



Rio Tinto

MEDIA RELEASE

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Rio Tinto–DADAA arts initiative will support Busselton’s FIFO families and friends

A major new community arts project in Busselton will engage fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) partners, wives, families and friends in an effort to build social connection and community resilience in the region.

The project is part of a two-year partnership with DADAA and Rio Tinto that will work in five Western Australian communities: Busselton, Paraburdoo, Geraldton, Derby and Esperance. The statewide project will engage both FIFO and residential workers and their families, as well as members from Aboriginal, farming and young adult communities.

Named after the number of communities, the project, called FIVE, will build awareness around issues of mental health through a community arts and cultural development approach. The project addresses key components of the Mental Health Commissions’ 2020 strategy for Western Australia.

Two series of workshops will begin in Busselton in October and November.

- Local community artist Nicole Mickle will work with FIFO wives and partners in a series of ephemeral arts workshops over six weeks that culminates in a public installation.
- Sculptor and performance artist Hiromi Tango will run a series of drop-in workshops that engage schools, youth groups, community organisations and the wider community to build a large-scale sculpture.

At the same time, highly regarded digital artist Craig Walsh will film community portraits that capture community stories and impacts from the Busselton project.

The artistic outcomes from both workshops will culminate in a public exhibition and screening in the City of Busselton’s Artgeo Cultural Precinct on 22 November 2013.

DADAA Executive Director David Doyle said that participatory arts have been shown to be a powerful tool in building community resilience.

“The launch of FIVE is the start of a journey to address complex mental health needs across a range of settings in Western Australia through socially inclusive models,” said Mr Doyle.

“Community arts and cultural development projects that are designed to generate dialogue around important issues and allow for self-advocacy can help address the long-standing challenge of stigma around mental health – especially for isolated communities.”

The Busselton component of the project is part of Rio Tinto’s commitment to regional communities in which employees and families live. Rio Tinto recently opened a Busselton office and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Busselton, showing its commitment to the South West.

“Busselton is Rio Tinto’s largest FIFO hub in the State,” said John Dumbill, General Manager for Hope Downs Operations. “Our direct commute services fly to five inland mines in the Pilbara.

“We have already established good relationships with a number of community-based groups in the area and look forward to developing those and others that work towards building a strong and sustainable future for the South West.”

City of Busselton Mayor, Ian Stubbs, said that the City was excited to be involved in the state-wide project.

“FIVE is an innovative way to link regional centres facing challenges associated with a large and growing FIFO workforce,” said Mr Stubbs. “We believe that this initiative will bring a host of cultural and social



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benefits and further strengthen the relationship between FIFO workers and families and the broader community.”

Members of the FIFO and broader community are invited to attend the workshops that will run from 21 October to 21 November 2013, on Thursdays to Mondays from 11am to 4pm. For additional workshop information, email busselton@five.org.au.

Additional Information on FIVE

The initiative supports the Mental Health Commission’s Mental Health 2020 strategy, one component of which is to build peer-to-peer connection as a means of facilitating dialogue around mental health.

FIVE addresses findings from recent research noting lack of communication and social isolation as contributing factors to poor mental health – particularly amongst the State’s regional communities.

A significant evaluation of FIVE will be conducted throughout the two-year pilot period. DADAA will work in partnership with researchers from Murdoch University to develop a framework for evaluation and then measure the impacts of the CACD models used on participants, organisations and communities.

A website will provide information on the project, showcase artistic and cultural outcomes and make available mental health resources.

About DADAA

DADAA is a not-for-profit community arts and cultural development (CACD) organisation, focusing on creating significant positive social change and opportunities for people with a disability or a mental illness. Based in Fremantle, DADAA offers targeted arts and cultural programs that include a broad range of traditional and new media projects in almost 50 Western Australian communities.

About Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto is a leading international mining group headquartered in the UK, combining Rio Tinto plc, a London and New York Stock Exchange listed company, and Rio Tinto Limited, which is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange.

Rio Tinto's business is finding, mining, and processing mineral resources. Major products are aluminium, copper, diamonds, thermal and metallurgical coal, uranium, gold, industrial minerals (borax, titanium dioxide and salt) and iron ore. Activities span the world and are strongly represented in Australia and North America with significant businesses in Asia, Europe, Africa and South America.

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