



Greg Aplin MP
Member for Albury

MEDIA RELEASE

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MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ABORIGINAL EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHERS

Member for Albury, Greg Aplin is urging local Aboriginal people to apply for a scholarship that will support them in studying a bachelor level early childhood teaching qualification.

Mr Aplin said the new Aboriginal Early Childhood Education Scholarship program will complement ongoing training and leadership opportunities designed to support Aboriginal educators working in the local early childhood sector.

“It is absolutely crucial Aboriginal culture is embedded in early childhood education, and this unprecedented scholarship investment will encourage more of that,” Mr Aplin said.

“Currently, less than 10 per cent of Aboriginal staff working in NSW preschools have a bachelor degree or above, compared to the NSW average of more than 30 per cent.

“This investment by the NSW Government aims to close the gap for degree-qualified professionals.”

The Aboriginal Early Childhood Education Scholarships program will offer 15 scholarships per year of up to \$20,000 each, with the funding going towards costs incurred during studying such as travel, technology and textbooks.

Minister for Early Childhood Education Sarah Mitchell said the scholarships will also go beyond financial assistance, with the NSW Government committing to supporting scholarship recipients throughout their studies by linking them with mentoring programs and other support.

“Through the scholarship program and additional mentoring and support, NSW can look forward to seeing more Aboriginal students successfully joining the early childhood education workforce,” Ms Mitchell said.

“All children in NSW deserve the best start to their education, and we need a diverse and highly skilled workforce to achieve that.”

Applications for the Aboriginal Early Childhood Education Scholarships program will open on Friday, 3 November 2017 and will be accepted until Wednesday, 31 January 2018.

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