



Damien Tudehope

Acting Treasurer

Don Harwin

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Geoff Lee

Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 20 December 2019

NSW EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

NSW continues to lead the way on social impact investments as it rolls out a \$10 million program to improve employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

An integrated three-phased pilot program will be introduced in Northern NSW to remove barriers for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people obtaining birth registration, a birth certificate, a driver licence and accessing training and employment opportunities.

The Momentum program will be delivered by a consortium of organisations including Pathfinders, ACE Community Colleges, Real Futures and Serco Australia.

Acting Treasurer Damien Tudehope said the program will help create sustainable employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

“NSW is leading the nation in social impact investment. In the past five years we have commissioned more than \$235 million in outcomes-based contracts which aim to improve the lives of around 16,000 vulnerable people across our State,” Mr Tudehope said.

“It can be difficult to get a job and access basic services without identification, such as a birth certificate and driver licence.

“This program will initially be introduced across State’s north-east with the aim of helping more than 2000 indigenous people and is another example of how the NSW Government is using its strong budget position to deliver real outcomes for everyone in our community.”

Participants will be referred to the program through Momentum Roadshows that will take place across Northern NSW in regions including Richmond-Tweed, New England and North West, Coffs Harbour–Grafton, Mid North Coast, Hunter Valley, Newcastle and Port Macquarie.

NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Don Harwin said the social impact investment will provide support at key milestones in life.

“I look forward to seeing how this investment achieves better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through linking these essential services into one cohesive program,” Mr Harwin said.

“We are helping people to attain a birth certificate and a driver license, providing training and employment support and empowering those in our communities that need it.”

NSW Minister for Skills Geoff Lee said the ground-breaking program is designed to create positive change and pathways for Indigenous people in regional communities.

“There are a significant number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in NSW who are excluded from full social and economic participation,” Mr Lee said.

“This program will be a preventative, community-led initiative that will afford many Indigenous people an opportunity to become acknowledged, equipped and empowered.”

The \$10 million, announced in the 2018-19 NSW Budget, will be delivered over four years with the NSW Government currently working with Momentum consortium to further develop this social impact investment.

MEDIA: Kylie Adoranti | Acting Treasurer | 0439 085 013
Chris Lawrence | Minister Harwin | 0439 434 863
Carmel Melouney | Minister Lee | 0428 491 333