APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR 2013 NAIDOC FUNDING

The NSW Government is providing $80,000 to support NAIDOC Week celebrations across the state, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Victor Dominello announced today.

Organisations such as schools, Local Aboriginal Land Councils and other community groups have until 19 April to apply for funding to help finance events.

NAIDOC, which originally stood for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee, celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and recognises the contributions of Aboriginal Australians in various fields.

“Last year, the NSW Government supported 70 NAIDOC events around NSW including art exhibitions, flag raising ceremonies and concerts,” Mr Dominello said.

“I am pleased to announce this latest funding during a significant year in the history of relations between the NSW Government and Aboriginal people.

“This year marks the 30th anniversary of the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act, which established an elected network of land councils across the state and provided a framework for compensation for land taken as a result of colonisation.”

The theme for NAIDOC Week 2013 is We value the vision: Yirrkala Bark Petitions 1963, which celebrates the 50th anniversary of the presentation of petitions to the Federal Parliament by the Yolngu people of Arnhem Land.

The petitions protested the Commonwealth’s granting of mining rights on land excised from the Arnhem Land reserve and sought recognition by the Australian Parliament of the Yolngu peoples’ traditional rights and ownership of the land.

“NAIDOC Week not only encourages the wider community to celebrate Aboriginal cultures, it also adds to the pride and sense of identity for Aboriginal people,” Mr Dominello said.

“We can all celebrate by visiting local Aboriginal sites, inviting Aboriginal Elders to speak to your organisation or simply reading a Dreamtime story.”

Selection criteria and application forms are available at www.daa.nsw.gov.au and at local offices of NSW Aboriginal Affairs. Call (02) 9219 0700 for details.

Applications must be lodged before 19 April 2013.

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