



MEDIA RELEASE

PAUL LYNCH MP
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS
MINISTER ASSISTING THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH (MENTAL HEALTH)

July 2008

Revitalising Aboriginal languages

The Lemma Government is helping protect and promote Aboriginal languages in New South Wales under its \$200,000 language grants program.

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Paul Lynch today announced successful grant recipients.

They are:

- Eden based **Aboriginal Cultural Centre Monaroo Bobberber Guda** - \$22,000 for South coast Language, Now and for the Future (**Yuin, Dharawal**)
- Narooma based **Wagonga Local Aboriginal Land Council** - \$10,000 for Wagonga Language Revitalisation (**Yuin**)
- Wagga Wagga-based **Wiradjuri Christian Development Ministries Inc Ltd** - \$11,000 for Creating Wiradjuri Learning Pathways (**Wiradjuri**)
- Sydney-based **Bilbi Indigenous Language Institute** - \$20,000 for the Wellington Wiradjuri Grammar Research and Writing project (**Wiradjuri**)
- Eastern Sydney-based **Gujaga Aboriginal Corporation** - \$24,000 for the Dhawaral Language Program (**Dharawal**)
- Nambucca Heads-based **Muurbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Corp** - \$9000 for Teaching and Resource Development (**Gumbayngirr**)
- Western Sydney-based **Chifley College Dunheved Campus** - \$18,000 for Development of Language Centre (**Dharug**)
- Illawarra-based **Northern Illawarra Reconciliation and Treaty Group** - \$5000 for the Dhawaral Language Nest Pilot Project (**Dharawal**)
- Tingha-based **Wilmali Bulaarr Tingha** - \$20,000 for the Gamilaraay Region Community Sound File Development (**Gamilaraay**)

- Far North Coast-based **Murrabuy Aboriginal Corp** - \$21,000 for the Record Bundjalung Language and Culture (**Bundjalung**)
- **Murbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Cooperative** - \$20,000 for Building on success NSW Aboriginal Languages Summer School Advanced (**Gumbayngirr, Gamilaraay and Wiradjuri**)
- **Murbay Aboriginal Language and Culture Cooperative** - \$20,000 for Building on success NSW Aboriginal Languages Summer School (**Gumbayngirr, Gamilaraay and Wiradjuri**)

Mr Lynch said New South Wales had a proud record of recording and teaching Aboriginal languages.

“New South Wales was the first government in Australia to adopt a formal indigenous language policy,” he said.

“For more than 20 years, Aboriginal people have made it clear that they want their languages back as a vital part of their culture, identity and pride,” Mr Lynch said.

“For Aboriginal people, language is a direct link to their identity, land and country and reflects their unique cultural concepts, spirituality and way of looking at the world,” he said.

Before the arrival of Europeans, at least 70 Aboriginal languages and dialects were spoken in the area now called New South Wales.

Now there are only about 20 distinct Aboriginal languages used in the State.

“Through the hard work of our Aboriginal Languages Research and Resource Centre, we are determined to help Aboriginal people retain their languages,” Mr Lynch said.

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