Friday, 14 February 2014

KINCHELA BOYS HOME SURVIVORS EXHIBITION LAUNCHED

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Victor Dominello last night attended an exhibition by Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation, recording the stories of men who lived at the home on the Mid-North Coast between 1924 and 1970.

NSW authorities incarcerated approximately 500 Aboriginal boys, and a small number of girls, at Kinchela Aboriginal Boys Training Home, in the Macleay Valley near Kempsey.

The children were removed from their families, culture and communities. Many were subjected to poor treatment and abuse.

The exhibition, coinciding with National Apology Day, was officially opened by Her Excellency the Governor Professor The Honourable Marie Bashir AC CVO at Governor Phillip Tower in Sydney.

Mr Dominello said he hoped the two-week display would give people cause to reflect on the trauma caused by child abuse and the importance of healing.

“The exhibition is prominently displayed in a busy CBD office tower and tells a poignant story of survival for these men who lived through the trauma of child abuse and denial of family and culture.

“I commend the courage and resilience of the men of Kinchela for speaking publicly about their experiences. Their stories tell of both the incredible hardship and the enduring bonds formed among the boys who lived at the home,” Mr Dominello said.

The NSW Government provided KBHAC a $28,000 grant last year to enable 25 men who lived at the home to record their stories through film.

“Opportunity, Choice, Healing, Responsibility, Empowerment (OCHRE), the NSW Government Plan for Aboriginal affairs, recognises the importance of healing in improving outcomes for Aboriginal people. We are supporting healing through initiatives such as Local Decision Making and Language and Culture Nests,” he said.

2014 marks the 90th anniversary of the opening of Kinchela Aboriginal Boys Training Home. More information about the storytelling project can be found on the KBHAC website: http://www.kinchelaboyshome.org.au/

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