

Media Release – The Hon Shelley Payne MLC

Grants inject \$3.4 million to support services for Aboriginal people

Thursday, 29 June 2023

- 16 Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) share in \$3.4 million of Closing the Gap grant funding to enhance community services
- State Government committed to investing and supporting Aboriginal Community Controlled Sector
- Funding to progress targets and outcomes under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap

The Cook Government in partnership with Lotterywest has awarded \$3.4 million in grants to 16 Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) to support community services to Aboriginal people across Western Australia.

The grants program was launched in October 2022 calling for ideas from ACCOs to expand or develop initiatives across the housing, health, disability, and early childhood care and development sectors.

Not-for-profit ACCOs across WA were encouraged to apply for a share of grants from the \$3.4 million Closing the Gap funding.

The grants will assist ACCOs in delivering high-quality, sustainable services and outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities. Organisations to receive funding in the Roe Electorate include Badgebup Aboriginal Corporation in Katanning and Kaata-Koorliny Employment Enterprise Development Aboriginal Corporation (KEEDAC) in Narrogin for early childhood care and development initiatives.

A full list of grant recipients can be found here:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/announcements/grants-awarded-34-million-closing-the-gap-funding>

The grants are managed by Lotterywest, which has a long history of supporting Aboriginal communities and strong relationships with the ACCO sector.

Comments attributed to Member for the Agricultural Region Hon Shelley Payne MLC

“I am proud to be part of the Cook Labor Government who is committed to ‘Closing the Gap’ for Western Australia aboriginal people”, she said.

“This important funding will help to support initiatives that empower aboriginal people to deliver culturally appropriate services”.

“The work by both Badgebup Aboriginal Corporation in Katanning and Kaata-Koorliny Employment Enterprise Development Aboriginal Corporation (KEEDAC) in Narrogin is so important for their people, and this will funding will be welcomed by these organisations.”

Comments attributed to Aboriginal Affairs Minister Dr Tony Buti:

“The Cook Government recognises the importance of investing in the organisations that Aboriginal people have established to improve outcomes for their communities.

"We know that Aboriginal community-controlled organisations (ACCOs) will deliver services that achieve real impact.

"This is a key element of our Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy, and our commitments under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

"We are grateful to the Aboriginal Health Council's Social Services Committee for their assistance in developing the grant criteria, and for providing a critical link to the Council of Aboriginal Services Western Australia, the new WA ACCO peak body as it begins to take shape.

"I congratulate the recipients of these grants who continue to deliver key services for their communities. I am looking forward to seeing the positive changes that these vital community organisations can achieve."

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