

BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



MEDIA RELEASE

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Local band fly back home with top award

Desert Sevenz won the Community Music Clip of the Year at the National Indigenous Music Awards ceremony in Darwin last Friday (August 15).

The young men, from Ampilatwatja in the Barkly region, took home the award for their track *Fly Back Home* which was featured on a DVD called *The Alyawarr Sessions*.

Fly Back Home was created during a four-week mentoring program in Ampilatwatja and Wutunugurra, which was funded by the Barkly Regional Council under the CDEP program.

The track, produced by Desert Pea Media, is a fusion of contemporary and traditional story that samples on-location recordings of the sacred ceremony of the Emu Dreaming.

Barkly Regional Council's Regional Youth, Sport and Recreation Co-ordinator Sean Spencer organised the Darwin trip when Desert Sevenz heard they had been nominated with Ampilatwatja Aged Care Co-ordinator Nicole Watts and Ampilatwatja Sport and Rec Co-ordinator Jonathan Hayward joining the young men for the long drive up and prestigious awards ceremony.

"In the build-up to the event the fellas were nervous and excited. When it was announced on the night that Desert Sevenz had won, the people in the crowd went wild," said Nicole.

"Preston Payne was the spokesperson and thanked everyone for welcoming them and thanked the community of Ampilatwatja for all their support and help in getting them to the awards ceremony.

"We were incredibly proud of the guys for this huge honour and the pride and dignity that they showed in their acceptance of the award was truly inspirational."

Barkly Regional Council President Barbara Shaw said the Council continues to work with building youth to support community participation and strengthen culture as a way to instil community development.

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