INNER CITY ABORIGINAL KIDS CELEBRATE GRADUATION
WITH UNIQUE COOKBOOK

15 young Aboriginal students from Sydney’s inner-city have completed a 13-week cooking program to help them learn healthy cooking skills and create a unique cookbook based on traditional family recipes – Koori Kids’ Kitchen Tales – Fifteen Indigenous Family Recipes.

Minister for Citizenship and Communities and Aboriginal Affairs Victor Dominello joined in the fun of the cookbook launch today, donning an apron to judge a ‘Koori Kook Off’ competition between students.

The NSW Government committed $33,000 to the program which encouraged students to connect with their family and community to develop recipes, improve cooking skills and learn about nutrition.

The program was developed by the National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy (NASCA), an organisation which recruits role models to work with young Aboriginal people to encourage school attendance and promote self-confidence.

“What I love about this program is that it gave young Aboriginal students a real sense of cultural pride and connected them with their family traditions through cooking. The cookbook is a tangible result of their hard work and commitment to the program over 13 weeks,” Mr Dominello said.

“As a result of the Cooking Academy, we’ve seen a real change in the students. We have students who didn’t know how to cook and with little confidence in the kitchen now going home and cooking dishes for their families” NASCA CEO Leanne Townsend said.

“We are extremely proud of what these students have achieved, and how far they have come. The cookbook – Koori Kids’ Kitchen Tales, demonstrates how a relatively simple program can make a big difference. A number of students are now interested in a career in hospitality,” she said.

Minister Dominello said Youth Opportunities grants helped community organisations such as NASCA deliver valuable programs for young people.

“This is just one of 28 unique projects, many of which support young Aboriginal people to be actively involved in their communities.

“It is great to support projects that reach young people who may ordinarily miss out, building confidence and skills which may help them in their education and careers,” Mr Dominello said.

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