



MEDIA RELEASE

First Nations festival brings old and new knowledge together

First Nations cultural celebration **Apmerenge-ntyale Festival: From the Land** begins this Friday in Mparntwe.

Proudly presented by Children's Ground with support from Desert Knowledge Australia (DKA) and the Northern Territory Government, the two-day festival, held at the Desert Knowledge Precinct, is a gathering of traditional knowledge and practice, innovation, performance and celebration.

Headlined by performances from Gomeri artist Kobie Dee, Warnindhilyagwa woman Emily Warramura, First Nations hip-hop supergroup 3% and Mparntwe's own Dem Arrernte Mape, Big J, Alice Kings, DJ Gram and more, the festival also includes creative art and music workshops, live panel discussions, cultural performances, kids' activities, market stalls and food.

"We wanted to establish an occasion to celebrate our history, our culture and our experience as First Nations people," said Felicity Hayes, Co-Director of Children's Ground Central Australia and Arrernte Elder, educator and recognised Traditional Owner of Mparntwe.

"So often we see and hear the negative things happening with First Nations people, it's important to focus on the positive and celebrate the strength of our culture, the strides our people are making in art and academia, and to remind our children, our young ones, that First Nations people are proud and we're achieving amazing things," she said.

"With Apmerenge-ntyale Festival we're creating a space for our people to connect, celebrate, transfer knowledge and strengthen culture during the day, before welcoming the whole community, both First Nations and non-First Nations, to come together in the evenings and celebrate our music, our ideas and our Country," she said.

As an important start to the Apmerenge-ntyale Festival, on Friday night DKA will formally open the Artwe-kenhe ilthe (Men's Place) on the grounds of the Desert Knowledge Precinct. Designed and built by an all-Aboriginal male workforce, the men's place will serve as a safe environment for male workshops addressing key issues like domestic violence, identity, culture and men's health.

Apmerenge-ntyale Festival: From the Land takes place from Friday 30 to Saturday 31 August at Desert Knowledge Precinct, 475 South, Stuart Hwy, Alice Springs NT 0870.

Festival tickets and programming can be found [here](#).

Entry to the festival is free for First Nations people. Donations welcome from non-First Nations people.

This is a family-friendly, drug and alcohol-free event.

Apmerenge-ntyale Festival: From the Land is open to the whole community from 5-10pm Friday, and 4-11pm Saturday.

Saturday programming is a First Nations only cultural exchange from 10am-4pm.

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