

NT NEWS

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 More than 500 Top End students took part in Rock Da Caz at the Casuarina Square food court . Picture: JUSTIN KENNEDY

Northern Territory

## 500 students' surprise music treat

MOLLY BAXTER, NT News

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 Subscriber only

CASUARINA shoppers have been given a surprise musical treat as more than 500 Darwin students put their vocal cords to the test during this year's Rock Da Caz event.

The Darwin students joined more than half a million others around Australia for Music: Count Us In, which is Australia's largest school music advocacy and participation program.

All the students learned and rehearsed the same song and performed at the same time, right across Australia – in Darwin, it was at 11am at Casuarina Square and they sang *Let Us Play*.

Darwin High School student Stevie Kyriacou, 17, helped lead the event on stage.

She said singing and music encouraged her to be herself and she loved getting on stage in the hope of encouraging others to stay involved in music. "It's very important to show other kids that it's all right to show up and fulfil your potential," she said.

NT Music School principal Bill Grose said there was an abundance of registrations by Northern Territory schools to join the fun. "This celebration is always a lot of fun for everyone involved and is a very special public demonstration where the audience is immersed in the showcase of music education by the very talented students we have right here in the Territory," Mr Grose said. For the first time in the program's history, the song was translated into various indigenous languages in schools throughout the Territory.

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