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MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW GRANTS EMPOWER ABORIGINAL BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYEES

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners and businesses are set to thrive with nearly \$3.4 million in new grants announced by the NSW Government to mark NAIDOC week.

Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education Geoff Lee said 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations will benefit from the Barranggirra Aboriginal Skilling for Employment Grant and Aboriginal Business Advisory Initiative.

“These grants will encourage growth, support start-ups and provide access to training and jobs for Aboriginal businesses right across the state,” Mr Lee said.

“At the heart of these grants is the aim to strengthen training and employment support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders employees and empower the businesses that employ them,” Mr Lee said.

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Don Harwin said the grant programs will also help businesses provide end-to-end mentoring and support to Aboriginal trainees and apprentices.

“These grants bolster the NSW Government’s commitment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and will further support the economic participation and development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, people and communities,” Mr Harwin said.

NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce was one of the successful applicants to receive funding under the Aboriginal Business Advisory Initiative.

“This program will increase the capacity of NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce to better assist Aboriginal people to establish and grow a business in Sydney,” NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive Deb Barwick said.

“NSWICC is excited by the growing numbers of Aboriginal people and groups seeking to establish or grow a business in NSW.

“The increase in Aboriginal owned businesses is clearly also having a significant

impact on Aboriginal employment numbers. Sydney, in particular offers enormous opportunities for Aboriginal business growth.”

The Barranggirra funding has been allocated to:

- Souths Cares PBI Ltd – Sydney Metropolitan
- Bara Barang Coporation Ltd - Central Coast;
- Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation – Illawarra, South East and Riverina;
- Gomeroi Education and Training - New England;
- Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation - Hunter, North Coast & Mid North Coast;
- NSW Aboriginal Lands Council Employment and Training Ltd -- Western NSW.

The Aboriginal Business Advisory Initiative (ABAI) funding has been allocated to:

- NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce
- Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation
- The Illawarra ITECH Ltd
- Kategic Pty Ltd

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