Victor Dominello MP
Minister for Citizenship and Communities
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 14 October 2013

MATCHING ABORIGINAL STUDENTS' ASPIRATIONS TO REAL JOBS

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Victor Dominello today called for non-government organisations to operate Opportunity Hubs which are designed to coordinate and match Aboriginal student’s aspirations with local education, training and employment opportunities.

Opportunity Hubs are part of OCHRE – Opportunity, Choice, Healing, Responsibility, Empowerment – the NSW Government’s plan for Aboriginal affairs.

The NSW Department of Education and Communities is seeking Expressions of Interest to operate Hubs in two communities – Campbelltown and Tamworth.

“The Hubs will assess the aspirations of Aboriginal students between years 5 and 12 and match them with local opportunities to support them to stay at school and transition into work,” Mr Dominello said.

“Hubs will act as a bank for local employers, universities and TAFEs to list opportunities including employment, training, mentoring, scholarships or volunteer work.

“Through brokering partnerships between schools, employers and education providers, we can get smarter about matching students to jobs.

“During the development of OCHRE, we were told by Aboriginal community members that Aboriginal young people need hands-on assistance to gain the necessary knowledge, confidence and skills to find sustainable employment,” Mr Dominello said.

“We believe that having that positive link between local employers and local students will provide an incentive to stay at school.

“The progress of the students will be tracked after they leave school so that the outcomes of this initiative can be monitored.

“This is not about announcing new programs, but coordinating existing successful programs around individual student needs,” Mr Dominello said.

Professor Shane Houston, the University of Sydney's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy and Services), who was part of the NSW Government’s Ministerial Task Force on Aboriginal Affairs, applauded the initiative.

“Strategies that build our young people's capability to not only stay at school but do well, to be confident and to build strong futures must be supported,” Professor Houston said.
“I look forward to these young people going on to graduate from The University of Sydney and other universities, taking their place as doctors, lawyers, engineers and community leaders.”

Organisations wanting to operate an Opportunity Hub in Campbelltown or Tamworth have until 9:30 AM on 14 November to lodge an Expression of Interest at [www.tenders.NSW.gov.au/det](http://www.tenders.NSW.gov.au/det)

**Media: Michael Evangelidis 0428 975 461**

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST BRIEFING SESSIONS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed HUB</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tamworth</td>
<td>Monday, 21 October 2013 at 1:30pm – 3:00pm</td>
<td>AA’s Tamworth Regional Office 2/180 Peel Street, Tamworth</td>
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<td>Tuesday, 22 October 2013 at 11:00am – 12:30pm</td>
<td>AA’s Sydney Regional Office Level 13, Tower B, Centennial Plaza, 280 Elizabeth Street, Surrey Hills</td>
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