Pilbara Kimberley
University Centres

9 September 2026

Ms Gillian Furlong
Prepare Produce Provide (Under The Stars Karratha Working Group)
Karratha WA 6714

Dear Gillian,

Letter of Support: Under The Stars Karratha – A Culinary and Cultural Camp for Aboriginal Students

Thank you for reaching out, and for the care that has clearly gone into this proposal. On behalf of Pilbara Kimberley University Centres, I am very pleased to offer our support for bringing *Prepare Produce Provide's Under The Stars* program to Karratha and Dampier in 2027, and to see it grow into something the young people of the Pilbara and Kimberley can count on year after year.

I read the Discussion Starter and the Djinda Ngardak 2025 Sponsors' Report with real interest. What stood out was not just the numbers, though they speak for themselves: 24 Aboriginal students from five regions completing the week, every one of them earning WACE points, half walking away with nationally recognised hospitality units, and several now representing PPP as Youth Ambassadors. It was the way the program is built around Elders, Country and culture, with chefs and industry mentors alongside, so that skills and identity grow together. That PPP already has relationships with schools in Karratha, Jigalong, Yandeyarra and Marble Bar through the Bushfood Competition tells me this is not a program being parachuted in; it is one being invited.

PKUC exists so that people in the Pilbara and Kimberley can pursue education without leaving the places and people they love. Our seven study hubs, from Onslow to Kununurra, are our way of saying that distance should never decide someone's future. When I look at what Under The Stars offers, I see the same conviction. With Elders and cultural authorities shaping the week, it reaches young people at the point where post-school pathways start to feel real, and it does so in a way that honours who they are.

Our Strategic Plan for 2026 - 2030 asks us to keep our services connected to community and responsive to what the regions actually need; to be a visible voice for regional education and workforce development; to build partnerships that last; and to grow in ways that are purposeful and values-led, with Indigenous-specific programming and new industry partnerships named among our priorities. Under The Stars sits comfortably within all of that. Hospitality, tourism and food are real and growing sources of work across both regions, and a program that connects Aboriginal students to leading Western Australian chefs, to formal training and to a public Gala celebrating local produce is the kind of pathway we want to be part of. More than that, it reflects the values we try to live by: aspiration, in inspiring young people to imagine a different future, and equity, in making sure that where you live and where you come from are never reasons to miss out. It is a practical expression of our commitment to walk together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples toward educational equity and opportunity.

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Under The Stars Karratha complements PKUC's commitment to expanding education and career pathways for Aboriginal young people; it reaches them earlier, and in a more culturally grounded way, than anything we could do on our own. The program makes a real contribution to workforce development in hospitality, tourism, nutrition and community wellbeing, sectors that matter to both regions and that need locally grown talent. And PKUC recognises, without reservation, the value of culturally grounded, community-designed education models in the Pilbara and Kimberley. We know from our own experience that programs designed with community, rather than for it, are the ones that last.

The delivery model appears financially sound (especially the high cost operating environment of the Pilbara). Using Dampier Camp School as the accommodation hub, with Fairbridge keen to continue supporting PPP and activities spread across Karratha and Dampier, is a sensible and safe way to bring students together from right across our vast region. It removes the logistical barriers that so often keep regional and remote young people from opportunities like this.

Thank you again, Gillian, to you and to Catherine and the PPP team, for bringing this to our region. I look forward to seeing it come to life under Pilbara skies.

Warm regards,



Susan Grylls
CEO
Pilbara Kimberley University Centres
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cc: Catherine MacDougall, Founder, Prepare Produce Provide

MURUJUGA
Commercial Ltd

9 September 2026

LETTER OF SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE
UNDER THE STARS PILBARA YOUTH INITIATIVE

Dear Gill,

Thank you for sharing your vision to bring the Under the Stars youth initiative to the Pilbara.

Based on the information provided, Murujuga Commercial Limited believes the concept warrants further exploration. The program's focus on food, culture, mentoring, skills development and pathways into education and employment has the potential to deliver positive outcomes for young Aboriginal people and their communities.

I also recognise the significant community leadership you have demonstrated over many years. Your service as a nurse, canteen manager at Dampier Primary School, long-standing head of the Dampier Community Association and now Warden of Dampier for the City of Karratha reflects a genuine commitment to community development and creating opportunities for others. Combined with your passion and creativity for all things culinary, your experience gives confidence that the proposal has a capable and committed local champion.

Murujuga Commercial Limited operates as the commercial arm of Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation and recognises the importance of ensuring any future initiative is developed with appropriate cultural engagement, consultation and guidance from Traditional Owners and relevant cultural authorities.

Importantly, the emphasis on local co-design, cultural authority and community participation provides a strong foundation for ensuring any future Pilbara program is developed in a culturally appropriate manner and is responsive to local aspirations.

Murujuga Commercial Limited supports further discussions regarding the potential of this initiative and welcomes continued engagement as the concept develops.

This letter constitutes support in principle only and is non-binding. It should not be interpreted as a commitment of funding, resources, partnership or formal endorsement by Murujuga Commercial Limited. Any future involvement would remain subject to appropriate consultation, due diligence, governance processes and formal approval.

I wish you every success as you continue exploring opportunities to bring this initiative to the Pilbara.

Yours Sincerely,

Jim Maddison
General Manager
Murujuga Commercial Limited

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Letter of Support

Mayaga Consulting

21/09/2026

To the City of Karratha – Grants and Community Funding

Re: Letter of Support – "Under the Stars Karratha" Program (Proposed Ngarluma Language Renaming)

Dear [Grants Officer / To Whom It May Concern],

This letter is provided in support of the application by PPP to the City of Karratha for funding to deliver the "Under the Stars Karratha" program in 2027.

It is understood that the project team is proposing to rename the initiative using a Ngarluma language name, following the example of the southern program known as "Djinda Ngardak." This approach reflects a genuine effort to embed local Aboriginal language and culture into the program in a respectful and meaningful way.

Support is given for a process that involves working alongside Ngarluma cultural leaders to guide the naming appropriately, with the correct cultural protocols, community input, and cultural authority. Naming a public program in language is not simply a translation exercise; it is an important cultural process that should reflect local ownership, accuracy, and respect.

Programs such as this can provide strong value to the Karratha community by creating opportunities for local culture and language to be seen, heard, and celebrated more broadly. They can also contribute to cultural pride, visibility, and stronger community connection.

For these reasons, strong support is offered for PPP's funding application, and for the collaborative work proposed with local cultural leaders in developing an appropriate Ngarluma name for the program.

Please contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Kind regards,

Clinton Walker
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