



## OCHRE HEALING FORUMS

### **OCHRE & Healing**

OCHRE - the NSW Government's community focused plan on Aboriginal affairs was developed following extensive community consultations which indicated healing is a priority. NSW is the first Government in Australia to incorporate healing into its Aboriginal affairs policy.

Healing is a complex and sensitive issue and communities and individuals approach healing in different ways. OCHRE acknowledges that healing occurs under the leadership of Aboriginal people and healing activities are already occurring in NSW.

The state-wide *Healing Our Way Forum* held in July 2014 was the first step in a formal healing dialogue between Aboriginal people and government. The Healing Our Way forum report released in March 2015 led to a government commitment to continue the dialogue with interested communities to understand how agencies can operate to support healing with Aboriginal people.

### **OCHRE Healing Forums**

Aboriginal Affairs in partnership with the Healing Foundation will support six OCHRE Healing Forums during 2017. Consultation with key peaks and stakeholder organisations has informed and supported the ongoing dialogue in OCHRE Healing Forums.

The forums are an opportunity for interested communities and government and non-government agencies to engage directly in discussions to:

- Increase understanding of intergenerational trauma and healing;
- Identify local and regional opportunities to improve the way government and non-government organisations work with communities; and
- Build local partnerships and support for healing.

Discussion outcomes from the forums will also inform a principles based policy approach for government to understand why and how agencies can adopt healing informed approaches into their business.

Aboriginal Affairs and the Healing Foundation have been raising awareness of the OCHRE Healing Forums so that government and non-government stakeholders are prepared and ready to build understanding. Government and non-government service providers should anticipate that communities will be interested to discuss the way policies and services are impacting on healing in their communities.

The Healing Foundation will support practical arrangements for the forums including venue hire and the engagement of an independent Aboriginal facilitator with experience working with Aboriginal communities and healing. Discussion outcomes and undertakings from the forums will be reported and monitored.

For each OCHRE Healing Forum a Local Planning Committee will be formed to co-design and organise the one-day event. It is anticipated that community groups who are already involved in healing will participate in the planning committees.

### **Location of OCHRE Healing Forums**

OCHRE Healing forums will only be hosted in locations where interested communities are interested to engage in discussions with government about healing. Communities can be geographical or interest based (e.g. Stolen Generations, men's, women's, Elders or youth) and selected communities will need to demonstrate that they engage well with their members.

Following an open Expression of Interest process held in 2016, the following sites have been selected to host OCHRE Healing Forums:

- Burrun Dalai Aboriginal Corporation (Mid-North Coast)
- Clarence Valley Aboriginal Healing & Support Service (Mid-North Coast)
- Three Rivers Regional Assembly (Central Western NSW)
- Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation (Greater Western Sydney)
- Barang Regional Alliance (Central Coast)
- Riverina Murray Regional Alliance (Riverina / Murray)

Dates and venues for the forums will be announced as the planning process continues during 2017.

### **Further Information**

For further information on the OCHRE Healing Forums, please contact the nominated Aboriginal Affairs contact officers:

Jason Goninan  
Senior Project Officer

E: [Jason.Goninan@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Jason.Goninan@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au)  
T: (02) 9561 8083

Charles Trindall  
Project Officer

E: [Charles.Trindall@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Charles.Trindall@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au)  
T: (02) 9561 8010

Communities and organisations who are interested in more information and resources to support their interest in healing can find further information at the Healing Foundation's website at [www.healingfoundation.org.au](http://www.healingfoundation.org.au)