



Expression of Interest

STEM & Culture: Staying Strong – Innovation & Reconciliation

ALPA is the Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation – Unity through Enterprise and was established in 1972 as a co-operative of community stores in Arnhem Land. Today ALPA operates in over 25 remote locations across the NT and Queensland. ALPA is governed by an Aboriginal Board of Directors made up of representatives from its member communities. ALPA is financially independent and is not reliant on external funding or subsidies. It self-funds business development to increase employment and improve services to the community.

In recognition of its strong commitment to Indigenous jobs and training, ALPA was awarded the Employer of the year award at the NT Training Awards on Saturday 29 August, 2015. Across the ALPA group, there are 933 employees, 83% of whom are indigenous. Plastic Fantastic is an ALPA project.

Plastic Fantastic Mission:

Bridge the digital divide for indigenous and increase school attendance through an innovative incentive. Simultaneously improve the environment of the community through recycling plastic litter into 3D printed objects.

Objectives:

- increase school attendance
- Support literacy and numeracy learning by embedding it in fun activities
- Bridge the digital divide between urban and remote environment
- Reframe plastic waste as a useful resource
- Empower geographically isolated indigenous communities to create tailored solutions

ALPA's Partners:

Envirobank, East Arnhem Regional Council, Keep Australia Beautiful, Modfab, Ramingining and Millingimbi Schools.

STEM & Culture: 3D Printed Solar Bike Light Project

In collaboration with Modfab, ALPA has trained 34 indigenous elders across 2 sites in 3D printing and Design. On our last trip to Arnhem Land, Modfab saw an opportunity in the form of a problem. We noticed that bike riding figured prominently in students' lives. Students were using their bikes for a variety of purposes including going to school, going to the shop; family related activities such as running errands/ doing a favour for family members or visiting friends.

Most students used bikes as their main way of getting around in their community. Hence the concept for these learning experiences was conceived in Arnhem Land with STEM and Culture as the main focus. ALPA and Modfab were also proud to be part of creating the Indigenous Digital Excellence Roadmap in Redfern earlier this year, and have incorporated these priority measures into these learning experiences. As a further bonus, it came to light that 3D Printing, CAD and Plastic Fantastic (recycling) could be used to facilitate reconciliation.

Indigenous elders and students from the Ramingining and Millingimbi communities could share their learning of STEM & Culture: Project Bike Light with other schools in Australia. ALPA will be filming students learning with the bike project and sharing their STEM and Culture, so that other schools can participate and use the shared knowledge as part of the reconciliation process.

Modfab will make those learning experiences, PowerPoint Presentation, teaching notes and bike kits available to other schools in Australia next year. Expression of interest to info@modfab.com.au.