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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Indigenous languages training celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> workshop***

The Resource Network for Linguistic Diversity (RNLD) will celebrate an important milestone this week, our 100<sup>th</sup> DRIL (Documenting and Revitalising Indigenous Languages) workshop at Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring (MDWg), Kununurra, WA on May 11-13.

RNLD first launched its pilot DRIL program at MDWg in October 2012, and has since reached more than 420 indigenous people in 88 language groups across Australia.

The DRIL training is unique as it offers grassroots training onsite to Aboriginal people in family groups, community groups, and Aboriginal Language Centres. DRIL offers skills in language teaching, linguistics, resource production and technologies to document Aboriginal languages. The core goal of the DRIL training is to build autonomy and enable people to be leaders of their own language projects. This goal is being realised through a growing cohort of Aboriginal people who are beginning to develop and manage their own language projects and train people in their communities.

RNLD director Dr Margaret Florey said that the Indigenous language workers at MDWg are gaining confidence in speaking and teaching the Miriwoong language, and have been working independently to build a Miriwoong dictionary database and create a wide variety of language resources. In this week's workshop, the language workers will increase their familiarity with linguistics and practice applying their language knowledge in a language-teaching context.

Dr Knut J. Olawsky, senior linguist and manager of MDWg expressed his acknowledgement of the progress made by RNLD since first starting the DRIL program, saying, "This initiative has made such a difference for the empowerment of our language worker team. We hosted the first DRIL workshop and now the 100<sup>th</sup>— we are delighted and are hoping to see many more visits in the future."

**Editor's note:** RNLD supports the long-term maintenance of Australian Aboriginal languages. This workshop is funded by the Australian Government's Indigenous Languages and Arts (ILA) grant scheme (administered by the Ministry for the Arts, Attorney-General's Department).

For further interviews, see [www.rnld.org/mediaevents](http://www.rnld.org/mediaevents)  
or contact:

Tamsin Wagner (RNLD operations manager), Melbourne, Vic

(03) 9041-5474

Emma Murphy (DRIL trainer)

0488 208 235

Knut Olawsky (senior linguist & manager MDWg), Kununurra, WA

(08) 9169-1029

**Photos available on request**