

ACEA Conference  
3-5 October 2017

# OLD ME, NEW ME, IT

(italk Media Production Training Program)

# Background

- The Northern Territory prison population has grown over the last 20 years at a rate greater than other jurisdictions and recorded the highest recidivism rate with 58.3% of prisoners reoffending within 2 years.
- One of the challenges confronting the correctional system in the NT is the continued over-representation of
- Aboriginal people in prisons.
- With few exceptions, all NT prisoners are provided with an opportunity to improve their circumstances whilst in prison, through targeted programs, including training programs in work skills, and literacy and numeracy.

# Italk Media Production Training Program – Vision and Purpose

## VISION

To embed italk as a rehabilitative tool to address criminogenic factors that will empower Indigenous prisoners to break the cycle of incarceration.

## PURPOSE

To work towards reducing criminogenic factors through culturally relevant audio-visual communication.



# Challenges

Aboriginal people comprise 86% of the NT prison population. Some of the challenges faced by this cohort include:

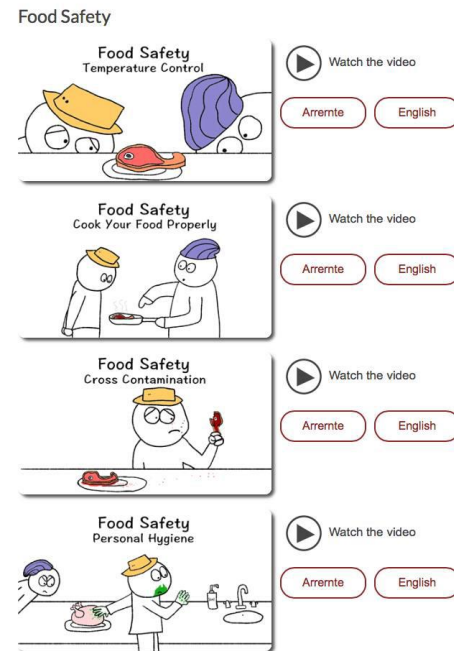
- Low levels of literacy and numeracy
- English is not their first (or sometimes even second) language
- Little to no computer skills
- Limited employment options in remote communities
- Many have never held a job

These challenges restrict their ability to gain meaningful employment upon release from prison.



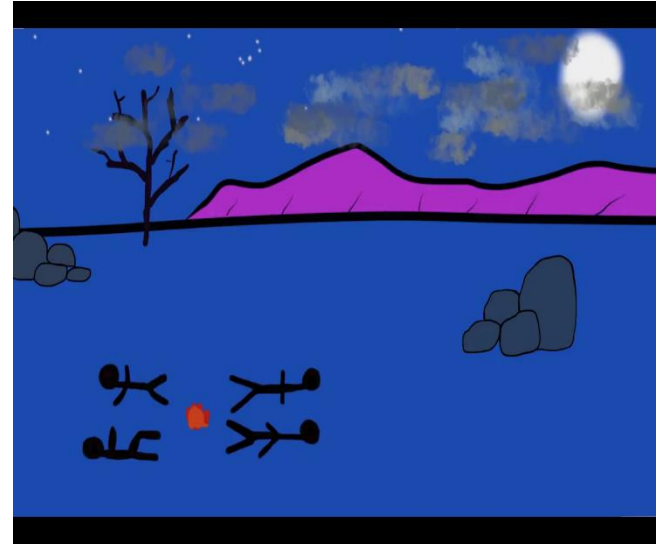
# Responding to the Challenges – Understanding Key Messages

- NTCS has introduced the use of visual stories, which can be translated into different languages, including Aboriginal languages.
- Stories on WHS, food hygiene and safe driving have been translated into five of the most predominant Central Australian Aboriginal languages to ensure that Aboriginal prisoners understand these concepts.
- Stories to encourage behavioural change and on prison operations (eg visits, medical, mail, etc) have also been created.



# Responding to the Challenges – Culturally Relevant Training

- The italk program is culturally appropriate and unique as it starts with the strengths of the Aboriginal prisoner in their first language, as well as visually.
- The starting point is not written English text, which many Aboriginal prisoners are not strong in.
- This then transitions to spoken English and written English.

