ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES GET A REAL SAY ON THEIR FUTURE

Aboriginal communities can now apply to participate in a Local Decision Making model, a major initiative of the NSW Government’s new plan for Aboriginal affairs, which will grow capacity and increase communities’ decision making powers, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Victor Dominello announced today.

Communities can lodge an Expression of Interest to take part in this trial to be held in three locations – one urban, one country and one remote. The trial will be monitored and evaluated for three years before it is rolled out in other areas.

“As Local Decision Making bodies increase their capacity and move along the self-governance pathway they will be granted greater decision making power and authority,” Mr Dominello said.

“In a significant change in the way Aboriginal communities and government agencies work together, communities will have a genuine say in what services are delivered and how they are delivered on a local and regional level.

“The initiative will not only empower Aboriginal people to take responsibility for their futures, but help community leaders develop decision making skills.

“Local Decision Making, which is part of the NSW Government’s Aboriginal affairs plan titled OCHRE (Opportunity, Choice, Healing, Responsibility, Empowerment), will decrease the duplication of services and increase the effectiveness of service delivery to better meet local needs,” Mr Dominello said.

New or existing Aboriginal regional partnerships, (or alliances), representing more than one town or location within a region, can apply through the open and transparent Expression of Interest process. Applications close on 25 September.

“Through Local Decision Making the NSW Government, in partnership with Aboriginal leaders, wants to grow stronger Aboriginal communities,” Mr Dominello said.

Further information on Local Decision Making and the application process is available on the Aboriginal Affairs website: www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au, by calling (02) 9219 0700 or emailing ldmenquiries@aboriginalaffairs.com.au.


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