



Victor Dominello MP

Minister for Citizenship and Communities
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
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MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW TO COMMEMORATE ABORIGINAL DIGGERS DURING NAIDOC WEEK

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Victor Dominello today announced the NSW Government would provide close to \$120,000 to help celebrate 60 NAIDOC Week events across the state (6 to 13 July).

“NAIDOC Week is an opportunity to celebrate the wonderful culture of Aboriginal and Torres Islander people and recognise their contribution to our country in all facets of society,” Mr Dominello said.

“The NSW Government is pleased to provide small grants (up to \$3000) to support grassroots initiatives and this year we have increased total funding by \$40,000.

“2014 marks the start of Centenary of Anzac commemorations and this year’s NAIDOC Week theme is *Serving Country: Centenary & Beyond*.

“Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have a proud record of service in the Australian Defence Force, having fought in every major operation from the First World War through to modern conflicts in Afghanistan and the Middle East.

“This year provides a unique opportunity for the Australian community to give special recognition at least 400 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who served in defence of our country during the First World War.

“From a Festival in Villawood featuring cultural ceremonies, storytelling and traditional food tasting, through to a forum on the role of Aboriginal people in First World War in Dubbo – there are many excellent events planned.

“Tranby Aboriginal College is hosting an Aboriginal youth conference, while Liverpool Council will hold a street march celebrating Aboriginal culture.”

Mr Dominello said the concept of NAIDOC Week originated in the 1920s when Aboriginal groups sought to raise awareness about the status and treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

NAIDOC, the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee, succeeded a group established to oversee National Aborigines Day until the 1990s.

Information about local events is available on the NAIDOC and Aboriginal Affairs NSW websites: <http://www.naidoc.org.au/> and <http://www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au/>. A full list of grant recipients is attached.

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