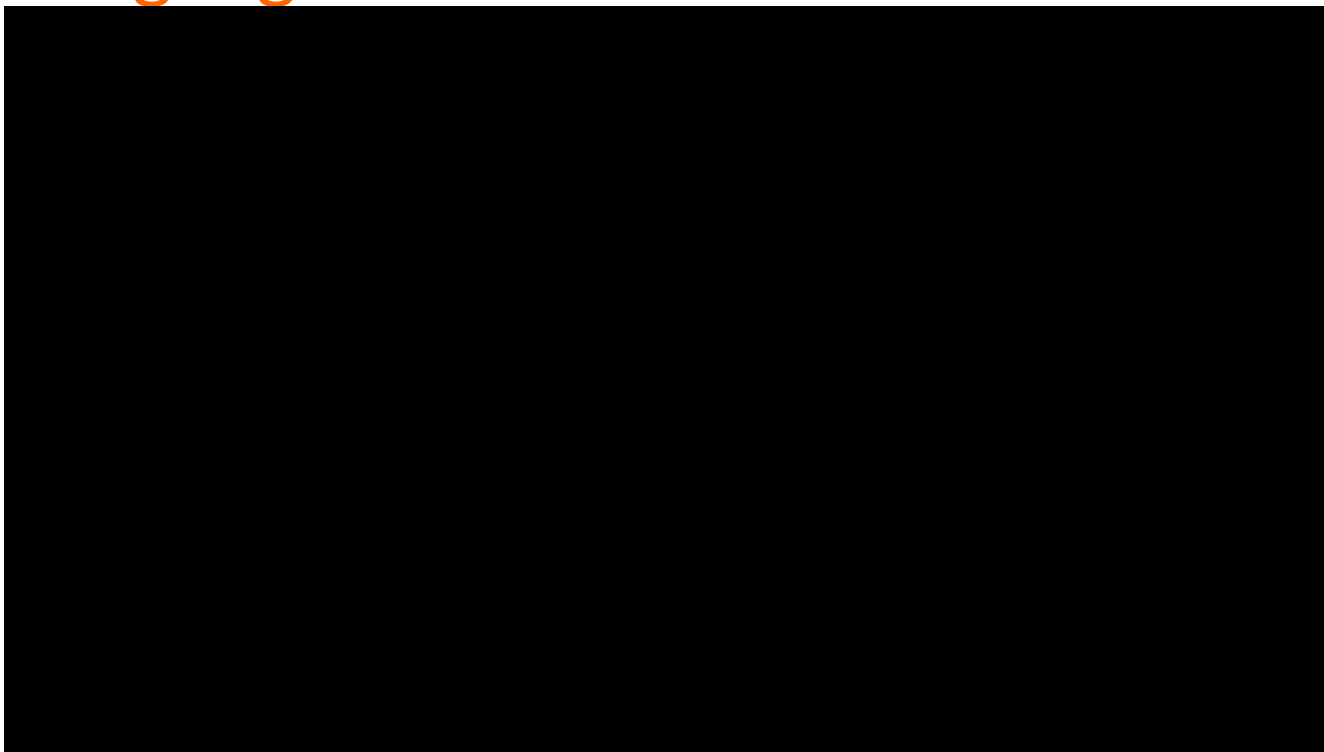


# Responding to the Challenges – Pathways to Employment

- NTCS has engaged a local NT organisation, italk Studios, to not only facilitate the creation of the visual stories, but also to provide training to prisoners in multi-media activities and spoken English.
- Male and female prisoners are taught how to use computers and other multi-media equipment and software to create work stories, as well as their own personal stories.
- These skills will provide prisoners with a greater opportunity for employment upon release.



