



HOPE VALE ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

MEETING REPORT

ITEM NO: **GENERAL MEETING:**

SUBJECT: **Pama Language Centre – Support Requests**

CLASSIFICATION: **ACTION**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council provide letters of support to the Pama Language Centre for the two projects namely;

1. Cape York Languages – Language Legacy Data and Access Strengthening Project
2. Teaching to Learn – A Paman Languages Digital acquisition toolkit

BUDGET & RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

There is no cost to council – letters of support only

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Paman Language Centre has contacted council seeking support for two projects as follows:

1. Cape York Languages – Language Legacy Data and Access Strengthening Project
2. Teaching to Learn – A Paman Languages Digital acquisition toolkit.

Pama Language Centre (PLC) will co-design and implement an initiative to secure, consolidate and facilitate access to archival resources for Cape York languages, including Guugu Yimithirr, Tjungundji, Mpakwithi, Angkamuthi, Atambaya, Kok Kaper, Wik Mungkan, Wik Ngathan and Wik Alken.

This project addresses the risk of data loss and the urgent need for secure, ready access, language community control of data and reconnection of communities with their language legacy by completing coordinated documentation, transcription and digital archiving to strengthen the linguistic foundation of the Cape York language sector.

Key project goals include:

- Developing a co-designed language community-owned data management workflows.
- Retrieving, digitising and reconnecting language communities with archival materials from collections including the Fryer Library, State Library of Queensland, AIATSIS, Adelaide University and other repositories.
- Transcribing and analysing materials for languages as located, so they are accessible to the language community.
- Elicitation and recording with speakers to complete core datasets.
- Establishing a secure digital archive and dictionaries on Minamothu, an open-source, ICIP-compliant environment maintained by Cape York Partnership IT, using the Mukurtu

community archive platform. Built on the Drupal content management system and designed for Indigenous cultural heritage management, Mukurtu is managed by the Centre for Digital Scholarship and Curation at Washington State University and provides flexible, community-governed tools for managing and sharing digital heritage.

- Updated learner grammars and dictionaries available on Minamothu, to support language teaching and revitalisation.
- Training for language champions involved in the project in archival management, linguistic analysis, linguistic elicitation and recording.

Teaching to learn is a specially developed toolkit, combining traditional approaches with effective learning technologies designed to support learner-teachers and to rapidly increase confidence while approximating immersive conditions of natural language acquisition. The Teaching to Learn Toolkit is a practical and scalable integrated suite of tools created with speakers and students including:

- Teaching to Learn lessons for synchronous learning, developed on the flexible, interactive Wayground platform.
- Teaching to Learn Activities and resources for asynchronous language learning.
- Study sets including physical and digital resources created in Omnisets or Quizlet.
- Listen 'n Talk, an eLearn Australia phrase-based app designed for fragile language learning, supports the Teaching to Learn curriculum as an engaging and rigorous practice tool with animated content and gamified features.

LINK TO OPERATIONAL PLAN

2.1 – Culture and Identity

CONSULTATION (Internal/External)

N/a

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no legal issues associated with this request.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

N/a

RISK ASSESSMENT

low

ATTACHMENTS:

Copy of project Overviews.

REFERENCE DOCUMENT:

Email from Raechel Bolton – Bound.

Report Prepared by: Lew Rojahn CEO Date: 11/12/2025	Report Authorised by: Lew Rojahn CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
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Lew Rojahn

From: Mayor Bruce Gibson
Sent: Tuesday, 18 November 2025 7:29 AM
To: Lew Rojahn
Subject: Fw: Pama Language Centre - Request for Council support letter for Guugu Yimithirr language pathways
Attachments: 2 DRAFT LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR Guugu Yimithirr language support projects from HVASC.docx; LANGUAGE PROJECT PROPOSALS 1 & 2.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi can we add to general business pls

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From: Raechel Bolton-Bound <rbolton-bound@cyp.org.au>
Sent: Monday, November 17, 2025 4:37:03 PM
To: Mayor Bruce Gibson <mayor@hopevale.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Karin Calley | Pama Language <kcalley@pamalanguagecentre.org.au>; Kirsty Davis <kdavis@cyi.org.au>; Rylee Smith <rsmith@cyi.org.au>
Subject: Pama Language Centre - Request for Council support letter for Guugu Yimithirr language pathways

Dear Mayor Gibson

I hope this email finds you well.

