

# Media Release

**The Hon Gabrielle Williams MP**

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Minister for Prevention of Family Violence

Minister for Women



Wednesday, 8 July 2020

## COMING TOGETHER FOR NAIDOC WEEK

The Victorian Government is putting together a star-studded virtual concert to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture following the postponement of NAIDOC Week.

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Gabrielle Williams announced a variety performance event will be live streamed on Saturday – what would have been the penultimate day of the landmark week-long celebration.

The concert will be hosted by comedians Shiralee Hood and Dion Williams and feature artists including Uncle Archie Roach, Troy Cassar-Daley, Allara, Lady Lash and Mau Power.

NAIDOC Week was scheduled to be held from 5 to 12 July this year, but for the first time in its 64-year history, has been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

It is traditionally marked each July to honour and pay tribute to Aboriginal culture, history and achievement, with celebrations held across the country.

It is now expected to be scheduled in November.

The Government is investing \$150,000 to hold the virtual concert, with support from the Victorian Aboriginal community and the arts sector, including Arts Centre Melbourne.

The *Vic NAIDOC 2020 Concert: Always Was, Always Will Be* will be held at Hamer Hall and while closed to the public, Victorians can live stream all the action from 6.30pm AEST on the Victoria Together website and other social platforms.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Gabrielle Williams

*"There's no doubt this has been a tough year, with bushfires and coronavirus taking their toll on Aboriginal communities."*

*"NAIDOC Week may be postponed, but we're still taking the opportunity to maintain community connections and celebrate Aboriginal culture."*

*"The event will be more than just good fun – it's a chance to highlight the talented performers right across the country and provide a lifeline to the struggling arts industry."*