# Italk Highlights

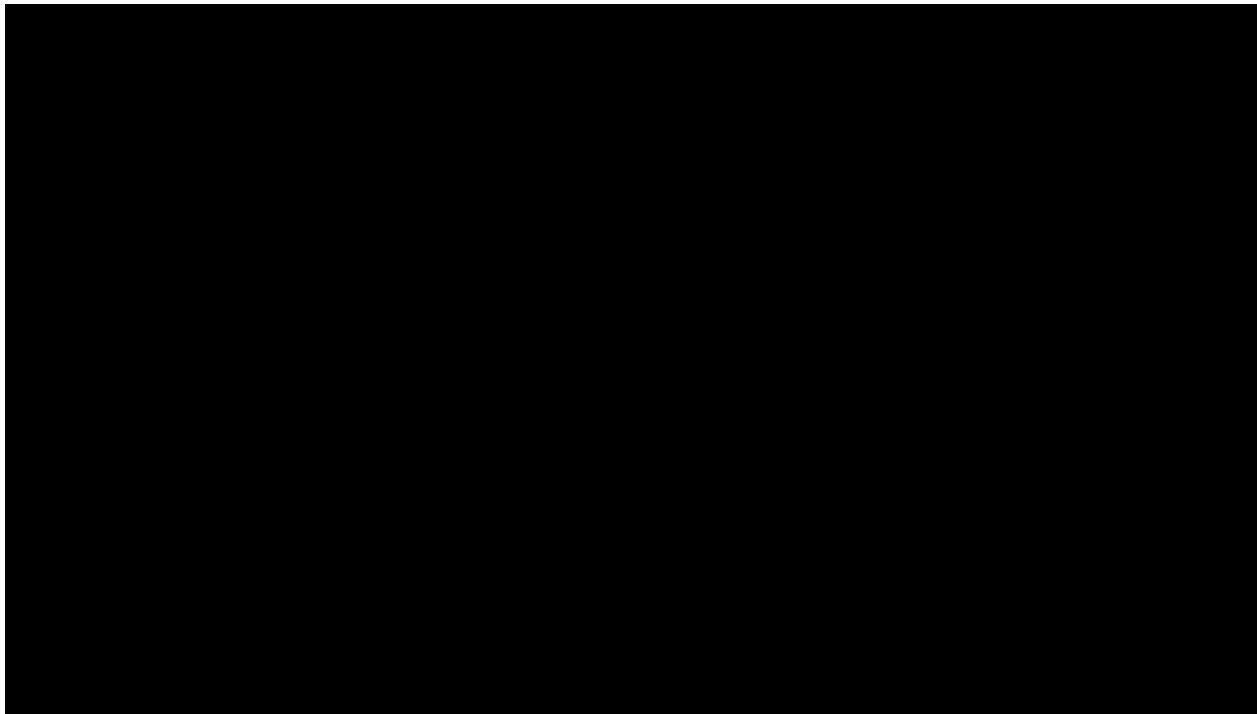




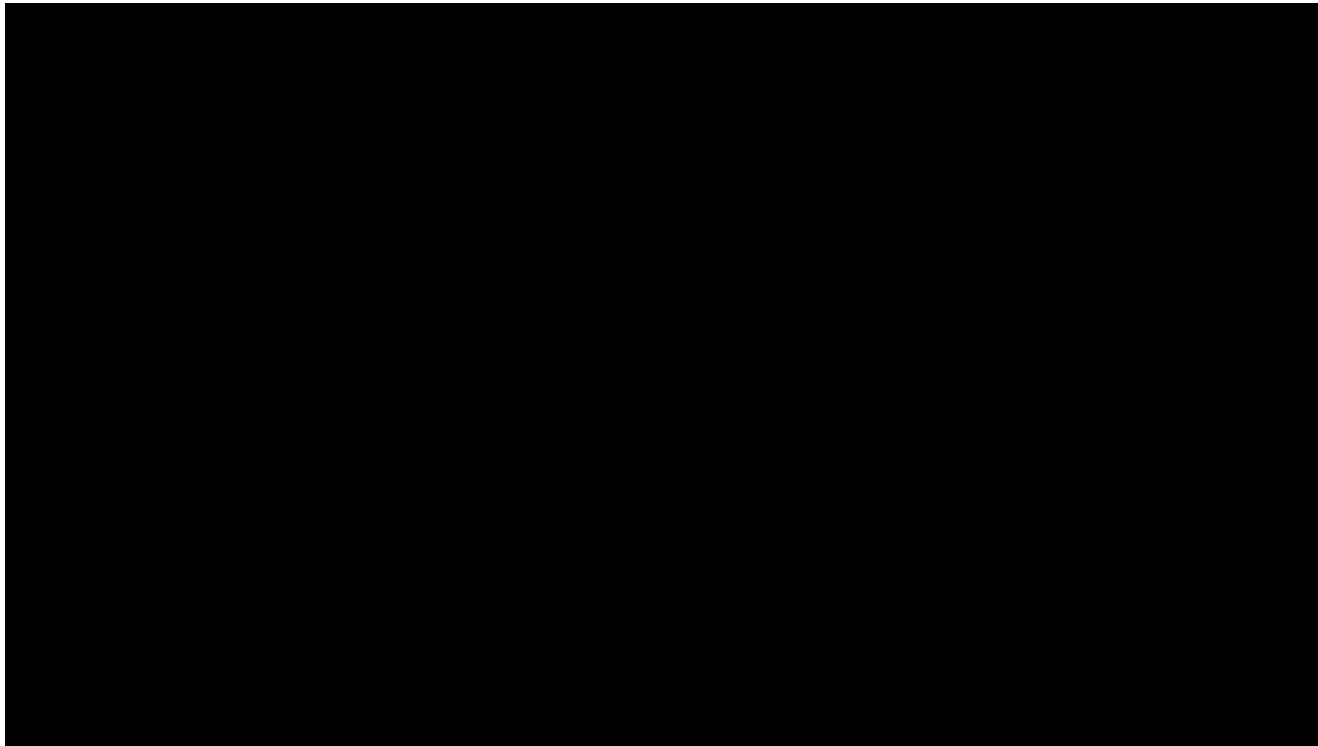
