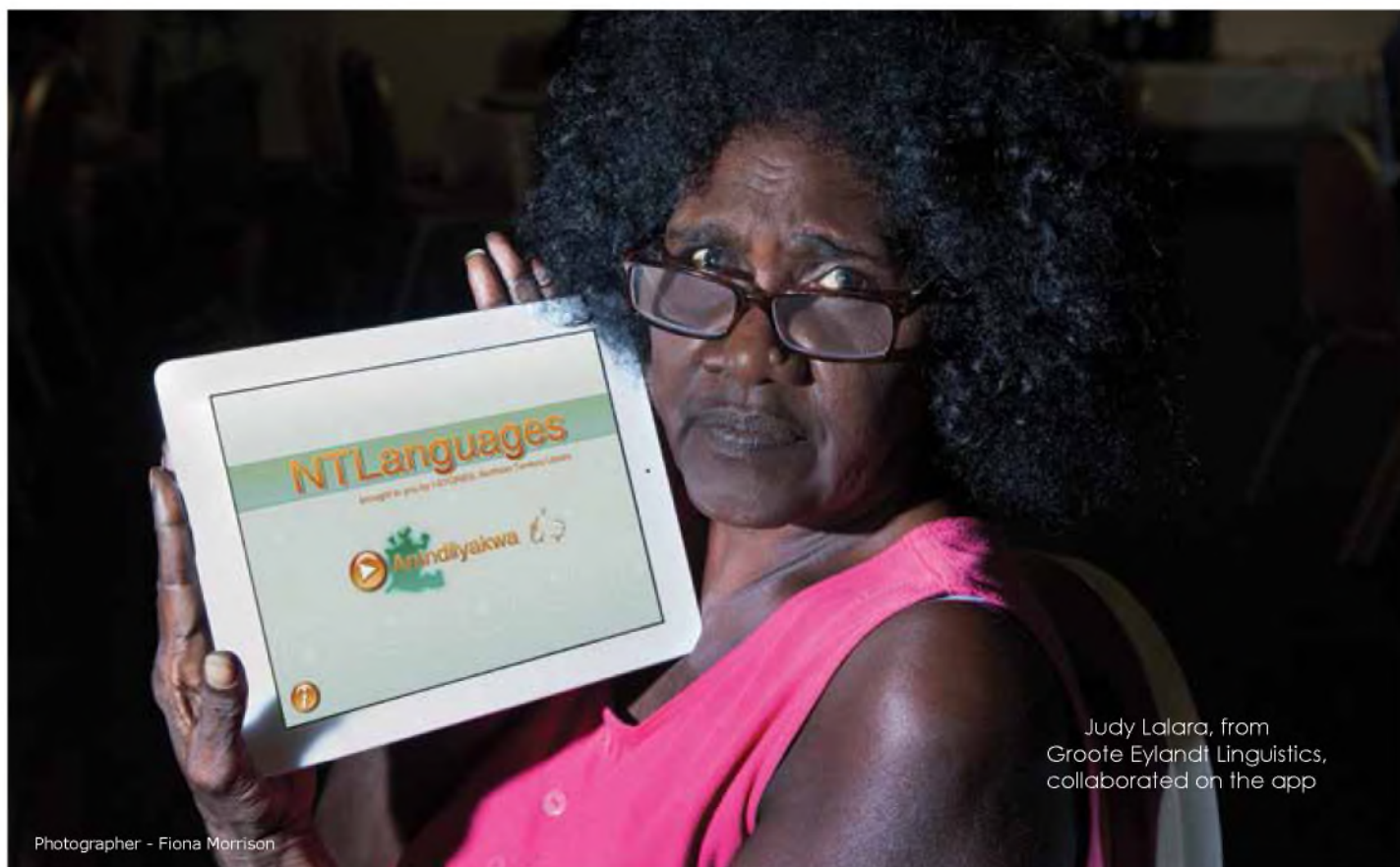


# NT LANGUAGES APP BREAKS DOWN BARRIERS



Judy Lalara, from Groote Eylandt Linguistics, collaborated on the app

Photographer - Fiona Morrison

A new bilingual literacy tool for the Anindilyakwa community has been released to great acclaim by the NTL i-stories Team. Everyday words and phrases in Anindilyakwa and English are translated and illustrated with simple pictures. The tool, designed for both Anindilyakwa and English speakers, is more a phrase book than a dictionary, containing useful phrases such as "I'm hot", "I'm hungry", "My name is..."

Most residents of the three communities on Groote Eylandt, like many remote-living Aboriginal people, have English as their second, third, or fourth language and have generally low levels of English literacy and fluency.

The app was developed as part of the i-Stories Project, a long-running NTL collaborative project taking place on Groote Eylandt, funded by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations under the PaCE program: Parental and Community Engagement. While the project uses iPads for telling and sharing stories, through photos, videos, sound, and multimedia recordings, versions are now available for

free download for iPhone, iPad, Android, and desktop or laptop use. Community members have quickly adopted the technology as a more portable, user-friendly, and flexible option than PCs, and are making and sharing their stories. Several platforms exist to capture the material, including NTL's digital repository –Territory Stories and the Community Stories database – NTL's award-winning purpose-built software for managing local content in Aboriginal communities.

The app has also been identified as a teaching tool for very young Groote Eylandters, who tend to speak Kriol at home, to learn Anindilyakwa as a way to help preserve the language and talk with their elders. It also helps these young Kriol-speakers to learn basic English words and phrases before going to school.

Response has been extremely positive from users, the general public, and the mainstream media.

The app was featured on the ABC Drive time radio with an interview by host Vivki Kerrigan and Angela Jane, a staff member from the MJD Foundation on Groote. Angela will use the app

to improve her language skills for interacting with her clients.

An IndigenousX tweeter (IndigenousX is a rotating twitter account that aims to promote Indigenous stories to a broad audience) tweeted, "I cant wait until a Gamilaaraay/Yuwaalaraay one is developed. They are inspired!"

Our favourite story, however, is the foster mother who has a new foster child from Groote Eylandt, wondering if there were any language resources from Groote Eylandt. She is thrilled with the app that lets the two of them communicate.

Future plans for the project include, adding more phrases to the existing app, and working with other communities to source and secure funding to develop apps in other languages.

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