



# RioTinto

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Rio Tinto–DADAA partnership looks at the stigma of mental health**

Rio Tinto and leading arts organisation DADAA Inc have launched a two-year project that will address the stigma of mental health in regional communities across Western Australia with an investment of over \$770,000.

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 (CACD) approach.

The two-year pilot will work in five communities: Paraburdoo, Busselton, Geraldton, Derby and Esperance. It will engage both fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) and residential workers and their families, as well as members from Aboriginal, farming and young adult communities.

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.

Over two years, experienced artists from DADAA will work with participants in each of the five communities to create artistic works that result from an engaged process of collaboration. A digital platform will map the process and outcomes of FIVE. The online presence will also support the project's goals for peer-to-peer connection and for sharing the artistic outcomes from communities.

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."

Michael Gollschewski, Managing Director of Pilbara Mines for Rio Tinto, said that Rio Tinto aims to create an environment that acknowledges, supports and promotes good mental health within its workplace and in the communities in and around where we work and live.

"Rio Tinto acknowledges the increases in mental illness reported through the health sector – and as one of the largest employers, this inevitably involves our people too – so we are taking a more proactive and coordinated approach to address the challenge across our business," he said.

"This includes a company-wide mental health framework. We are committed to working with sector leaders to pilot innovative and collaborative models that address both current research needs and long-term sustainable community practice. The company prides itself on being not only an employer of choice, but a leader in the field of community investment."

Rio Tinto and Mental Health Commission this week announced a new memorandum of understanding outlining a commitment to collaborate on projects that support mental illness prevention and anti-stigma. FIVE is the first collaborative project.



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## **Additional Information**

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.

At the end of the project, collective impacts will be collated with findings presented in a final report and shared widely with the resources, arts and health sectors.

The five projects will be sequenced over the two-year pilot, with Paraburdoo already underway, and Busselton and Derby in planning stages. Geraldton and Esperance-based projects will commence in 2014.

The Paraburdoo project involves creating a public sculpture for the town of Paraburdoo, involving mining workers, their families and the larger community.

## **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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