



Leslie Williams

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OCHRE GOING STRONG, THREE YEARS ON

Three years after the groundbreaking *OCHRE* plan for Aboriginal affairs was first introduced, the NSW Government has reaffirmed its commitment to ambitious targets for Aboriginal employment, education, business and home ownership.

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Leslie Williams said the third annual report on *OCHRE* shows more Aboriginal school leavers are transitioning to further study or employment, more students are studying an Aboriginal language, more Aboriginal people participating in government decision making and more Aboriginal businesses are supplying products and services to government.

“*OCHRE* is successful because it is plan that Aboriginal communities and the NSW Government created together,” said Mrs Williams.

“Now we are going beyond our initial targets, with plans underway to introduce Aboriginal languages legislation to Parliament next year.

“We have also finalised *Growing NSW First Economy*, a framework to grow Aboriginal economic prosperity.

“The Aboriginal economy is the first economy of NSW, with a history of trade and resource management dating back thousands of years.

“We need to ensure that the benefits of today’s strong NSW economy flow equally to its first people.

“That’s why we are building on the foundations of the Premier’s Priorities, with 12 concrete commitments for growth in Aboriginal jobs and employment, education and skills, and economic agency.

“These include ensuring more Aboriginal children get a quality early childhood education, more Aboriginal young people get a traineeship, and more Aboriginal families own their own home.”

For more information visit the Aboriginal Affairs NSW website at www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au.

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Fast Facts

The latest report into *OCHRE* initiatives shows:

- 1,690 Aboriginal students participating in Opportunity Hubs, up from 1,102
- 73% of school leavers transitioning into further study or employment through an Opportunity Hub, up from 65%
- 5,166 students studying an Aboriginal language, up from 3,679
- 83 Aboriginal public servants graduating from the Aboriginal Career and Leadership Development Program, up from 44
- 7 regional alliances now operating under Local Decision Making and 1 emerging alliance, up from 6
- \$94.1 million spent by the NSW Government on products and services provided by Aboriginal business.

*Growing NSW's first economy*¹² Commitments

Jobs and Employment

1. The NSW Public Service to double the number of Aboriginal people in senior leadership roles
2. Aboriginal employment in all clusters and salary bands to reach 1.8% by 2021
3. Every government construction contract over \$1 million (and/or contracts specifically for Aboriginal communities), includes a target for expenditure on Aboriginal participation. The target must be at least 1.5% of the construction and design costs
4. The NSW Government will strengthen its current procurement commitment beyond construction contracts.
5. Barriers to Aboriginal employment to be addressed, so NSW becomes the best State for Aboriginal people to work under the NSW Government's *Jobs for the future* commitment

Education and Skills

6. 95% of Aboriginal children to be enrolled in the year before full-time school in quality early childhood education programs
7. The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in top two NAPLAN bands for reading and numeracy to increase by 30%
8. 15% of 25,000 Jobs of Tomorrow Scholarship Fund scholarships to be awarded to Aboriginal young people
9. Completion rate for Aboriginal apprentices and trainees to reach 65% by 2021

Economic Agency

10. All regional and district plans to include Aboriginal economic participation by 2019
11. At least 5% of Aboriginal owned and operated small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in NSW are supported by the NSW Government's small business advisory services each year
12. The proportion of Aboriginal households successfully transitioning from social housing into private rental and/or home ownership to increase by 20% by 2019