NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Regional Alliances (NCARA) Signs Landmark Accord with NSW Government

On Wednesday 27 February 2019 Mr Des Jones, Chairperson of the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Regional Alliances (NCARA) signed a landmark agreement with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs The Hon. Sarah Mitchell MLC, for the NSW Government committing to work together to support, renew and return Aboriginal people to prosperity.

This Accord is an important milestone for NCARA as it represents the first attempt for Aboriginal community to participate in the co-design of state-level policy. This signifies the transformation of the relationship between Aboriginal communities and Government.

The Accord commits the NSW Government and NCARA to work together on two priority areas:

- Decreasing the number of Aboriginal youth entering the juvenile justice system including incarceration rates and recidivism;
- Improving early childhood outcomes for Aboriginal children under five years of age, giving consideration to school-readiness, participation in pre-school education, health outcomes and family engagement.

Mr Des Jones, Chairperson of NCARA emphasised the importance of this Accord to Aboriginal communities across NSW, he said *"Aboriginal community voices are finally being heard and valued by the NSW Government under OCHRE and community is feeling the impact of Local Decision Making at ground level"*.

Mr Mark Davies, Deputy Chairperson of NCARA spoke about the journey of NCARA and some of the achievements that have enabled them to build the relationship with the NSW Government.

Minister Mitchell congratulated NCARA on the work they had done so far and committed the Government to working collaboratively with NCARA to achieve the priorities.

Formal negotiations will commence in May 2019. Considerable work has already been undertaken between the parties to develop targets and possible strategies.

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NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Regional Alliances