

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW LEADS NATION ON ABORIGINAL INITIATIVES

The NSW Government is continuing its strong support of Aboriginal communities in NSW Budget 2018, funding a new Aboriginal Social Housing Strategy, Australia's first Aboriginal Languages Trust and social impact investment.

Treasurer Dominic Perrottet and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Sarah Mitchell said the Budget included \$10 million over four years for a social impact investment to improve Aboriginal economic development opportunities.

"NSW is leading the nation in social impact investment – in the past five years we have commissioned more than \$200 million in outcomes based contracts which are improving the lives of 16,000 vulnerable people across our State," Mr Perrottet said.

"Tangible results in this area have moved us to commit \$10 million to this new social impact investment which will focus on Aboriginal employment and wealth creation."

The Office of Social Impact Investment will call for proposals from the market for innovative, community-led, client-focused solutions in the coming months.

The funding is part of a host of initiatives designed to improve the lives of Aboriginal communities, including:

- \$2.8 million to establish the nation's first Aboriginal Languages Trust;
- \$33.1 million over four years for a new Aboriginal Social Housing Strategy; and
- \$3.75 million to support up to 1000 additional places to expand the Clontarf Foundation's program in NSW schools as it works to improve education, life skills, self-esteem and employment prospects for young Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islanders.

Ms Mitchell said funding for the Aboriginal Languages Trust is a critical step in continuing to acknowledge the value and importance of language to our First Peoples.

"Last year, NSW was the first state in Australia to pass legislation through Parliament

with the sole purpose of ensuring the long term nurturing, growth and revival of Aboriginal languages,” Ms Mitchell said.

“The NSW Government will work diligently alongside Aboriginal communities to ensure the Trust is as effective as possible.”

The NSW Government’s Aboriginal Social Housing Strategy will deliver housing solutions and wraparound support services, and strengthen the Aboriginal Community Housing sector.

Family and Community Services Minister Pru Goward said: “The more Aboriginal people in social housing that are able to access support services through housing, the more that can be empowered to move along the path to housing independence.

“The new strategy will focus on partnerships with local Aboriginal community housing providers to provide better services and more opportunity for our tenants.”

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