

Mrs Denise Bowden  
Chief Executive Officer and Director of  
Garma Festival  
Yothu Yindi Foundation  
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15 December 2016

Dear Denise

On behalf of the Department of Education, I am pleased to provide the Yothu Yindi Foundation with a letter supporting the annual Garma Festival. We are proud to have attended and been a supporter of Garma for many years.

Each year, we are delighted to participate in Garma by creating an information stall that details our initiatives across the Territory and to have our senior management team and leaders share and learn through the various forums and events.

We greatly value the opportunity that Garma provides us to connect with individuals, companies and other organisations that are engaged in important work with Indigenous people, communities, organisations and initiatives.

Garma offers a personal cultural experience where our staff are able to engage, learn from each other and be immersed in the richness and strength of Yolngu culture. This manifested itself this year in the 2016 Garma Education Fair where over 250 of our students from the Nhulunbuy region and interstate, our teachers and staff had the opportunity to participate in cultural classes that focused on the unique history and culture of the Yolngu people.

We look forward to Garma each year as it allows our staff to link and share with national policy makers, key Indigenous leaders and politicians.

Some of the feedback we have received from participants has included:

"Garma is the best opportunity in the country for us to be able to showcase the work that we do. The event gives us a platform to discuss our achievements so far and to engage in critical discussions with some of the best and brightest working in the Indigenous space."

*Tony Considine*

*General Manager Indigenous Education Review Implementation*


"Garma gives me and my leadership team a rare opportunity to engage face to face with key leaders on important issues relating to Indigenous people and education in the Territory. I look forward to continuing to learn, develop and collaborate with my staff and stakeholders at Garma in 2017."

*Vicki Baylis*  
Chief Executive

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 four days come 4 - 7 August 2017.

The Department of Education is proud to be a key stakeholder in the Garma Festival. We look forward to joining the Yolngu clans on their traditional ceremonial meeting ground at the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Garma event hosted by the Yothu Yindi Foundation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vicki Baylis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Vicki Baylis**  
Chief Executive