



# Andrew Stoner MP Deputy Premier of NSW Minister for Tourism & Major Events

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **COME, CREATE & CELEBRATE AT *CORROBOREE SYDNEY***

The nation's largest national Indigenous arts and culture festival, *Corroboree Sydney*, will return in November with more than 100 artists performing during an eleven day program, Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism and Major Events Andrew Stoner and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Victor Dominello announced today.

"*Corroboree Sydney* is a fantastic celebration of our nation's Indigenous culture and the NSW Government is a proud supporter of the event," Mr Stoner said.

"The festival honours Australia's original inhabitants, features performances from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, writers, dancers and musicians, and invites people of all ages and cultures to *come, create and celebrate*.

"*Corroboree Sydney* attracts tourists from both Australia and overseas, with visitors to NSW increasingly seeking Aboriginal experiences. In the past year 705,000 domestic visitors and more than 245,000 international visitors to NSW experienced Aboriginal tourism products and services.

"Events such as *Corroboree Sydney* help promote Indigenous culture and are an important part of the NSW Government's Major Events strategy and our target of doubling overnight visitor expenditure by 2020," he said.

Mr Dominello said Sydney is fitting location for the festival, given NSW is home to one-third of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

"The NSW Government is committed to creating a greater understanding of our rich Aboriginal culture among residents, the tourism industry and visitors," Mr Dominello said.

"The State's Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan 2013-2016 and significant events like *Corroboree Sydney* are helping to achieve this goal.

"The Plan supports existing and emerging NSW Aboriginal tourism experiences, products and businesses. Importantly, it seeks to deliver economic and social benefits for Aboriginal people, both as operators and employees," he said.

*Corroboree Sydney's* Artistic Director Hetti Perkins said: "The Festival celebrates the talent of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with performances, discussions and activities from leading local and well known international Indigenous talent. We warmly invite all Australians to join the 2014 Festival".

Highlights of the 2014 festival program include:

- **Gurung Parade:** Meaning 'child' in the Sydney Eora language, the Gurung Parade marks the start of the festival with a procession of 3000 schoolchildren walking from Hyde Park to the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney. The children create their own handmade Waratahs to carry during the parade, as a way of sharing and understanding local Eora culture and practice.
- **Firelight Ceremony:** Corroboree Sydney Council of Elders will light the Firelight that burns throughout the festival during a public ceremony on the western promenade of Circular Quay, outside the MCA.
- **Black Arts Markets:** Showcasing the works of Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander artists and a chance to meet the makers.
- **Homeground:** A free-two day outdoor event at the Sydney Opera House featuring Dan Sultan, Digging Roots, Richard J Frankland, The Charcoal Club and more.
- **Bangarra Dance Theatre 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Special performance by Bangarra Dance Theatre on the Sydney Opera House western forecourt to mark their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The festival line-up includes an education program designed specifically for teachers and their students. In addition, the Festival features many free family events including a paper canoe making workshop at the Australian National Maritime Museum (29 - 30 November) and a Sunday Family Fun Day at the MCA (30 November), painting, weaving and craft workshops at The Rocks Boatshed (22 – 23 November).

*Corroboree Sydney* is a collaboration between Art Gallery of NSW, Australian Museum, Australian National Maritime Museum, Bangarra Dance Theatre, Blackfella Films, Koori Radio 93.7FM, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (MCA), Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, State Library of NSW, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority and Sydney Opera House.

*Corroboree Sydney* will be held from 20 November to 30 November, 2014. For more information and to view the festival program please visit [www.corroboreesydney.com.au](http://www.corroboreesydney.com.au)