

## MEDIA RELEASE

**The Hon. Linda Burney MP**  
**Minister for the State Plan**  
**Minister for Community Services**



**Wednesday 16 June 2010**

### **SDN CHILDREN'S SERVICES TO RUN ABORIGINAL EARLY LITERACY PROJECT**

Minister for Community Services Linda Burney today announced that more than \$365,000 will go to SDN Children's Services to run the Aboriginal Early Literacy Project.

"This well-respected organisation will run the project in Northern Sydney, Inner West and South East Sydney. The program will have immediate and long term literacy benefits for Aboriginal children and their families," Ms Burney said.

"Acquiring reading and writing skills as early as possible is important not only for success at school and work but also to ensure full participation in society.

"Early literacy programs have been linked to children's increased motivation and participation in school and to a reduced need for special education.

"The Aboriginal Early Literacy Project aims to increase children and families' knowledge and use of local literacy resources, activities and services.

"The focus will be on children aged 0-5 years and their parents. The project will use appropriate early literacy practices and resources that are known to work with Aboriginal children and families. Literacy workshops will be held for parents and community workers to provide them with both the skills and information to support children's literacy.

"The project will work with the Aboriginal community in the development of the project."

CEO of SDN Children's Services Ginie Udy, said SDN has a proud history of providing educational programs for Aboriginal children in the early years.

"Programs such as the Aboriginal Early Literacy Project are crucial to providing a better start for Aboriginal children," she said.

"We look forward to working with Aboriginal families to help lay the foundation for lifelong learning. We thank the NSW Government for its commitment to early intervention."

SDN Children's Services provides high quality early childhood education to more than 6,000 children each year through long day care, preschool and targeted support programs, including Aboriginal and early intervention programs.

The organisation employs Aboriginal staff in its mainstream childcare centres and family support programs.

In 2007, SDN initiated Aboriginal Early Childhood Scholarships. Through the scholarships, it funds preschool-aged Aboriginal children to attend their mainstream child care centres and helps with their transition to school.

“The project is part of the Aboriginal Child, Youth and Family Strategy, the NSW Government’s prevention and early intervention strategy to provide Aboriginal children and young people with the best start in life,” Ms Burney said.

The Aboriginal Child, Youth and Family Strategy is jointly implemented by NSW Government agencies including Community Services; NSW Health; Education and Training; Housing NSW and Ageing, Disability and Home Care; together with local communities, non-government organisations and local government.

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