

MEDIA RELEASE

COMMUNITY SOLUTION TO VIOLENCE

Central Desert Regional Council congratulates Southern Tanami Kurdiji Indigenous Corporation (STKIC) who have been successful in their bid for funding to become an independent corporation, a journey of some seven years.

At the request of the community elders from Yuendumu and later Willowra, Central Desert Regional Council began working with the Kurdiji to address community violence. Today, the service provides employment to almost 30 local mediators who work closely with police and local community safety patrollers to provide culturally appropriate, local solutions to violence.

The Council's President, Adrian Dixon said "this money from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet is a dream come true for local people and helps them to support each other in addressing a very challenging issue and making a better future for our children".

CEO, Diane Hood commented that "Council staff should be proud of this significant milestone for this unique program and what it means to aboriginal people in Willowra and Yuendumu, as well as other communities who are watching STKIC's journey".

Yuendumu mediator, Robert Robertson comments that "we have to break the cycle we go around in year after year – we need to look at the cycle and create opportunities for helping ourselves and others. Breaking the cycle means we must face the challenges in our lives".

Ms Hood is currently negotiating on behalf of the Council to transition assets and staff to STKIC who will be fully independent from 1 January 2019. Council's Community Safety Program in Yuendumu and Willowra will also transition because of the strong synergies and productive working relationships.

More information is available from Ms Diane Hood, CEO, Central Desert Regional Council on 08 8958 9530.

DIANE HOOD
CEO

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