



## **RACHEL NOLAN MP**

### **Member for Ipswich**

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#### **COLLECTION OF ABORIGINAL SONGS LAUNCHED**

Local Indigenous dance and music was showcased today at the launch of a CD featuring a unique collection of traditional Aboriginal songs from the Ipswich region.

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan, representing Minister for Education and Minister for Arts Anna Bligh, officially launched the CD titled, *Yulwa Boona* which means 'message stick', at the Police Citizen's Youth Club in Ipswich.

"The CD was produced by well-known dance troupe the Nunukul Yuggera Aboriginal Dancers with the assistance of Government funding," Ms Nolan said.

"The production of the CD is an outstanding achievement for the dance troupe and the Indigenous community of Ipswich," she said.

"The CD, which features songs in the traditional Yuggera language, sends a strong message to the young Aboriginal people of the area to respect their culture, their community and themselves.

"The Nunukul Yuggera Aboriginal Dancers, who enjoy a close relationship with the Ipswich people and receive strong support from the Yuggera elders, have established themselves as strong role models for other young people in the region."

Ms Nolan said there were currently 27 Aboriginal dancers in the dance troupe from Ipswich, Inala and Stradbroke Island, the traditional home of the Yuggera people.

"The group has already achieved national and international success, performing at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games celebrations, the 2001 Goodwill Games and at the annual February Carnival in Nice, France," she said.

In partnership with the Ipswich City Council, the Queensland Government sponsored the production of the CD through a \$3,746 Regional Arts Development Fund grant to teach young local Aboriginal men and women about their culture.

Manager of the Nunukul Yuggera Aboriginal Dancers Eddie Ruska said the troupe's main aim was to reconnect displaced Aboriginal youth with their traditional culture.

"The philosophy of our work is to build better lifestyles by addressing criminal activity, and drug, alcohol and substance abuse in a culturally appropriate way," Mr Ruska said.

Further information about the CD is available from We Care Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Service for Aged & Disabled Association on telephone 07 3816 0311.