

# Media release

Tuesday, May 14, 2019



## Moranbah High to showcase Indigenous learning

Moranbah State High School is planning a fortnight of cultural education in anticipation of NAIDOC Week 2019, with support from Arrow Energy.

Indigenous songs, dances, games and cooking will all be on offer, culminating in a school-wide event on July 29.

“Ten per cent of our student body identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, with rich culture that needs to be shared with the wider school community,” said MSHS Principal Felicity Roberts.

“To move forward with a shared future, it is imperative that the community knows about the culture of the First Australians.

“Food, dance, games and art are just some of the ways in which we can make a small step to promoting that culture among our students.

“Moranbah State High School NAIDOC 2019 is an opportunity for the whole school community to recognise the unique place that Indigenous Australians hold in our history and our society today.”

From July 15 to 29, the students will be invited to learn Indigenous songs, dances, games and cooking, which they will share on July 29.

The July 29 event will begin with ‘men’s business’, coordinated by an Indigenous staff member, that will prepare a traditional *kup murri* (food cooked in an underground oven) to share later in the day.

A full school parade will follow, observed by dignitaries like Mayor Anne Baker, Traditional Owners and principals and students from local primary schools.

For the rest of the day, classes will engage in activities including [Deadly Choices](#) discussions, weaving with local Indigenous people, and arts and crafts. A whole-of-school feast will cap the day.

Arrow Energy’s Vice President External Relations and Tenure Management, Leisa Elder, said the company was excited about helping Moranbah students to connect with Indigenous heritage.

“Our company has a strong commitment to promoting Indigenous contribution, supported by the many international staff at Arrow,” she said.

“Coming from more than 20 overseas countries, including from multi-millennial cultures, they are fascinated about the 60,000 years of history behind the First Australians.

“It’s a wonderful story that our Indigenous staff enjoy sharing, which is why we’re very pleased to get behind Moranbah State High’s NAIDOC Week education activities.

“It’s a story that all Australians – Indigenous and non-Indigenous – can be proud of.”

Arrow’s support comes from its [Brighter Futures](#) community investment program.

Other groups to receive Brighter Futures funding in this round are:

- Middlemount Rodeo Association, for ambulance attendance at its two major 2019 events, the Middlemount Campdraft and Middlemount Rodeo. The campdraft is a three-day event which attracts about 700 competitors. The rodeo is a one-night event which, last year, consisted of 11 events and saw more than 800 people come through the gates. Each event is a major stimulus for the community.
- Dysart Community Support Group, for NAIDOC Week celebrations. The group is working with Dysart State High and Dysart State schools, as well as the area’s Traditional Owners, the Barada Barna people. The Barada Barna will provide an interactive educational experience for school students for the day, demonstrating a kup murri and a range of traditional crafts and activities. Hospitality students will be given the opportunity to learn traditional cooking methods. The whole town will be invited to an evening celebration with the Barada Barna people undertaking a traditional smoking ceremony and sharing knowledge about their culture through an information display also featuring traditional artefacts.
- Moranbah Rodeo Association, for an ambulance at its rodeo in June. The event attracts competitors from Queensland, NSW and Victoria, and a gate of about 1000 people. It will have events for the Australian Professional Rodeo Association competition, as well as other events for local competitors.

Arrow’s Brighter Futures program supports local, not-for-profit groups to build community capacity in health, safety, education and environmental awareness. Brighter Futures has contributed more than \$25 million to community projects across Queensland since 2011.

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#### **Arrow Energy Pty Ltd**

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