THE HON CHRISTOPHER PYNE MP
Minister for Education
Leader of the House

MEDIA RELEASE

NT researchers preserving endangered Indigenous languages

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A ‘living archive’ of endangered Indigenous languages will be extended thanks to funding of $539 000 provided through the Australian Government for a research project at the Northern Territory’s Charles Darwin University.

Announcing funding for the project, Minister for Education, Hon Christopher Pyne MP, said that investing in research was absolutely critical for the development of new ideas, for progress of our society and a better life for all Australians.

“This project will help preserve indigenous languages for future generations to study and explore,” Mr Pyne said.

“This Government is providing a total of $522 million towards promising research to occur across Australia’s research institutions through the Australian Research Council (ARC),” he said.

Professor Michael Christie at Charles Darwin University will use a $539 000 Linkage, Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) grant to build upon a living archive of 16 Indigenous languages that was created with funding from a previous LIEF funding grant.

Stage two of the project to be funded will extend the archive, involving more partner organisations to radically expand the number of languages and document types included.

The project will also engage local language authorities, community members and school students to work with researchers around the world to refine and extend the archive.

“This $539 000 investment is great news for the Northern Territory because it highlights the outstanding research occurring in the territory.”

“This research that will lead to outcomes that could potentially have an important impact not just in Australia, but also on the international stage,” Mr Pyne said.

The research project was announced as part of the ARC’s 2013 Major Grants Announcement, with $522 million announced for 1177 research projects.

To view summaries of all funded projects visit the ARC media announcement kit. For more information on the ARC and its funding schemes, visit www.arc.gov.au.

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