



Yamatji Marlpa ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

New Aboriginal Organisation makes first delivery to Pilbara

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The newly-formed **Aboriginal Communities Charitable Organisation Inc. (ACCO)** is officially up and running following the delivery of three pallets of non-perishable food to Port Hedland this week. With the support of [Foodbank Inc](#), [Newcrest Mining](#), and [Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation](#), the Aboriginal Communities Charitable Organisation (ACCO) will soon supply Aboriginal families with healthy and inexpensive groceries through a local distribution outlet at Pundulmurra Tafe in South Hedland.

The ACCO's work aims to:

- create a sustainable food supply
- teach the community to grow food
- provide nutrition education
- facilitate training and job placement



L-R: Homeless Support workers Donita Larry, Clem Taylor and Bethwyn Ryder, ACCO Chairperson Margaret Rose, YMAC's Cris Olegario and Chris Bail from Linfox with the first shipment from Foodbank WA.

The ACCO was formed in late 2008 as a non-profit charitable organisation to help 'close the gap' in local Indigenous communities. The idea came about from a common desire to make a difference to the lives of Aboriginal families living in Pilbara's mining economy, where food and housing prices can be artificially high. Frequent flooding in the region also means communities can be cut off from food supplies and the ACCO is working to establish an emergency-response plan for the cyclone season.

ACCO Chairperson Margaret Rose said, "The ACCO is the result of many volunteers and organisations working together to bring real benefit to Aboriginal people. The tremendous support we have received so far shows the spirit of the Pilbara", said Ms Rose.

Simon Hawkins, CEO, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation said, "The ACCO members live locally and understand their community's needs. They are in the best position to identify local issues and solutions. With support and donations we hope ACCO can keep providing healthy groceries to people who need it most."

The ACCO is seeking partners, volunteers and direct donations before the official launch of the ACCO Food Distribution Outlet in July 2009. To find out how you or your company can get involved contact: Cris Olegario, Business Development Officer, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation, colegario@yamatji.org.au or (08) 9172 5433.

Notes for Editors

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) is the native title representative body for native title claims in the resource-rich Pilbara, Murchison and Gascoyne representative areas of Western Australia.

The organisation has a representative area of almost one million square kilometres and represents over 25 native title claims, all with their own language, culture and traditions.

YMAC is run by an Aboriginal Board and provides a range of services to its members including claim and future-act representation, heritage protection services, community and economic development and natural resource management.

For further information and interviews contact:

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