



RioTinto

MEDIA RELEASE

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Rio Tinto–DADAA initiative brings its unique statewide community arts project to Derby

Derby will be the next stop in a statewide community arts project taking place around Western Australia.

The unique project will kick off with community workshops that will engage the local community in building a large-scale community sculpture for exhibition in October.

Drop-in workshops will be held from 12 September to 3 October at the Derby Scout Hall, site of the old Fire Station. These are open to everyone and there is no cost to participate.

Called FIVE, the project is taking place in five communities around WA over two years. Collectively, the project aims to build social connection and community resilience in regional Western Australia through participatory arts projects.

FIVE is a two-year partnership between leading community arts and cultural developing organisation DADAA and Rio Tinto. Arts activities have already taken place in Busselton, Geraldton and Esperance, with the Paraburdoo sculptural project ongoing.

The statewide project is specifically engaging whole communities in several related projects that give people many and varied opportunities to participate in the project. Some activities are specifically targeted at fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) workers and their families, as well as members from Aboriginal, farming and young adult communities.

FIVE recently received national recognition when it won a silver Achievement Award at the Mental Health Services Awards ceremony for 'Mental Health Promotion or Mental Illness Prevention'.

During the whole-of-community sculpture workshops in Derby, participants can contribute to the sculpture by creating small individual works of art that will be bound together to create a large and colourful installation. Workshops will be facilitated by community and performance artist Hiromi Tango in a warm and welcoming environment.

Other arts workshops are also being held at venues in the Derby area, including at Mowanjum Arts Centre, to provide inclusive programs for all in the local community.

During September and October, digital artist Craig Walsh will film recollections and observations from three community members about the history and identity of Derby that will result in a single collective work.

The sculpture and film will be exhibited over three days, from 8–10 October. A community celebration will be held during this time.

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

“FIVE gives people the opportunity to come together, to create something collectively and to experience the benefits of social connection,” said Mr Doyle.

“The project is designed to generate dialogue within a community and to allow for self-advocacy around important issues of wellbeing. Almost 5,000 people have directly engaged with our Busselton and

Geraldton projects, where a number of publically exhibited artworks have shared collective narratives around what it means to 'belong' in a regional community."

Rio Tinto commenced its FIFO program in Derby in 2010, with the Derby to Yandicoogina direct commutes now extending to the Fitzroy Valley region to provide access for those living in remote communities.

"As one of Australia's largest private sector employers of Aboriginal people, we consider Aboriginal employment to be an integral part of our Regional FIFO program," said Matthew Holcz, General Manager, Yandicoogina.

"Communities such as Derby, where our employees and their families live, are important to us, and we are pleased to support projects such as FIVE, which aim to contribute to the resilience and sustainability of regional Western Australia."

For more information on FIVE Derby, call Chris on (08) 9430 6616 or email derby@five.org.au

All events are free. For more information, visit www.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 is being conducted throughout the two-year pilot period. DADAA is working in partnership with researchers from Murdoch University to collect the social impacts of the CACD models used on participants, organisations and communities.

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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