MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW MOURNS JIMMY LITTLE

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Victor Dominello has paid tribute to the life and legacy of musician Jimmy Little, who died at his home in Dubbo yesterday following a long battle with illness.

“Jimmy Little was an icon of the Australian music scene and a tireless campaigner for Aboriginal people,” said Mr Dominello.

“His legacy will live on not only in his music, but in his support of Aboriginal health.

“I extend my deepest sympathies to Dr Little’s family, and the broader Aboriginal community, for their loss.”

Mr Dominello said James Oswald “Jimmy” Little AO was a Yorta Yorta man born on the Cummerajunga Mission in south western NSW.

“His career took him all over Australia, and won him a wide fan base from all walks of life,” Mr Dominello said.

“Despite being diagnosed with kidney failure in 2004, Jimmy continued to work and perform.

“His legacy extended far beyond his musical career.

“The Jimmy Little Foundation was established to raise broader community awareness of the health issues confronting Aboriginal Australians and foster innovative programs to improve Aboriginal health across Australia.

“Jimmy also served as the patron of the Indigenous Doctors Association of Australia and was an ambassador for Kidney Health Australia and the Fred Hollows Foundation.”

Jimmy Little was the recipient of a number of awards during his life. In 1989, he was named the NAIDOC Aboriginal of the year for his community work. In 1999, Jimmy was inducted into the ARIA Hall of Fame and was awarded Best Male Artist and Best Single of the Year at the Deadlys. He was also an ambassador for numeracy and literacy from 2002, and was named NSW Senior of the Year that same year.

In 2004, Jimmy was awarded the Order of Australia, and honoured as one of Australia’s Living Treasures.