

15 December 2016

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Dear Denise

On behalf of the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation (AIEF) I am pleased to provide the Yothu Yindi Foundation with a letter supporting the annual Garma Festival.

AIEF has attended Garma since 2013. For the last three years, we have hosted a delegation of up to 20 stakeholders from business, government, philanthropy, education, media and the arts, as well as members of our Board and Ambassadors of our organisation. In addition, we have hosted young Indigenous graduates and high school students of our scholarship program with the delegation.

The participants are engaged in developing business, government and/or industry policy or have interests that impact the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Garma offers a personal cultural experience where our delegates are able to engage, learn from each other and be immersed in the richness and strength of Yolngu culture.

Our past participants have expressed the profound effect the festival has had on their own corporate and personal journeys. Some of the feedback we have received from participants has included:

"It is an amazing experience from a personal and professional perspective which I feel privileged to be part of."

"A unique experience with a great group of people who have shared objectives, affording the opportunity to create a deeper, shared understanding of Indigenous challenges and opportunities."

"Garma is a one-of-a-kind experience – to be welcomed by the community and to bear witness as they celebrate and showcase their precious cultural heritage."

"I believe Garma is a festival that celebrates not only culture, dance, language etc. But it's a festival that gives anyone in Australia the opportunity to get an educational understanding of the importance of land and culture to the traditional land owners from the past, present and future. Attending the activities throughout Garma gives you an insight into this cultural perspective and the opportunity to meet the traditional owners on a personal level."

“Experiencing Garma is a way to immerse stakeholders in the Indigenous culture and current Indigenous affairs – to learn, to listen and to develop networks and build new relationships. It provides a great form of induction for anyone not already engaged in an organisation's RAP work, and an excellent development opportunity for those who are already involved but would like to expand their networks and re-engage with the reasons why we all work in this sector.”

Each year the Yothu Yindi Foundation delivers a professional and world class global event. We have been fortunate to witness the continuing growth and innovation of the Garma program scheduling and look forward to another inspiring, educating and entertaining four days come 4-7 August next year.

Our organisation is a proud supporter of Garma. We look forward to joining the Yolngu clans on their traditional ceremonial meeting ground at the 19th annual Garma event hosted by the Yothu Yindi Foundation.

Yours sincerely



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