



Media Release

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Children at the Centre of Community

Nyirripi Community has welcomed the official reopening of the Early Childhood Centre with a community celebration that focussed on Children's' health and wellbeing. The centre opening comes just two weeks after Yuelamu Early Childhood Centre was reopened. Both Milpa and Vegie Man were on hand for the celebrations and to emphasise the importance of healthy lifestyles.

The reopening of both child care services followed successful financial negotiations between the Central Desert Regional Council and the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.

In December 2016 the NT Government handed the services back to the Commonwealth due to uncertain financial viability.

Central Desert Regional Council President Adrian Dixon said the communities have been waiting for a long time for the reopening. "This is good news for Nyirripi and Yuelamu communities. We're really happy that the Council has been able work with the Commonwealth to get the Childcare Centres back open. Families now have somewhere to take the little kids to get them ready for school and the staff are back working and looking forward to Childcare training" Mr Dixon said.

Central Desert CEO Diane Hood was equally pleased with the outcome. "It's a fantastic achievement for both Nyirripi and Yuelamu. Council's Early Childhood programs offer a safe place for families to access parenting support, to socialise and learn about happy and healthy lifestyles. Parents who are working or studying have peace of mind that their children are preparing for their first years of school in a safe environment. We are proud to be once again providing vital support services to Yuelamu and Nyirripi families", Ms Hood said.

Remote area child care services have been the subject of specific attention by the Commonwealth to ensure that they remain financially viable under the new Jobs for Families Child Care Package.

To be eligible to receive Commonwealth child care subsidy and improve the service's financial viability, the Council is introducing National Quality Standards. The Council is working with the Commonwealth to continuously improve the services on offer whilst also balancing affordability for low income families.

The Central Desert Regional Council acknowledges the ongoing financial support provided by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.

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