



Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara

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MEDIA RELEASE: Festival for 40th anniversary of land rights postponed due to COVID

4 August 2021

A festival to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the groundbreaking Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act has been postponed due to the ongoing health risks posed by the COVID-19 Delta variant.

The APY Executive Board has made the difficult and disappointing decision to postpone the event that was scheduled for this October.

The decision to postpone the event was not taken lightly and serves to protect the health and wellbeing of all involved.

It is anticipated the 40th anniversary festival, drawing artists and official guests from across the country, will take place within the first two weeks of April 2022.

The Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act 1981 (SA) remains unprecedented in Australian land rights history in that it granted inalienable freehold title to its traditional Aboriginal owners. It did this by creating Anangu Pitjantjatjara (renamed Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara in 2005) as a statutory authority in which title of the land is vested.

Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara's members are the traditional owners who are to determine, collectively, how the land is to be managed.

APY General Manager Richard King said planning for the 40th anniversary celebrations would continue with the expectation that vaccination levels would continue to improve during 2021.

"Principal amongst risks in proceeding with the event this October is the travel of large numbers of people from in and around the central desert area, which covers three states," Mr King said.

"The nature of the festival is such that its benefits are not strictly tied to the actual date of the 40th anniversary of the granting of freehold title. APY looks forward to a marvellous celebration in 2022."

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