaluable contribution to the arts community and their commitment to fostering cultural engagement creates relevant pathways and promotes a vibrant artistic community within our state. By investing in their efforts, we will enhance cultural enrichment, foster community engagement, and contribute to the growth and sustainability of a program that emboldens the voice of young Ngaanyatjarra people.

If you require any additional information or would like to discuss further, please feel free to contact me. I am available to provide any necessary assistance in supporting Wilurarra Creative's funding application.

Yours Sincerely



Jane Chambers



27th July 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support and recommendation for Wilurarra Creative in their application for the Australia Council's Four-Year Investment for Organisations funding. As someone who has worked with Wilurarra previously, I can attest to their valuable contribution to the arts community and their ongoing commitment to fostering cultural engagement.

In 2021, Wilurarra Creative's artists exhibited at the Holmes à Court Gallery in the exhibition *In Situ*, as part of the multi-venue Indian Ocean Craft Triennial. This exhibition featured artists using craft as part of their practice. Wilurarra artists contributed an intergenerational multi-media installation artwork called *Storywire*. The work addressed the Triennial's themes of 'curiosity and rituals of the everyday' with *Storywire* exploring Ngaanyatjarra women and girls' traditional and contemporary cultural practice of storytelling, by drawing in the sand. The installation also encouraged active engagement from the audience, resulting in a dynamic and memorable event that resonated with artists, participants and attendees. Wilurarra Creative and the Holmes à Court Gallery shared the costs to bring two of the Ngaanyatjarra artists to attend the opening and demonstrate the use of storywires.

Wilurarra Creative is essential in engaging young people on the Ngaanyatjarra Lands, offering valuable local and state-wide opportunities for emerging artists. Their dedication to supporting and showcasing these artists fosters a vibrant artistic community within our state. By investing in Wilurarra Creative's efforts, we can boost cultural enrichment, encourage community engagement, and help amplify the voices of young Ngaanyatjarra adults.

Thank you for considering this letter of support, and I am confident that Wilurarra Creative will continue to make a positive impact on the arts community.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Laetitia Wilson'.

Dr. Laetitia Wilson

Curator and Gallery Manager

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