# Italk Story– Visual CV

italk studios  
"Visual CV"  
Demonstration

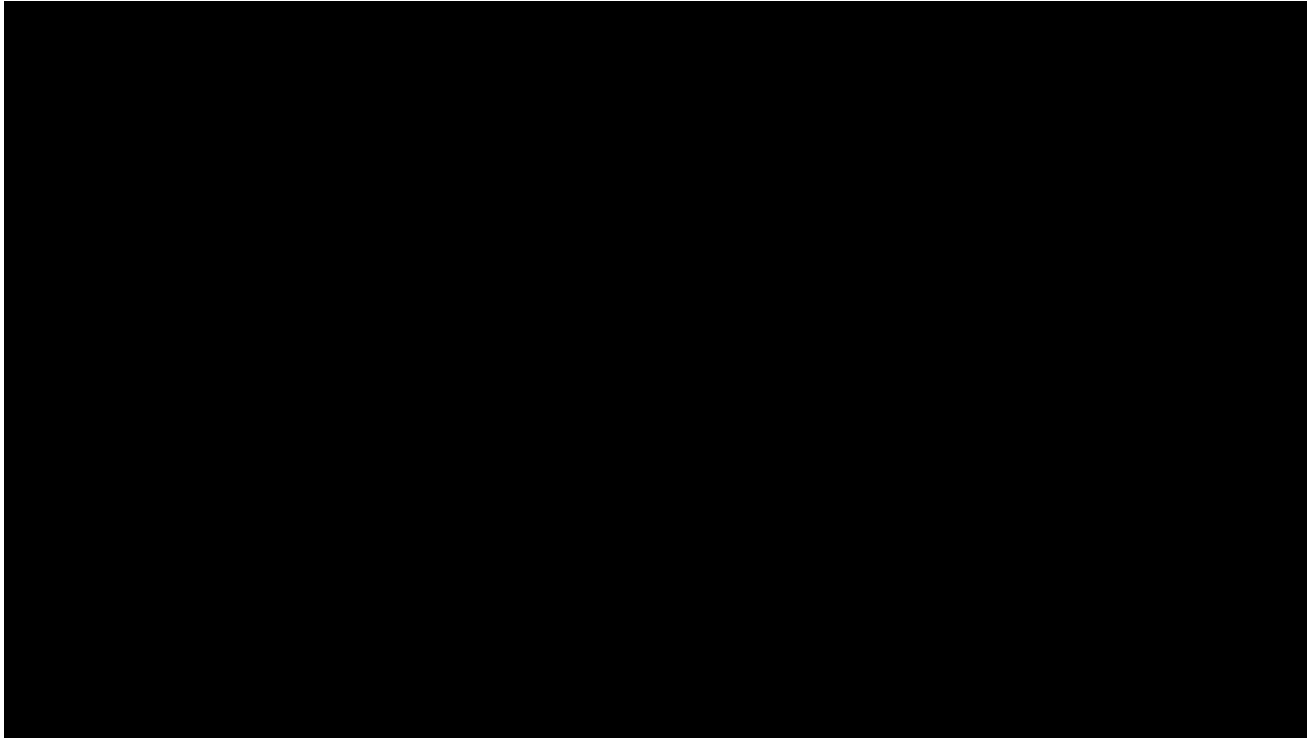
