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NEW REPORT SHOWS MORE SUCCESSFUL ABORIGINAL STUDENTS AT TAFE

The Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli today launched the Board of Vocational Education and Training report, *Not just a dream: Aboriginal student pathways to higher level qualifications in TAFE NSW*.

The study tracked the pathways of 3,014 Aboriginal students aged 15 to 24, over a six year period from 2005 – 2010, who enrolled in TAFE NSW for the first time in 2005. The report shows significantly improved outcomes for Aboriginal students at TAFE NSW, although some challenges remain.

“The Liberal & Nationals Government is committed to increasing access to education, training and employment opportunities for young Aboriginal people,” Mr Piccoli said.

“We welcome the steady increases in the overall number of Aboriginal young people enrolling in and successfully completing courses at TAFE NSW.

“Total commencements for 15 to 24 year olds more than doubled from 6,868 in 2005 to 17,718 in 2010. Over the same period course completions rose more than 50% from 3,288 to 5,183 in the final year of the study.

“In 2012 TAFE NSW had close to 37,000 Aboriginal students enrolled.

“This report confirms we still have a way to go to ‘close the gap’ in education, training and employment outcomes for Aboriginal people.

“The report highlights the importance of having culturally appropriate training and support services for Aboriginal students undertaking vocational training,” Mr Piccoli said.

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Victor Dominello said it is encouraging to see more young Aboriginal people successfully completing TAFE training, making them more skilled and job-ready for prospective employers.
“Supporting more Aboriginal people to stay in school and TAFE, as a pathway to fulfilling and sustainable jobs, is a major focus of the recently released NSW Government Plan for Aboriginal Affairs,” Mr Dominello said.

“The plan, named OCHRE – *Opportunity, Choice, Healing, Responsibility, Empowerment* – will add to the new wave of young qualified Aboriginal people.”

Mr Piccoli also launched a companion document highlighting good practice initiatives in TAFE NSW Institutes in delivering positive outcomes for Aboriginal students. These strategies help to motivate Aboriginal students and improve their learning experience.

Recent data indicates that over the past 5 years there have been additional improvements in outcomes for Aboriginal students in TAFE NSW, including a 90% increase in completions for students aged 15-24 years at Certificate II and above.


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