



MEDIA RELEASE

DEAL and Menzies join forces at Garma

Friday 12 August 2016

Developing East Arnhem Limited (DEAL) partnered with the Menzies School of Health Research at the recent Garma Festival to highlight the connection between health, education and economic development within Indigenous communities.

DEAL provided funding to support the Menzies HealthLAB* at Garma, and the research institute opened up conversations to profile DEAL's work and highlight opportunities for corporate Australia to continue investing in East Arnhem Land.

CEO Carley Scott said the partnership was important to advance the message around Indigenous health and wellbeing, and the link between the health sector and growth for the region.

"Garma provided a perfect opportunity for our two organisations to come together and raise awareness amongst the audience of youth and adults about critical links between health and wellbeing, education, employment and economic development within Indigenous communities," she said.

In addition to promotions leading up to, and on site at the festival, Ms Scott and Menzies Director Professor Alan Cass co-presented an informal 'fireside' chat with corporate and philanthropic stakeholders attending Garma.

"The fireside chat was a fantastic opportunity to speak alongside Menzies with members of the Business Council of Australia about initiatives that could bring about significant benefits to the East Arnhem region," Ms Scott said.

"We discussed the links between health, education and employment in Indigenous communities, particularly DEAL's role as a unique, independent, economic development entity in the region."

Part of the discussion was around the importance of collaborations, investment and a 'whole of community' approach to responding to health, education and employment opportunities.

“We also discussed ‘shared value’ as a useful concept and opportunities to increase and streamline investment of corporate and philanthropic stakeholders when supporting initiatives in East Arnhem Land,” Ms Scott said.

“Each entity and person can play a very meaningful role in the health and development story.”

DEAL will continue discussions with Garma’s corporate attendees about improving visitation into, and improving supply chains out of, the region. It will also provide a strong platform to continue discussions with Menzies Institute about opportunities for organisations outside of the region to engage with East Arnhem Land, Indigenous culture, and economic development opportunities going forward.

The partnering and message wasn’t solely confined to the Garma Festival site nor the English language as DEAL arranged for Professor Cass and Menzies’ HealthLAB dietician, Anastasia Grasso to be interviewed live on Yolngu Radio. The interview was interpreted into Yolngu Matha for listeners residing across East Arnhem Land and was very well received.

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To interview DEAL CEO Carley Scott, please contact Tom Foster 08 8987 0564.

About Developing East Arnhem Limited

Developing East Arnhem Limited (DEAL) was established in November 2014 to support economic development in the region. The organisation was established as an independent company with seed funding provided by the Northern Territory Government (\$2M) and Rio Tinto (\$2M). DEAL is managed by a Board of Directors, and has a full time Chief Executive Officer, a Project Manager and a part time Business Office Manager. The Many Rivers Field Officer shares the DEAL office, which is located in Nhulunbuy. To find out more about DEAL, visit www.developingeastarnhem.com.au

***About Menzies HealthLAB**

The Menzies HealthLAB is an innovative, interactive, educational experience that allows participants to measure their own biomedical risk factors for chronic diseases in a mobile ‘pop-up’ laboratory. HealthLAB visits Territorians in rural, urban and very remote settings. HealthLAB staff explain measures like fat percentage and smoke exposure. By engaging the public in discussion relating to their own biomedical measures and risk factors, we aim to help the community to make positive lifestyle choices for better health now, in the future, and for their future children. For more information about HealthLAB please email Clinical Coordinator Nicole Boyd at nicole.boyd@menzies.edu.au