# Italk Story – Old Me New Me



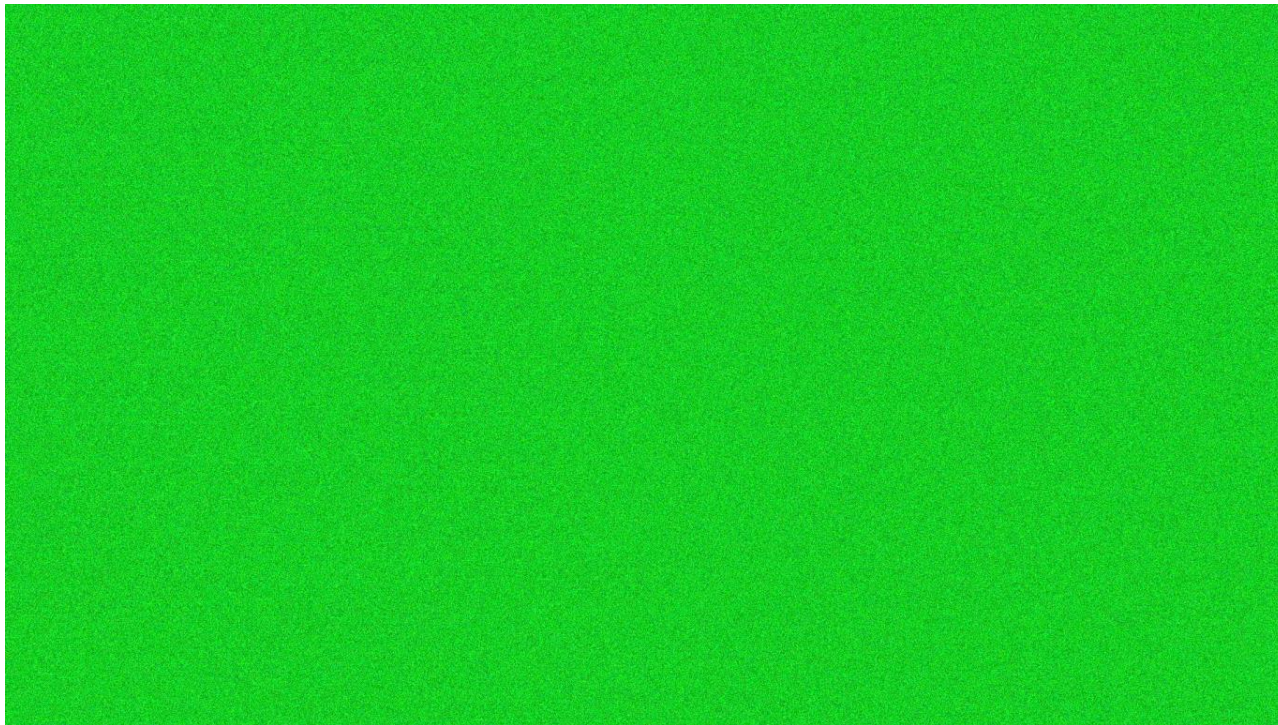
# Italk Story – Today I Saw My Younger Brother



