



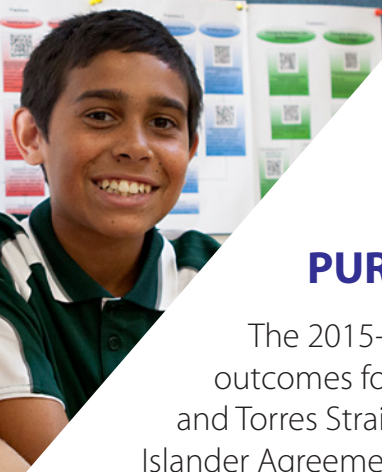
ACT
Government

For strong families

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community and the ACT Budget 2015-16

The ACT Government acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land the ACT is situated on, the Ngunnawal people. The ACT Government acknowledges and respects their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and region. The ACT Government also acknowledges the contribution of other Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people who reside in the ACT.





Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community and the ACT Budget

PURSUING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

The 2015-16 Budget reaffirms the ACT Government's commitment to pursuing equitable outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body as articulated in the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement. This document highlights some of the new and ongoing measures allocated funding in 2015-16 to support Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders living in the ACT.

LEADERSHIP

we seek to empower and create confidence within the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community:



\$407,000

for administrative support and resources for the **ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body**

- This Government strongly values its contribution to progression of quality life outcomes for this sector of our community. to enable Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders in the ACT to represent the interests and aspirations of their community



Over \$3.6 million

in continued **support for community leaders** such as the United Ngunnawal Elders Council (UNEC), Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service, and Gugan Gulwan. We also show commitment to future leaders in the government employee network.



EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

to increase employment and private enterprise for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT, we are committed to:

- **Inclusive ACT Public Service recruitment and retention employment initiatives** such as the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traineeship Program* (\$1,018,795), *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Graduates in the ACTPS Graduate Program* (\$265,323) and *Enrolled Nursing Scholarships*, which aim to better, reflect the diversity in our community.
- Working with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to identify and access **Enterprise Development** programs. Ongoing activities include: funding the *Canberra Business - Yarning Circle*, *Indigenous Community Engagement* forum; *Indigenous Business of the Year* Award sponsorship; and membership of Supply Nation.



\$203,000

for the **ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Grants Program** including study and training scholarships, leadership development and community programs.



\$220,000

for the **ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Job Readiness Support Program** known as the *ConnXtions Program* to provide nationally recognised job-ready training and wrap-around support.

EDUCATION

a number of ongoing budget measures encourage and support life-long learning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including:

- Approximately \$500,000 to **five Koori Preschools** whose targeted early learning programs help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (aged 3–5 yrs) develop strong language, numeracy and cultural understanding.

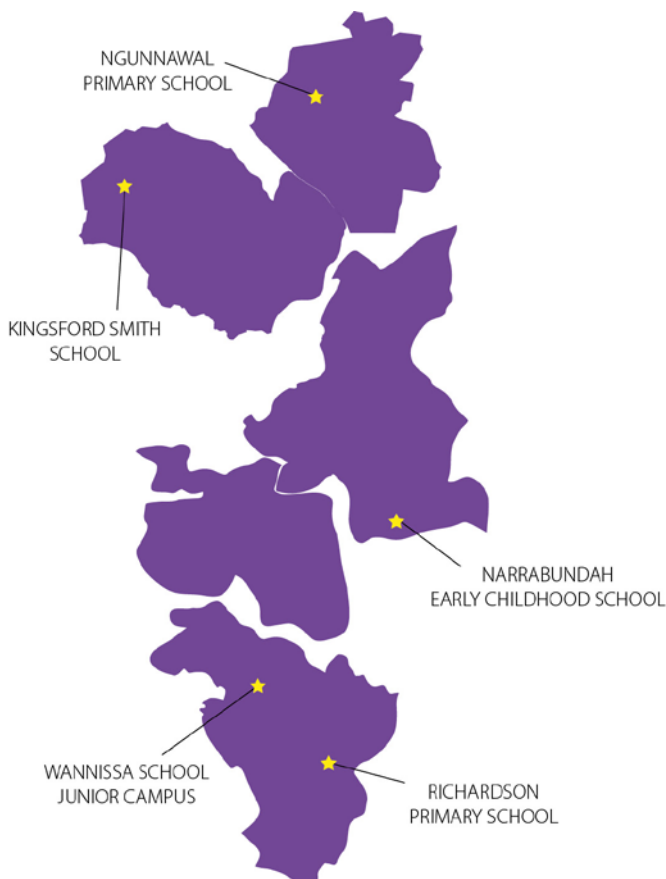


\$130,000

for resourcing and delivery of the **Student Aspirations Program** to guide students in years 5 to 12 to successful completion of secondary school, and progression into further education, training and employment options.

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education officers** to assist teachers to improve attendance, support transitions, establish connections and build relationships between schools, families and communities.

