

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | 15 OCTOBER 2024 | SENT FROM BOORLOO/PERTH

Music video celebrates the resilience of young people from the Pilbara



Don't Tell Us [still] // courtesy of Community Arts Network

Listen to the voices of youth from Hedland as they take you on a moving journey, through their music video, [Don't Tell Us](#). An anthem of empowerment, *Don't Tell Us* showcases the resilience of young artists who are asking to be seen and heard.

Produced during Community Arts Network's [Now Sounds Hedland](#) project, *Don't Tell Us* is the culmination of a year-long, intensive multi-arts initiative that integrates music, visual arts, hip hop and video. This project unites young individuals from First Nations and diverse cultural communities.

In Hedland, 163 young people were guided by artists **Optamus, Flewnt and Mubanga Culture** to learn skills in beat-making, rap, lyric-writing and intercultural dance.

This music video is just one remarkable element of this ambitious project. Over three artist residencies, young participants gained confidence in their own abilities, built pride in their cultural heritage, gained a

Community Arts Network

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sense of connection and belonging, recognised the value in their home town and developed skills, in some cases not just as artists but also as mentors to others.

One of the participants, 12 year old singer/songwriters, Laquade, was selected as a finalist for the Children and Young People Participate Award, which recognises young people aged 10–17 who show outstanding dedication to making a positive change in their community and demonstrate peer leadership through their chosen pursuit. Laquade was chosen from a pool of 155 nominations across 11 categories, in recognition of the skills he developed during the project as a mentor to his peers.

*I been thinking I been thinking now I'm rapping to the top, yeah.
I found my way out from a time that I was lost.
I been trying to get through this, they be saying I'm a nuisance.
Because I will speak the truth.
So now I'm gonna prove it, by making this music,
sometimes you gotta do this, and I'm never gonna stop.*

*Verse 3 of "Don't Tell Us"
By Laquade (12)*

Now Sounds Hedland was presented by CAN and Port Hedland, in collaboration with the lead artists. Learn more about Now Sounds and the impactful work of the Community Arts Network:

<https://www.can.org.au/community/now-sounds/now-sounds-hedland>

Images for media [Google folder link](#)

- (L–R) Laquade and lead artist Optamus rehearsing for the launch of 'Don't Tell Us' // credit Amelia Blanco (AB Videography), courtesy of Community Arts Network
- Zahnaysha rehearsing for the launch of 'Don't Tell Us' // credit Amelia Blanco (AB Videography), courtesy of Community Arts Network
- Taharley-Rose performing her rap on stage // credit Amelia Blanco (AB Videography), courtesy of Community Arts Network
- Lead artist and choreographer Mubanga Culture working with Now Sounds Hedland participants (AB Videography) // credit Amelia Blanco, courtesy of Community Arts Network
- Filming 'Don't Tell Us' music video on Country // credit Amelia Blanco (AB Videography), courtesy of Community Arts Network

For media enquiries

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About Community Arts Network

CAN creates positive social change through the arts, building inclusion and understanding between people. CAN unlocks Western Australia's untold stories through community participation in art, giving voice to the hidden histories of this land and all of its people. can.org.au

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