



Platform  
Launch



## NEW LEARNING PLATFORM DRIVES UNDERSTANDING OF FIRST NATIONS' PERSPECTIVES IN SCHOOLS

A fun and highly engaging new learning platform for school students which celebrates continuous living culture will launch nationally on Thursday 26th August. **NEO-Learning** is co-created by First Nations young people from Ieramagadu (Roebourne) in the Pilbara alongside Big hART, Australia's leading arts and social change organisation who have created award-winning projects for young people since 1992.

"NEO-Learning provides a wonderful opportunity to use digital media as a tool for change" says Michelle Adams, a Yindjibarndi emerging elder from Roebourne. "Students walk through a virtual door and learn from our First Nations young people. It's a new way of learning that takes the world's oldest living culture."

Inspired by Big hART's internationally acclaimed futuristic comic **NEOMAD**, NEO-Learning is designed by young people, for young people and supports inquiry-based learning. With a fresh youthful energy and future focus, NEO-Learning is designed to give all Australian primary school teachers and students access to high quality First Nations digital arts content and lessons with creativity at its heart. A proud partner of Reconciliation Australia's Narragunnawali program, NEO-Learning provides Australian teachers and their students with a modern and energetic new mode of learning, fulfilling cross-curriculum objectives across all states with smartboard-ready resources, live virtual experiences, original films and digital content including a podcast series.

NEO-Learning has been developed through the Telstra Foundation's Tech4Good program with over 1,000 children taking part in the early piloting of the initiative. Units of study cover Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, digital literacies, visual arts, literacy, geography, music, language and numeracy.

NEO-Learning is a membership platform for teachers underpinned by a social impact model which champions the bright young future of Roebourne. At the Digital Lab in Roebourne, First Nations young people are developing new digital skills, discovering new vocational pathways, and taking on leadership opportunities through NEO-Learning. Big hART was first invited to work with the Roebourne community by senior women Elders in 2010 and through deep community consultation work with the community, has been driving impact through transformational projects and art. The NEOMAD comic was created with over 40 young people from Roebourne and toured to LA, Korea and Poland. The comic and iPad App won many awards, including the Gold Ledger, Australia's most prestigious comic book award.

### Key Points:

- **NEO-Learning education content is co-created by First Nations young people from the Pilbara**
- **NEO-Learning offers virtual classrooms with live educators, accessible anywhere in the country, as well as on-demand lessons and classroom activities.**
- **NEO-Learning is designed to fulfill the requirements of ACARA which requires all teachers in Australia to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history in their subjects**
- **Only 1% of Australian teachers are from First Nations backgrounds**

Above all, NEO-Learning is a powerful force for reconciliation, and will empower teachers to feel confident in delivering First Nations content in the classroom and drive understanding of First Nations' perspectives. Children will encounter living culture on Ngarluma country with dynamic interactive exercises and powerful compelling content.

NEO-Learning is proudly supported by the Telstra Foundation's Tech4Good Program, LotteryWest, Alberts, Australian Government's RISE Fund, Fortescue and Restore Hope Foundation.

NEO-Learning is produced by Big hART, which has worked in over 50 communities across Australia, garnering over 45 awards. Big hART has created award-winning youth programs for close to 30 years, accruing Institute of Criminology Awards, a World Health Award and producing acclaimed projects with schools across the country.

Big hART acknowledges Ngarluma, Yindjibarndi, Banjima, Marduthunera, Guruma, Nyiyaparli, Kariyarra and all custodians nationally past, present and future.

**Media are invited to attend the NEO-Learning Launch online on Thursday 26th August at 3:50pm.**



**BIG hART**



**Bh**

All Media Enquiries to Big hART Media and Communications Manager Bettina Richter

E: [bettina@bighart.org](mailto:bettina@bighart.org)

M: +61 (0)414 441 860

W: [bighart.org](http://bighart.org)