



The Hon Victor Dominello MP

Minister for Citizenship and Communities
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 5 January 2012

MORE EVIDENCE THAT A NEW APPROACH TO ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS IS NEEDED

A review into the effectiveness of employment and training programs for Aboriginal people in NSW has revealed that reform is urgently needed, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Victor Dominello MP said today.

The *NSW Government Employment and Economic Development Programs for Aboriginal People Review* by The Allen Consulting Group was ordered by Minister Dominello in June following advice that despite the existence of 14 employment and economic development related Aboriginal programs, necessary improvements for Aboriginal people in employment outcomes were not occurring.

“The findings of the review indicate that the former Labor Government took an ad hoc and uncoordinated approach to the development of Aboriginal economic development and employment programs and the unemployment rate still remains nearly four times higher for Aboriginal people than non-Aboriginal people,” Minister Dominello said.

“There has regrettably been no clear or consistent strategy for job creation for Aboriginal people in NSW. The voices of Aboriginal people were not heard and, under Labor, there was duplication in service provision, inefficiency in administration and unclear accountability.

“In terms of future job programs, the review has identified that what is needed is: greater engagement with the Aboriginal community; improving and sustaining career development pathways through connected programs from school through to employment; leveraging opportunities in growth industries and regions; and strengthening relationships with the private and non-government sectors to link Aboriginal people with more employment and business opportunities.

“The findings of this report are another significant reason why a new approach to Aboriginal affairs is needed and the review’s recommendations will be considered by the recently appointed Ministerial Taskforce on Aboriginal Affairs,” Minister Dominello said.

“This Taskforce includes NSW Government Ministers, bureaucrats and senior Aboriginal representatives making decisions together to develop a new strategy for Aboriginal affairs.



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“The Aboriginal community also has the opportunity to contribute to the development of the strategy through making a submission and/or attending a public community meeting.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is committed to developing a new direction in Aboriginal affairs based on real partnerships with Aboriginal communities and real Aboriginal ownership of initiatives.

For more information about the Ministerial Taskforce, including information on how to have your say, please visit: <http://www.daa.nsw.gov.au/taskforce/> or phone (02) 9219 0702.

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*For a copy of the *NSW Government Employment and Economic Development Programs for Aboriginal People Review* please contact Kristen Cusack. It will also be made available on the AANSW webpage from Monday. Please visit:

<http://www.daa.nsw.gov.au/>