



## MEDIA RELEASE

13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024

### Transformative Partnership to Empower Indigenous Youth in Alice Springs

Woodville West Torrens Football Club (WWTFC) and Yirara College proudly announce a new partnership aimed at enhancing the lives of Indigenous youth in Alice Springs and neighbouring communities. In response to the considerable challenges Indigenous students encounter in accessing education, employment, and sporting avenues, this initiative seeks to establish a comprehensive program focused on Indigenous education, employment training, and SANFL football pathways to Adelaide.

At its core, the partnership is dedicated to providing holistic support and avenues for growth and development to Indigenous youth aged 14 to 18. Leveraging WWTFC's expertise in football development and community engagement alongside Yirara College's commitment to Indigenous education, the program will deliver tailored academic support, employment training pathways, and structured football opportunities for participants.

The partnership's objectives are focused on empowering Indigenous youth through educational support, employment training opportunities, and cultural enrichment. With a primary emphasis on nurturing cultural pride, leadership skills, and personal development, the program seeks to establish a sustainable model for Indigenous youth development.

David Couzner, CEO of Woodville West Torrens Football Club, expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership, stating, "We are thrilled to embark on this partnership with Yirara College, as we recognise the profound impact it will have on the lives of Indigenous youth in Alice Springs and surrounding communities. Woodville West Torrens Football Club is committed to using football as a vehicle for positive change and empowerment."

Wesley Meurant, Principal of Yirara College, said, "Yirara College is humbled by the partnership developing with the Woodville West Torrens Eagles Football Club. For the young people of the Territory, relationships built on opportunity and a willingness to listen to and acknowledge the voices, gifts and talents of their emerging potential, are significant beyond words. Partnerships such as this, is where real change is achieved."

In conclusion, the partnership between WWTFC and Yirara College holds tremendous potential to positively impact Indigenous youth in Alice Springs and surrounding regions.

As part of the launch, the Yirara College football team will face the APY Thunder representative team in the Don McSweeney Aboriginal Lands Cup at Maughan Thiem Kia Oval on Sunday, May 26th, at 11:00 am as a curtain-raiser to the Eagles v Glenelg league game as part of the SANFL First Nations Round.

Interested parties, including businesses, government agencies, and others who wish to become involved in the program or provide financial support, are encouraged to contact the Woodville West Torrens Football Club.

For inquiries, please contact:

Andy Hood, Commercial Manager, WWTFC, at [andy.hood@wwtfc.com.au](mailto:andy.hood@wwtfc.com.au) or by phone on 08 8347 2444.

### **About Woodville West Torrens Football Club (WWTFC)**

Established in 1991, the Woodville West Torrens Football Club (WWTFC) is a prominent Australian Rules Football club competing in the South Australian National Football League (SANFL). With a rich history of community engagement and football development, WWTFC is dedicated to fostering talent and promoting positive social change through sport.

### **About Yirara College**

Yirara College, located in Alice Springs, is a leading provider of secondary education for Indigenous students from across Central Australia. Founded on principles of Indigenous empowerment and cultural respect, Yirara College is committed to supporting students' academic, cultural, and personal growth.