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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Vale Yunupingu – Gumatj Senior Man, Leader & Activist

It is with a heavy heart that we acknowledge the passing of Yunupingu—Gumatj Senior man and prominent leader and activist for the rights of Yolŋu people.

Yunupingu's leadership in driving the National Agenda on Indigenous Affairs continues through the Yothu Yindi Foundation and Garma Festival, where opportunities for debate and discussions are had around important issues impacting the health and wellbeing of Yolŋu peoples across the region. His legacy also includes the highly successful Gumatj Corporation, which has commercial interests in the building, mining, timber milling, manufacturing, and construction industries, to name a few.

Yunupingu's advocacy and vision paved the way for the practical implementation of self-determination and community control. This ultimately led to the creation of community controlled and Yolŋu powered organisations across East Arnhem Land. We acknowledge the profound impact his passing will have, not only the Gunyarrara community, but on the whole nation.

The MHAC Board, CEO and staff pass on their condolences to Yunupingu's family and the Gunyarrara community.

For further media enquiries, please contact Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation CEO, Steve Rossingh on (08) 8939 1900.

**ENDS**

*Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation is an independent Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation shaping a strong future for Yolŋu. Established in 1992, Miwatj Health is committed to securing quality healthcare services and public health programs across the East Arnhem region. We provide culturally appropriate, comprehensive primary health care to over 6,000 remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents, with 7 fixed clinic locations in Nhulunbuy, Yirrkala, Gunyarrara, Gapuwiyak, Galiwin'ku, Ramingining and Milingimbi. The Miwatj Health Head Office is located in Nhulunbuy, with a Corporate Office in Darwin City.*