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MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 6 October 2015

NITV announces further commitment to the remote Indigenous production sector at the 17th National Remote Indigenous Media Festival

\$30,000 NITV Spirit Award awarded to Marumpu Wangka! Kukatjua Hand Talk Re-commissioning of Our Stories documentary initiative

NITV announced its continued commitment to remote Indigenous production during the *Indigenous Remote Communications Association (IRCA) Media Festival*, revealing this year's **NITV Spirit Award** winner and calling for submissions for a fourth series of mini-documentary initiative, **Our Stories**.

Announced in the Northern Territory's Lajamanu community, the \$30,000 *NITV Spirit Award*, offered as a commissioning pre-sale, recognised the work of **Pilbara and Kimberley Aboriginal Media** for **Marumpu Wangka! Kukatjua Hand Talk** and will lead to a 30-minute documentary production to be broadcast nationally on NITV in 2016.

Mary Ellen Mullane, NITV's Senior Commissioning Editor, said: "We assessed 156 works and were very impressed by the diversity of the films and their subject matter, as well as the ever increasing talent within the remote media production sector."

Groundbreaking short-documentary initiative, **Our Stories**, which aims to share the history, culture and language of Indigenous Australia through stories of elders, youth and communities, was also announced for a fourth series. Part of NITV's *Regional, Remote and Emerging Initiative*, the series will welcome a further 40-50 works for 2016, engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander filmmakers from across Australia.

Tanya Denning-Orman, NITV Channel Manager, added: "NITV is proud to support Indigenous storytelling from the remote sector, developing the skills of filmmakers to bring stories of our culture, people and languages to all Australians."

The 2015 Festival was hosted by IRCA, in partnership with PAW Media and Communications and the Lajamanu community, with key partner Indigenous Community Television.

For more information, visit the [NITV website](#) and join in the conversation on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) using #NITV.

For further media information and interview requests:

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National Indigenous Television (NITV), Australia's national Indigenous broadcaster, provides an essential voice for Indigenous Australians and offers all Australians a window to Indigenous cultural heritage, stories, ideas and aspirations. From its beginnings in 2007, NITV has continued to grow, launching as part of SBS on free-to-air television (Channel 34) in December 2012. It now reaches over two million unique viewers a month.