

MEDIA RELEASE

Minister for Community Services
Minister for Women
The Hon. Linda Burney MP



Friday, 25 September, 2009

BUILDING STRONGER ABORIGINAL FAMILIES

Aboriginal families in North Sydney, South East Sydney and the Inner West with children under five are set to benefit from a new program to help them raise happier and healthier children.

Minister for Community Services Linda Burney today launched the program, *Deadly Tots – No Gammin Project* during a visit to Karitane with Member for Fairfield Joe Tripodi.

Karitane is being funded more than \$217,000 to deliver the project to Aboriginal families.

Ms Burney said the *Deadly Tots – No Gammin Project* will raise awareness and provide culturally-appropriate educational resources to Aboriginal parents and carers on topics such as healthy child development, early literacy and getting ready for school.

“The project aims to build up parents’ confidence, connect them with their community and its services and equip them with skills to support their children’s development,” Ms Burney said.

Mr Tripodi today welcomed the NSW Government’s commitment to Aboriginal families.

“To promote its positive messages, Karitane will connect with local Aboriginal communities through cultural and other events where large groups of families come together,” Mr Tripodi said.

“The Project will encourage Aboriginal parents to take their children to supported playgroups, which provide a structured and positive environment for children to socialise, play and learn.

“This is vital to children’s development and can help with the transition to pre-school.”

Karitane CEO Robert Mills said this new project fits with Karitane’s mission to create healthy and vibrant families.

“Most parents want to do the right thing for their kids, but may not know what is available in their community to help them achieve this.

“This project will reach out to Aboriginal families with young children and make sure they have the information and advice they need to make the best decisions for their children,” Mr Mills said.

The project is part of the NSW’s Government’s Aboriginal Child, Youth and Family Strategy – a prevention and early intervention strategy to provide Aboriginal children and young people with the best start in life.

This Strategy is jointly implemented by agencies including Community Services; NSW Health; Education and Training; Housing NSW and Ageing, Disability and Home Care; together with local communities, non-government organisations and local government.

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