I am writing on behalf of Pama Language Centre and Cape York Partnership to seek Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council support for current funding applications to strengthen Guugu Yimithirr language pathways.

Pama Language Centre is working with partners in Hope Vale to develop projects that support young people and families to learn Guugu Yimithirr, build local language jobs and protect language recordings and archives for future generations. This includes exploring structured pathways such as cadetships in language roles.

Amanda Fyfe suggested I contact you directly so that Council can consider a short letter of support for these projects. I have attached a draft for your convenience, which you are very welcome to adapt so that it reflects the views and priorities of Council.

If it is possible to table this request at Council's next meeting, that would be greatly appreciated. We would be very grateful to receive a signed letter of support by Thursday so that it can be included with the funding submission.

Thank you for considering this request. I would be very happy to provide any further information you may need.

Kind Regards,
Raechel Bolton-Bound
Project and Opportunity Officer

P 0486 162 837

E rbolton-bound@cyp.org.au

Cairns Office 302-310 Sheridan Street | PO Box 677, Cairns North QLD 4870 | W capeyorkpartnership.org.au



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Cape York Solutions is an initiative of Cape York Partnership

Cape York Solutions acknowledges the Traditional Custodian of land we work and we pay respects to Elders both past and present.

We work for reconciliation, recognition and a First Nations voice in the Constitution, as called for in the Uluru Statement from the Heart

PROJECT OVERVIEW OF PROPOSAL 1: **Teaching to Learn: A Paman Languages Digital Acquisition Toolkit**

Pama Language Centre will co-design, co-develop and deliver the digital learning tools Teaching to Learn and Listen 'n Talk, for Wik Mungkan, Oko Wurriima, Guugu Yimithirr, Kuku Yalanji, Mpakwithi, Tjungundji, Angkamuthi and Atambaya language communities. Built for fragile-language contexts, this project supports beginners to become confident learners, sharers and classroom-ready learner-teachers.

Teaching to learn is a specially developed toolkit, combining traditional approaches with effective learning technologies designed to support learner-teachers and to rapidly increase confidence while approximating immersive conditions of natural language acquisition. The Teaching to Learn Toolkit is a practical and scalable integrated suite of tools created with speakers and students including:

- Teaching to Learn lessons for synchronous learning, developed on the flexible, interactive Wayground platform.
- Teaching to Learn Activities and resources for asynchronous language learning.
- Study sets including physical and digital resources created in Omnisets or Quizlet.
- Listen 'n Talk, an eLearn Australia phrase-based app designed for fragile language learning, supports the Teaching to Learn curriculum as an engaging and rigorous practice tool with animated content and gamified features.

The Teaching to Learn Toolkit supports beginner learners to become active, confident and culturally connected learners able to practise, share and teach their language. The key objective is to build language community capacity through collaborative design, development and delivery of an integrated, foundational digital toolkit for at-risk Cape York languages.

Short term outcomes focus on providing the most disadvantaged language communities with the high-quality tools and training required to learn and teach effectively in person or online and at any scale.

Long term outcomes aim to develop a viral model of language revitalisation in which learners become confident teachers and then trainers of learner teachers, creating viability for the most fragile and disadvantaged language communities.

PROJECT OVERVIEW OF PROPOSAL 2:

Cape York Languages: Language Legacy Data and Access Strengthening Project

PLC will consolidate and secure records for Cape York languages using Minamothu digital archive. The project will complete language corpora, transcribe and digitise existing records, analyse and protect cultural data, provide training, facilitate community access, and strengthen language revitalisation through updated learner grammars, dictionaries and sustainable, ICIP-compliant data management systems.

Pama Language Centre (PLC) will co-design and implement an initiative to secure, consolidate and facilitate access to archival resources for Cape York languages, including Guugu Yimithirr, Tjungundji, Mpakwithi, Angkamuthi, Atambaya, Kok Kaper, Wik Mungkan, Wik Ngathan and Wik Alken.

This project addresses the risk of data loss and the urgent need for secure, ready access, language community control of data and reconnection of communities with their language legacy by completing coordinated documentation, transcription and digital archiving to strengthen the linguistic foundation of the Cape York language sector.

