



THE INDIGENOUS LITERACY FOUNDATION

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PAAKANTYI & ENGLISH CHILDREN'S BOOK TO BE LAUNCHED IN WILCANNIA 29 APRIL 2011

The Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) will visit Wilcannia on Friday 29 April to launch a book that combines the local Paakantyi language and English text.

Written by Indigenous Language Consultant Faith Baisden, *My Mara Love to Clap* is a fun children's book that introduces the Paakantyi words alongside English text. Children learn new words that describe parts of the body in a song format, and are encouraged to clap, stomp and dance along. Faith will be leading workshops at local schools in Menindee on Thursday 28 April and in Wilcannia on Friday 29 April and copies of the book will be given to the children.

Faith developed *My Mara Love To Clap* after the ILF visit to Wilcannia last year, where she was inspired by the warmth of the community and by the children's eagerness to learn. Faith worked in consultation with Murray Butcher, Paakantyi Language & Culture Officer based at Wilcannia.

Faith is the Founding Director of *Binabar Books*, publishing books that can be adapted to include vocabulary from any Indigenous language.

"*My Mara Love To Clap* celebrates the local language of Wilcannia and encourages the children to read and develop their literacy skills in both Paakantyi and English", says Faith Baisden.

The Indigenous Literacy Foundation is an initiative of the Australian Book Industry. It aims to raise literacy levels and improve the lives and opportunities of Indigenous children living in remote and isolated regions around Australia.

Last year, The Indigenous Literacy Foundation worked with over 200 communities across Australia and during the past two years has sent over 60,000 culturally appropriate books and literacy resources to remote communities.

For information or interviews please contact Debra Dank, Program Manager or Karen Williams, Executive Director, Indigenous Literacy Foundation on 02 9555 5605 or 04040 75924 or by email karen@indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au or visit www.indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au