

25 July 2019

## **Kids on Country set to provide more opportunities for Aboriginal youth**

**Nature Foundation SA is excited to announce the expansion of our highly successful Kids on Country program to reach more Aboriginal young people in regional areas for pathways to further education and employment.**

Kids on Country has secured funding from the Australian Government's Building Better Region Fund, Community Investment Stream – Round 3. The grant will enable the program to employ more Aboriginal people, including more paid roles for Traditional Owners in delivering six outback ecology camps in 2020, to be held at Nature Foundation SA's Witchelina and Hiltaba Nature Reserves in the Arid Lands and Gawler Ranges respectively.

The Kids on Country program is strongly underpinned by a desire to build positive working relationships and partnerships with the Aboriginal community, through connecting young people to nature and country. With a strong focus on workplace skills and links to regional employers, young Aboriginal participants gain increased opportunities for employment post-education, to enable them to contribute to their communities and the Far North region generally.

Benefits for participants also include encouragement to remain in education at regional schools and consider tertiary education; improved well-being and self-esteem; and developing skills and knowledge in conservation and land management practices.

Beverley Patterson an Adnyamthanha – Kuyani Traditional Owner commented, "My people are very pleased to be involved with the delivery of the program and to see the difference it is making to the young people who have participated in the program to date. Bringing them back to country is one of the most important aspects of keeping our people's traditions alive."

Kids on Country has received rave reviews from teachers and students alike; "The camp provided opportunities to meet with staff with different areas of expertise and this has allowed children to experience career pathway options that they may consider later in life such as park rangers, working in the Department of Environment and Water, Youth Program Co-ordinator and more," said Haesil Kim, a teacher at Crossways Lutheran School in Ceduna.

The success of Kids on Country is built on extensive engagement and consultation with Aboriginal community leaders, regional secondary schools, Traditional Owners, industry partners and expert facilitators to deliver a high-quality inclusive program. To learn more or become involved in the program please visit: <https://naturefoundation.org.au/news-events/kids-on-country>

For further information, high-res images or to arrange an interview, contact:

Gretta Koch, Marketing & Communications Manager, Nature Foundation SA, [gretta.koch@nfsa.org.au](mailto:gretta.koch@nfsa.org.au), 08 8340 2880 or 0415 935 876.

## **About Nature Foundation SA:**

Over the past 38 years Nature Foundation SA has invested in conserving, restoring and protecting South Australian landscapes to ensure nature survives and thrives in our magnificent state. We do this by:

- restoring unique habitats and revitalising damaged ecosystems
- saving threatened species
- revitalising wetlands and floodplains along the River Murray with environmental watering
- working with local communities
- funding conservation research projects
- encouraging environmental education and citizen science
- nature-based tourism and geotourism on our Nature Reserves

## **Fast facts:**

- Nature Foundation SA has helped protect over 1.1 million hectares of South Australia and is currently working on protecting the next 1.1 million!
- Over 400 post-graduate student grants awarded by Nature Foundation SA continue to yield amazing work and attract wonderful, bright minds to nature science
- Our Water For Nature Program has delivered 13 gigalitres of environmental water to help revitalise 90 River Murray wetland and floodplain sites
- Nature Foundation SA manages six Nature Reserves with significant conservation value. This land protects threatened species, builds wildlife corridors and provides a base from which scientific studies can be undertaken.

**For further information about Nature Foundation SA please visit our website:**

<https://naturefoundation.org.au/>