

Media Release

Tuesday, 21 June 2022

IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR ABORIGINAL FAMILIES

The NSW Government is investing \$23.7 million over four years to help address the over-representation of Aboriginal families in the child protection and justice systems.

Minister for Families and Communities and Minister for Disability Services Natasha Maclaren-Jones said the additional assistance in the 2022-23 NSW Budget would empower Aboriginal communities to help families thrive.

“We are committed to Closing the Gap and to do this we need to make sure that Aboriginal people are at the centre of decision-making. Taking this approach is key to improving outcomes for vulnerable families,” Mrs Maclaren-Jones said.

“This significant investment is aimed at building on the strengths of communities so that Aboriginal families can make decisions that empower them.”

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Ben Franklin said the funding supported initiatives that would work toward meeting Closing the Gap targets.

“The NSW Government is committed to meeting its Closing the Gap targets by 2031. This funding supports key initiatives that improve outcomes for Aboriginal families across the State,” Mr Franklin said.

The initiatives include:

- \$9.9 million over four years for the Aboriginal Child and Family Advocacy Support pilot aimed at keeping Aboriginal families safely together and prevent them from appearing before the Children’s Court
- \$8.7 million over four years for Strong Families Our Way, which supports a sustainable, community-led approach to self-determination in the Aboriginal child and family system
- \$1.1 million over four years for Therapeutic Pathways for Children to better support children with complex needs, with a focus on addressing offending behaviour to reduce contact with the justice system
- \$3.9 million over four years to bolster Aboriginal-led commissioning to give communities decision-making power over the design, delivery and monitoring of programs and services

MEDIA: Sarah Norton | Minister Maclaren-Jones | 0456 359 283
Matthew Bridges | Minister Franklin | 0428 231 771