

OCHRE - a continuing conversation

OPPORTUNITY HUBS | LANGUAGE AND CULTURE NESTS | LOCAL DECISION MAKING

OCHRE – A Continuing Conversation

In 2011, the NSW Government and Aboriginal communities started a conversation resulting in *OCHRE*, our community focused plan for Aboriginal Affairs. Since then, we have continued the conversation about the issues that matter to Aboriginal people – governance, strengthening language and culture and supporting young people to positively transition from school into further study, training or employment.



Our approach led the McKell Institute in 2017 to conclude that while other jurisdictions have attempted to co-design, “*OCHRE* stands alone in its scale and ambition”.

Just this week, the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of NSW has concluded that “overall *OCHRE* has been remarkably successful” with “strong positive recognition in the Aboriginal communities of NSW”.

It is also particularly rewarding to note the implementation of the plan has helped to build trust in the NSW Government’s commitment to Aboriginal communities.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the University of NSW and Chief Investigator Professor Ilan Katz who led this independent evaluation. I would also like to acknowledge and thank all of the Aboriginal leaders and community members for their time, knowledge and experience, giving this Government the information needed to grow *OCHRE*.

This evaluation has been ground breaking in that this Government has supported Aboriginal peoples to be at the centre of decision making – from setting the criteria to assess success to determining whether or not the reports are published. It is an example of this Government’s commitment to working differently with Aboriginal peoples in NSW.

I welcome the findings and the recommendation of the *OCHRE* evaluation reports. Like any evaluation, not only has it highlighted successes but outlined areas for improvement so that policy and practice can be strengthened. Our policy started with a conversation; our implementation and evaluation continued the conversation. Our response to the evaluation will be no different to ensure that we have the deep knowledge from Aboriginal people we need to truly transform the relationship between community and government and to make *OCHRE* even stronger.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au/conversations/ochre/evaluating-implementation>

The Hon Sarah Mitchell MP

Minister for Early Childhood Education, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Assistant Minister for Education

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