

## **Indigenous language training inspires, builds connections**

Eleven Indigenous participants have come together in Melbourne for an innovative week-long train-the-trainer workshop under the Documenting and Revitalising Indigenous Languages (DRIL) Training Program hosted by the Resource Network for Linguistic Diversity (RNL D).

Participants, representing 11 different languages, have travelled from Ngukurr in the Northern Territory and Broome and Geraldton in Western Australia, as well as Victoria and South Australia. They have strengthened skills in linguistics, language teaching and digital technologies.

The training has focused on building Indigenous people's capacity to develop, run and manage their own language projects. It has also provided a valuable opportunity for networking and mentoring. Participants will return to their communities and workplaces with new skills, plans and enthusiasm to share with colleagues, students and families.

Hiroko Shioji, a Yawuru woman from Broome, said: "As a passionate Yawuru language teacher, the training has been inspiring, educational and powerful. I'm looking forward to returning home to network and share the invaluable knowledge and skills with other Yawuru speakers, and anyone who is genuinely interested in learning or teaching Yawuru. It's very exciting and motivating."

Grant Thompson, a Ngandi language worker from Ngukurr Language Centre in the NT, said: "I'm very proud to be a big part of this workshop. Because my languages are slowly going and I've got a big responsibility to maintain Ngandi. Seeing others like me from around the country, being in the same boat, it's a great feeling to have – surrounded by people who are very passionate about their language."

The DRIL Training Program supports the long-term maintenance of Australian Aboriginal languages and has so far supported 83 languages across Australia. This workshop is funded by a Professional Development grant from the Australian Government's Indigenous Languages Support (ILS) grant scheme (administered by the Ministry for the Arts, Attorney-General's Department).

### **Workshop participants available for interview. Photos available on request.**

For further information, contact Tamsin Wagner, RNL D Operations Manager, on 03 9041 5474 or 0427 587 431