



**RE: DCITA ENQUIRY INTO THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL
INDIGENOUS TELEVISION SERVICE**

This letter is in support of the establishment of a National Indigenous Television Service as the fifth free to air service in Australia.

A National Indigenous Television Service is a right which has long been denied to the first peoples whereas all other nationalities of this country are catered for on a continuous national platform to express their languages and cultures and tell their stories. Indigenous Australians are only granted piecemeal opportunities within public national platforms and virtually no opportunity in the commercial television arena.

A National Indigenous Television Service will be a vehicle to share our stories, culture and languages with the nation. It would be an open arena whereby Indigenous people are able to gain Indigenous specific information about social, cultural and political issues, on a national level.

This service will help to build bridges of communication between the Indigenous community and government bodies.

A national Indigenous television service will enhance the national Reconciliation process by providing an open avenue for all Australians to experience Indigenous information, stories, culture and expression. It will be a way to share our culture with the non-Indigenous community of Australia who will be exposed to the lively diversity of Indigenous production and programs.

Goolarri Media is a multi-faceted media and arts organisation based in Broome and operating a community radio station along with an open narrowcast television service. Our television service, GTV35, broadcasts a full-time loop of predominantly locally produced programs, with a high ratio of Indigenous content. The programs reflect the local Broome community and give opportunity

Goolarri Media Enterprises Pty Ltd

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for information to be shared and stories to be told. The station is an effective tool that gives back positive and enlivening images to the community of itself, empowering local identity and pride and sharing these facets with the thousands of visitors to the region who enjoy watching this cultural window.

GTV35 has a small crew of 5 people of which 3 are currently undertaking screen studies through the workplace under Goolarri's Registered Training Organisation status. Goolarri is scoped to deliver Certificate II, III, IV, diploma and advanced diploma in screen. This training aspect is vital in building a future for the Indigenous screen industry.

Having a National Indigenous Television Service will not only increase production at GTV35 but also increase our capacity to build the industry and employ Indigenous practitioners within our region and on a national level.

Our organisation hopes to use the proposed national television service as a complementary addition to our current television service into the community of Broome. We also anticipate producing content on a regular basis for the national service, ensuring stories from Broome and the Kimberley region are shared with the nation. Goolarri Media has previously produced a number of documentaries and two television series for national audiences via ABC and SBS. Given the opportunity, it is certainly our plan to continue to produce content for these services along with the proposed National Indigenous Television Service.

We support a National Indigenous Television Service that will draw upon and extend our service while at the same time respect our local autonomy and our right to preserve local community interests on our existing service.

Yours faithfully,



Kevin Fong
Managing Director

21/9/04

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