

DNAP helps local kids achieve their full potential



Students performing hip-hop dance.

As part of IPL's Indigenous Employment Program, **The Hood**, an Indigenous youth program unique to the Pilbara and Western Australia, has been a successful recipient of an IPL Community Fund grant for A\$10,000.

Through the use of hip-hop dance, The Hood inspires and engages young people. The program, which is run through local schools such as South Hedland Primary School, promotes community development and leadership, and challenges students to be role models in the classroom and community.

"The Hood was awarded this grant as its work aligns with the work we are doing to engage Indigenous people in employment as well as contributing to closing the gap on the grassroots causes of social disparity," said Mary McCabe, Indigenous Programs Manager.

"DNAP is proud to be working with The Hood on improving young people's lives and future life opportunities."

The Hood is supported by volunteer parents known as 'Mumz Inda Hood' and on average 40 to 50 children attend the hip-hop program weekly.

The organisation also provides teenagers with career opportunities. Its teenage employment program, called 'Jobs 4d Mob', has seen more than 20 year eight and nine students being placed into first-time casual employment.

A peer mentoring program has also been established where young people teach and mentor other young people.

"We wanted to find a program that would benefit the whole community and make a positive difference in a sustainable way," Mary said. "The Hood helps to build students' confidence and the skills needed to be active citizens of their community."

The program also focuses on giving back to the community and over the past 12 months The Hood has performed to thousands of Hedland residents.

Thanks to the grant, The Hood will be able to continue to build in areas such as:

- Confident and healthy children.
- Inclusive and connected communities.
- Pathways to employment.
- Partnerships across justice, education and health.

In line with IPL's value, *Value People – Respect, Recognise & Reward*, the Indigenous Employment Program aims to increase the number of opportunities for Indigenous Australians by providing access to employment, education and training as well as focusing on developing cultural understanding and respect within its workforce.

The program is also a key component of IPL's approach to Diversity, ensuring we are living our Diversity pillars: Respecting our Differences; Shaping our future organisation; and Building a flexible organisation.

"Embracing Diversity is about valuing the unique attributes and different characteristics of each individual," Mary said.

With more than 15 projects operating throughout rural Australia, IPL's Indigenous Employment Program is already developing stronger relationships with the community.

To find out more about the Indigenous Employment Program, [click here](#).



Some of The Hood crew.