

*Worldwide knowledge and understanding of Australian Indigenous cultures, past and present*

6 February 2008

## **AIATSIS sponsors barbecue to welcome “Chooky Dancers” to Canberra**

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) is proud to sponsor a community barbecue tomorrow night to support the YouTube sensation, the Yolngu “Chooky Dancers” before their first Canberra performance.

“AIATSIS promotes greater understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and lifestyles by all Australians. These dancers have put Elcho Island on the world stage in an innovative and entertaining way – blending traditional and contemporary dance with Greek music,” AIATSIS Principal Steve Larkin said.

“Some of these dancers have never even left their community, but they have shown a sense of humour that the whole world can tap into. They’ve taken a Greek song and redefined it through Indigenous dance and people are responding to it.

“I would encourage all people from Queanbeyan, Canberra and surrounds to support the dancers by going to watch them open the Canberra Fringe Festival with **Zorba the Greek: Yolngu Style** at Civic Square on Friday at 7pm.”

Mr Larkin thanked Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) and ALCAN for sponsoring the Chooky Dancers’ trip to Canberra for their performances.

“This sort of sponsorship is so important for remote Indigenous communities to be able to share their cultures with the rest of Australia. I commend ALCAN and IBA for their commitment,” Mr Larkin said.

The Chooky Dancers will also perform on Saturday 9 February at 3pm in Civic Square and at 7pm on the Main Stage at Garema Place. For further information, visit [www.multiculturalfestival.com.au](http://www.multiculturalfestival.com.au)



**Media:** *All media are invited to attend the community barbecue from 6.30pm tomorrow night at Boomanulla Oval, Narrabundah.*

**Contact:** Chris Ryan AIATSIS Media and Communications 6261 4225 or 0408 688 026.