



# RioTinto

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Arts engagement project wins mental health award**

The statewide arts and health project FIVE received national recognition this week when it won a silver Achievement Award at the Mental Health Services Awards ceremony. The event was part of the national Mental Health Services Conference held in Perth from 26 to 29 August.

FIVE won the award in the category for 'Mental Health Promotion or Mental Illness Prevention'. Named for the number of communities in which the project is taking place, FIVE aims to reduce stigma and build awareness around mental health issues through a community arts and cultural development (CACD) approach.

The initiative is a partnership between leading arts organisation DADAA and Rio Tinto. It 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 also 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.

Using highly regarded and experienced community artists to facilitate a range of arts projects, FIVE commenced in August 2013 and has since completed projects in the communities of Busselton and Geraldton. Projects in Derby and Esperance will take place during September and October 2014.

The Paraburdoo project is the longest running, with the project involving mine workers in building a large-scale sculpture for the town of Paraburdoo. The unique work is a significant undertaking and is using mining techniques – specifically blast forming – to create shapes that will be used in the final work.

While FIVE is primarily a whole-of-community initiative, it has also targeted specific populations including fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) and residential workers and their families, as well as members from Aboriginal, farming and young adult communities.

DADAA Executive Director David Doyle said that participatory arts have been shown to be a powerful tool in building community resilience, and that early outcomes from FIVE demonstrate the broad social impacts that the project is having.

"The art works produced during the project – the digital portraits component of the project, for example – capture collective narratives around belonging and isolation and serve as an important self-advocacy tool for communities," said Mr Doyle.

"We have also established strong partnerships with local governments and community groups, which have helped to engage more than 5,000 direct participants so far, with benefits also reaching broader audiences, family and friends."

"Rio Tinto has been a proud supporter of DADAA for more than ten years," said Andrew Harding, Chair of the Rio Tinto Community Investment Fund and Chief Executive, Iron Ore. "We are very pleased to see the positive impact that FIVE is having in regional and remote communities.

"We aim to create an environment that acknowledges, supports and promotes good mental health in the workforce and the community. FIVE is just one way in which we are working together with the communities where our employees live and work, to encourage people to talk openly about mental health."



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Mental Health Commissioner Timothy Marney congratulated both DADAA and Rio Tinto on the award.

“Getting people talking about mental health is key to reducing stigma and building awareness, which is why the FIVE project is such a unique and effective initiative,” said Mr Marney.

“The way in which the project has involved people at the grassroots is outstanding.”

## 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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