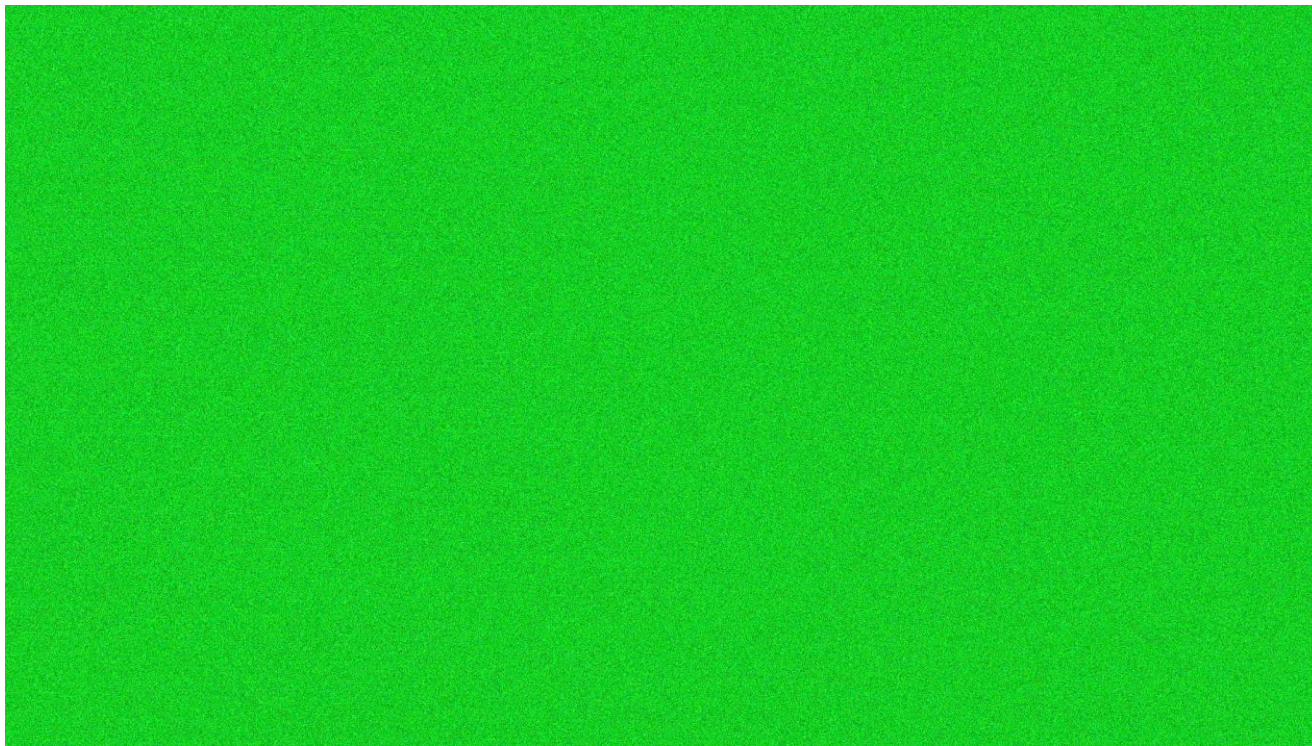
# Italk Story – Get Your Licence



# Italk Story – Visits (English)



# Italk Story – Visits (Walpiri)





# International Recognition

- J.E. Pfeifer from Swinburne University has had a paper accepted for publication in 2018, entitled “Indigenous Youth and Crime: An International Perspective.
- In his chapter under the heading “Technology”, he states: “Although recent publications indicated a clear movement toward embracing technology as an education and rehabilitative tool within the justice system., there is little relating to this movement with regard to Indigenous people. **One exception is the italk program current delivered by the NT Correctional Service in Australia**, which seeks to assist Indigenous offenders to give back to the community through the creation of computer-generated stories which reflect traditional beliefs and lore. Early assessment of this program indicates that participation has had a positive influence on the self-esteem, motivation and cultural strength.”

# Prisoner Testimonials

- “I liked everything about doing this course. Using the technology. It makes me feel good to tell my own story. It makes me proud”. – Tristan Anderson
- “I can let it out, you know. Relax myself. Tell the world my story. Instead of keeping it inside and stressing out”. – Burton Namatjira
- “Making my story made me think about my life. It made me think about drinking and how I’ve got to stay away from it”. – Darren Wilson
- “I’m really glad I completed it. I usually give up half way through. Not this time. Not any more, I’ll stick to my words”. – Talisha Wiseman





# Questions?