



For immediate release

A partnership to bring music to Yipirinya School in the Northern Territory

On Thursday 5th June, The Song Room in partnership with Yipirinya School will launch *Alyelhaye* (*pronounced Yu-lay*), a crowdfunding campaign via pozible.com to give access to music to some of Australia's most disadvantaged students.

Yipirinya and The Song Room have recently teamed up to deliver a six month in-school music workshop at Yipirinya. This program has been extremely successful in engaging the students in their education, and the teachers, staff and community at Yipirinya are starting to see some really positive changes in the kids and want the program to continue.

As Yipirinya School Principal Ken Langford-Smith observed, *"Our students, coming from the town camps and outstations of Alice Springs, are some of the most disadvantaged students in Australia. Sadly, in their background, poverty, overcrowding, abuse and neglect are common; alcohol and violence are endemic.*

"School acts as a safe place for students. It is extremely important to offer them exciting ways to engage in their learning, yet as an Independent school we struggle to provide everything they need with our limited resources, and the fact that our parents cannot afford to pay fees.

"You can see the children are engaged in The Song Room program simply because they enjoy it. The children want to be at school on Song Room days. This engagement and team work has a flow on effect into other areas of their education, it builds their confidence and it gets them to school."

Alyelhaye, meaning singing together, asks people to support the project financially by making a contribution via Pozible to keep the program going for another 12 months.

"Ed (the Song Room Teaching Artist) is a good singer. We need you here Ed. I enjoy raps, and putting rhymes into music. It's too much fun working with Ed. It makes Tuesday fun for me, because I like to go into the hall there, and do our special music classes." Year 5/6 Student

Australia's own Indigenous pop star Jessica Mauboy is a committed and passionate Ambassador for the School. Jess is a strong supporter of the Alyelhaye program as she has seen firsthand what engaging the students through music can do.

***"Neither the School nor their parents can financially support a music program at the School, but if we are genuinely concerned about closing the gap in Indigenous education we must give them the same opportunities as students in other schools. The Alyelhaye Project does this."* Jessica Mauboy**

Interview opportunities are available with Yipirinya School Principal Ken Langford-Smith and The Song Room CEO Caroline Aebersold.

For more information or to support the campaign visit <http://pozi.be/yulay> (after launch on 5th June)

Or contact Tammy Schlitz on (03) 9495 6422 or tammy@songroom.org.au.



Yipirinya

Yipirinya School caters for Indigenous students by offering a two-way (bilingual and bicultural) education helping to keep Indigenous culture alive. It teaches literacy and numeracy and western skills following the Northern Territory/National Curriculum framework, and also teaches four Indigenous languages as well as culture.

The Song Room

The Song Room is a national not-for-profit organisation that brightens the futures of Australia's most disadvantaged children with tailored, high-quality music and arts programs, delivered in partnership with schools across the country. Programs are independently proven to lift the academic performance, school attendance, social-emotional wellbeing and community involvement of Australian school children.

The Song Room vision is that all Australian children have the opportunity to participate in music and the arts to enhance their education, personal development and community involvement, giving them the best possible start in life.

The Campaign

The first \$50,000 raised through this campaign will go to providing an in-school music program at Yipirinya School. The program will include a one day per week in-class program with an experienced Song Room Teaching Artist and one day per week of individual or small group instrumental tuition to those students who show a keen interest. The program will include public performance opportunities with Alice Springs renowned 'Drum Atweme performers' and with the NT's Bush Bands Bash in September.

With each dollar donated to the campaign, there is a 'Reward' attached, Alyelhaye Rewards include original artworks by the students of Yipirinya, artworks by recognised Indigenous artists, Alyelhaye tea towels and signed CDs from Jessica Mauboy.

