MEDIA RELEASE

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TAMWORTH OPPORTUNITY HUB TO HELP ABORIGINAL STUDENTS TRANSITION FROM SCHOOL TO WORK

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Victor Dominello and Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson today launched an Opportunity Hub in Tamworth which will support Aboriginal students to finish school, connect with training opportunities and transition into employment.

Opportunity Hubs are a key initiative of OCHRE, the NSW Government’s Plan for Aboriginal affairs. They act as a bank for local employers and tertiary institutions to ‘deposit’ opportunities such as employment, traineeships, scholarships and mentoring experiences.

“The primary role of a Hub is to broker partnerships between schools, employers and training providers. It’s about empowering Aboriginal school students by offering them opportunities to build up their job skills, experience and aspirations from a young age.

“If an Aboriginal student from Tamworth dreams of becoming a maths teacher, lawyer, hairdresser or plumber, we want to foster this ambition and support them to realise it,” Mr Dominello said.

Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson said Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council, the provider chosen to run the Hub in April, had already begun forging partnerships with employers and NGOs to help students find tertiary education and job opportunities.

“The Hub is located on Marius Street and its services are available to the 1,009 Aboriginal students in years 5 to 12 studying across 33 schools in this region.

“We want to encourage more Aboriginal students to complete high school and through this initiative we are providing additional support and incentives to transition into work.

“Tamworth LALC and consortia partners have significant experience in delivering youth mentoring and training programs for Aboriginal students in this region. I look forward to following the Hub’s progress over the next 12 months,” Mr Anderson said.

CEO of Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council Fiona Snape said, “We hope to change lives by providing young Aboriginal people with inspiration through mentorship while directing them towards real jobs, real opportunity and real change.”

NSW Aboriginal Affairs Taskforce Member and University of Sydney’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Shane Houston said, “Ultimately the four Opportunity Hubs will be judged on their ability to deliver better outcomes for over the long-term.

“Measures such as school attendance rates, Year 12 completion as well as TAFE and university enrolment numbers will be important indicators over the next few years.”
“I look forward to seeing 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.”


Opportunity Hubs have also been established in Campbelltown, Dubbo and Upper Hunter. Information is available at: http://www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au/opportunity-hubs/

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