



December 7th 2006

Yirra Yaakin Workshop students show 'RESPECT' on CD

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from Balga, Girrawheen and Mirrabooka have recorded their own song on CD as part of a unique community workshop program run by Yirra Yaakin Aboriginal Corporation.

The 'Respect' workshops provide positive after school recreational activities for local Indigenous students.

The aim of the program is to improve self-esteem and community pride while reducing truancy and anti-social behaviour in the area.

During the workshop program, students learnt circus and theatre skills, traditional dance, had motivational talks from footy stars and learnt how to break-dance, rap and beat-box.

The students were then asked to write song lyrics based around the theme of respect.

Under the guidance of MC Optamus from popular Perth hip-hop outfit Downsyde, the students headed into the recording studio to make their very own CD.

Workshop facilitator Kylie Farmer said it was the first time any of the students had been in a studio, let alone been involved in recording vocals and tracks.

"It was such a fantastic experience for these students and everyone involved was impressed with how keen and professional they were" Ms Farmer said.

The Respect CD will be launched at community function at the Police and Citizens Youth Club, Princess Road, Balga on Thursday 7th of December at 5.00pm.

Minister for the Department of Corrective Services Margaret Quirk will present students with a certificate and gift for participating in the program.

The CD launch will also include a showcase of other skills the students have learnt, such as a traditional Noongar welcome dance.

The Department of Corrective Services funded the workshop program.

Media Enquiries: Michelle White
m +33 (0)439 948 183
t +33 (0)8 9202 1966
e michelle@yirrayaakin.asn.au