

Tuesday, 17 November 2020

SUPPORT FOR ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES TO CLOSE THE GAP

The NSW Government has committed \$20 million as part of the 2020-21 Budget to support the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, including support for Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to participate in the planning and delivery of the Agreement.

Treasurer Dominic Perrottet said the past twelve months had been challenging for everyone across the State.

“Aboriginal communities have, in some cases, been faced with the triple crises of drought, bushfires and now COVID-19,” Mr Perrottet said.

“The Government is committed to Closing the Gap, and this Budget provides \$20 million to support the National Agreement, and to strengthen the capacity and abilities of community controlled Aboriginal organisations.”

“These organisations work in key sectors like early childhood, housing, health and disability. This funding is key to helping them increase their capacity for support.

“We are committed to building a better NSW for everyone, which is why we are investing in our people and our future.”

In October, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Don Harwin announced more than \$7 million as the first step in State-based action in support of the National Agreement.

“We can’t achieve our shared goals without the expertise and support of Aboriginal organisations and businesses,” Mr Harwin said.

“The NSW Government is committed to a new way of doing business with Aboriginal organisations. We’re partners with them, sharing decision making, authority and leadership.”

The Budget commits:

- Aboriginal Affairs NSW’s 2020-2021 budget under the *Empowering Aboriginal communities* outcome will be more than \$60 million;
- **\$20 million over four years for empowering aboriginal communities and implementation of Closing the Gap in NSW including:**
 - Almost \$9 million will be provided over two years to resource equal and fair participation of Aboriginal representative organisations in the coordination, planning and implementation of the National Agreement and to work in equal partnership with Government to develop and implement a jurisdictional plan.
 - More than \$7 million over four years to contribute to a national joint fund

- to strengthen the capacity of the Aboriginal Community Controlled sector (early childhood, housing, disability and health) commencing 2020-21.
- Almost \$4 million over two years to support Aboriginal Regional Alliance organisations in the planning and implementation of Local Decision Making Accords, which support the delivery of the Closing the Gap shared decision-making reform and enable local and regional responses to support targets across 10 regions;
 - **More than \$1 million** for the COVID-19 *Aboriginal Community Organisations Grants Program*; and
 - **More than \$660,000** for the *Aboriginal Food Security Program* to provide essential supplies for Aboriginal communities most in need.

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