Key project goals include:

- Developing a co-designed language community-owned data management workflows.
- Retrieving, digitising and reconnecting language communities with archival materials from collections including the Fryer Library, State Library of Queensland, AIATSIS, Adelaide University and other repositories.
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- Updated learner grammars and dictionaries available on Minamothu, to support language teaching and revitalisation.
- Training for language champions involved in the project in archival management, linguistic analysis, linguistic elicitation and recording.

This project will strengthen the Cape York languages sector by consolidating resources, building community control of research and teaching tools, and developing long-term digital infrastructure to safeguard and revitalise Cape York languages for future generations.

DRAFT Letter of support from Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council for Project Proposal 1,
Teaching to Learn: A Paman Digital Language Acquisition Toolkit

(please delete the subject title above and put this letter on Hope Vale Shire letterhead)

18/11/2025

To the Indigenous Languages and Arts Program Assessment Panel,

Re: Endorsement for Teaching to Learn: A Paman Digital Language Acquisition Toolkit

I, [Name], [Position] of Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council, affirm our support for this important initiative.

In its role as local government body Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council has a mandate to promote traditional culture, arts, and education for the people of Hope Vale, and in this capacity we strongly support Pama Language Centre's proposal to develop and deliver the Teaching to Learn project in collaboration with the Guugu Yimithirr community. This project aligns with Council's aims to support increased everyday use of the Guugu Yimithirr language, ensure intergenerational transmission, and establish pathways for teaching and learning that will benefit our community for generations to come. Teaching to Learn is a vital and urgent step in securing our cultural heritage for future generations, and we are committed to supporting its success.

We recognise the invaluable role the Guugu Yimithirr community, including Elders, learners and language champions, will play in co-designing and developing this important project.

All recordings and materials developed by this project will follow agreed consent procedures and ICIP protocols, with secure storage that includes relevant metadata and culturally appropriate access controls. Outputs from this project will be owned by the Guugu Yimithirr language community and ongoing support for use of Teaching to Learn lessons and the Listen 'n Talk app will be provided free of charge to language community members by Pama Language Centre.

Hope Vale Council expects that this project will greatly increase the use of the Guugu Yimithirr language in homes, schools, and community spaces, expand the capacity of learners and teachers, create clear pathways for learners to become teachers, and provide accessible lessons and practice tools for families.

Primary contact:

Name: [Name]

Position: [Title]

Phone: [Number]

Email: [Email]

Signed: _____

Name: [Authorised signatory] | Position: [Title]

For and on behalf of Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council

DRAFT Letter of support from Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council for Project Proposal 2 --
Language Legacy Data and Access Strengthening Project

(please delete the subject title above and put this letter on Hope Vale Shire letterhead)

Date: [DD Month YYYY]

To the Indigenous Languages and Arts Program Assessment Panel

Re: Support for the Language Legacy Data and Access Strengthening Project

I, [Name], [Position] of Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council, confirm the Council's mandate to promote traditional culture, language, arts, and education. This mandate includes initiatives that support traditional language and culture. In this capacity, the Council strongly endorses the Language Legacy Data and Access Strengthening Project proposed by the Pama Language Centre.

This project will establish a foundation for the Guugu Yimithirr community to manage our language legacy and enhance access to Guugu Yimithirr language heritage materials. Improved access and engagement with our language heritage will support the use of the Guugu Yimithirr language in homes, schools, and community settings.

The Guugu Yimithirr community will nominate participants for co-design workshops and training sessions. Elders will review drafts and recordings, provide cultural insights, and validate content before finalisation. All recordings and materials created through this project will adhere to established consent procedures and ICIP protocols. Storage will include appropriate metadata and culturally appropriate access controls.

This initiative aligns with our goals to strengthen intergenerational language transmission, retain control of our language legacy, and develop meaningful and practical pathways for learning and employment for our people. Hope Vale Congress looks forward to working with Pama Language Centre to develop this important project.

Primary contact:

Name: [Name]

Position: [Title]

Phone: [Number]

Email: [Email]

Signed: _____

Name: [Authorised signatory] | Position: [Title]

For and on behalf of Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council