Koori Preschools ACT



HEALTHY MIND, HEALTHY BODY

to support focused and effective health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the ACT we have provided:

- Continued **support for health services** such as the Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service to deliver primary health services, and ACT Government contribution of \$212,000 in addition to Commonwealth Government funding for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Smoking Cessation Program.



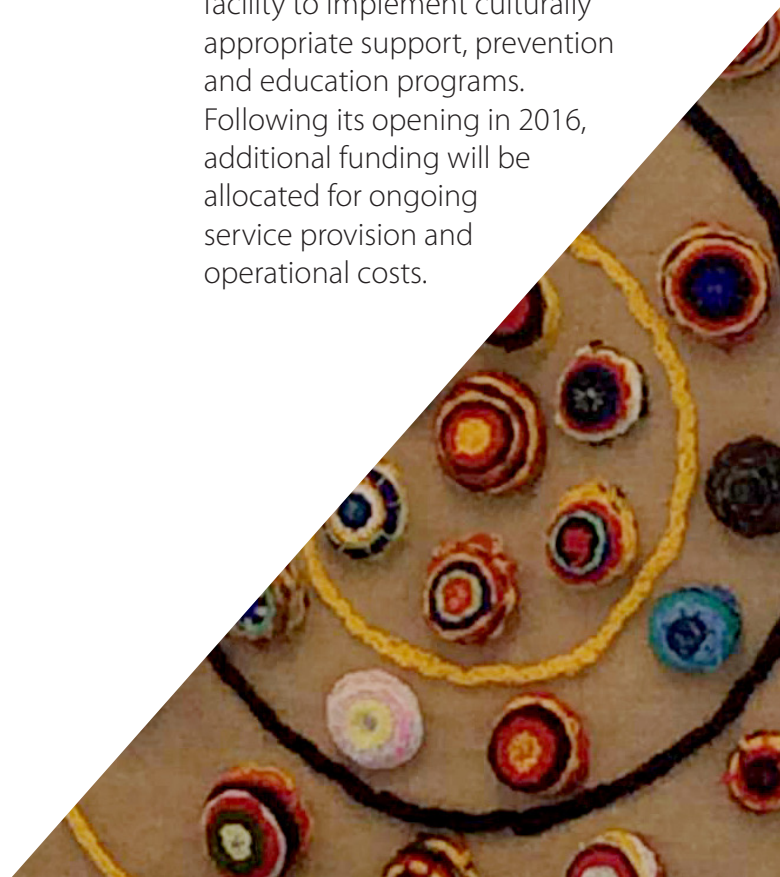
\$1.2 million

to expand the **Growing Healthy Families** Program at the Gunghalin, West Belconnen and Tuggeranong Child and Family Centres to support engagement, inclusion and access to culturally informed services by the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.



\$10.7 million

to construct the **Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm** an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander alcohol and other drug residential rehabilitation facility to implement culturally appropriate support, prevention and education programs. Following its opening in 2016, additional funding will be allocated for ongoing service provision and operational costs.



CULTURAL IDENTITY

we look to assist the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to celebrate culture by:



\$63,000 for general cultural grants supporting community activities celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures especially **National Reconciliation Week** and **NAIDOC Week**.

- Continued funding of **ACT Heritage Grants** to promote understanding of Aboriginal heritage in the ACT, including \$76,000 to conserve an Aboriginal scarred tree.

FEELING SAFE

to improve family and community safety, the ACT Government has provided:



\$529,000

over 4 years for an **Indigenous Liaison Officer** at the Women's Legal Centre.



Approximately

\$631,000

to the **Aboriginal Legal Service** to provide law and justice support services and a duty lawyer at the ACT Magistrates Court.

- \$4.148 million for domestic violence crisis services (\$250,000), education programs (\$615,000), increased Legal Aid base funding (\$867,000), legal outreach homelessness services (\$358,000), and expansion of restorative justice programs to adults (\$2.058mil). These services are part of a continuum of services that have a culturally inclusive approach to delivering services.

CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY

to access strong family, social and support networks, supported by programs, such as:



\$2 million

to deliver **culturally appropriate housing** including for elderly members of the community, and capital upgrades to rental properties for larger families.

- Supporting targeted accommodation services, including the Innana Inc Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Supported Accommodation Services and Gulan Gulwan Supported Housing Assistance.
- \$440,00 to assist organisations to enhance provision of culturally sensitive services to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community through the **NDIS**.
- \$38.9 million for the **A Step Up for Our Kids Program** to reduce the flow of children and young people into out of home care, and \$2.455 million to the **Bendora Youth Justice 'Through Care' Unit** for young people transitioning from custody to the community.

Beyond Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific initiatives, the ACT Government offers high quality public services to the community, accessible by all and outlined on www.act.gov.au. The Elected Body also describes its long term goals within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement and community priorities at their website at www.atsieb.act.gov.au.