

## **YARNTEEN and Microsoft RISE to close the IT Gap For Aboriginal Business**

**Yarnteen Ltd, a Newcastle based Aboriginal Organisation focussing on community and enterprise development has partnered with Microsoft Australia and Social Ventures Australia (SVA) to provide a new IT initiative called Microsoft RISE to help close the IT gap in Aboriginal business.**

This new and exciting project aims to develop and implement strategies to overcome the Information Technology (IT) skills gap and thereby increase the skill capacity of Aboriginal entrepreneurs and Social Enterprises through practical and tailor-made IT business training, mentoring and support. The ultimate goal of Microsoft RISE is to help develop sustainable social enterprises that create jobs for Aboriginal people.

Microsoft RISE will initially be rolled out in four Hub areas including Newcastle, Sydney, Canberra and Brisbane.

The project will conduct forums in each SVA Hub area. Participants have the opportunity to take part in an IT Training Needs Analysis (TNA). Based on the TNA, Yarnteen will develop and deliver tailor-made IT business training for each participating business. Links will also be provided to agencies for ongoing mentoring and support.

The Sydney Forum will be held at the Yaama Dhiyaan Centre at the Carriageworks in Redfern on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2010 from 10.00am to 12.30pm.

To help increase awareness of this opportunity within the Aboriginal community, Aboriginal hip hop pioneers Street Warriors and singer/songwriter Rod Smith will perform at the inaugural Forum in Sydney on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Yarnteen has had a successful history of partnership with Microsoft Australia through the Microsoft Up Program and the Indigenous Youth Futures Project. Microsoft Australia and Yarnteen are now working towards developing a best practice resource that will track the journey of the program to establish a best practice model for the program to be available nationally.

Aboriginal businesses and business focused organizations can contact Yarnteen on 02-4940 8422 for more information or to register for the Forums. For more information please go to [www.yarnteen.com.au](http://www.yarnteen.com.au)