



Australian Government



MEDIA RELEASE

11 July 2006

INDIGENOUS YOUTH CENTRE FOR REDFERN

A national centre for Indigenous youth will be built in Sydney following the sale of the former Redfern Public School to the Indigenous Land Corporation.

Plans for the National Indigenous Development Centre (NIDC) were unveiled in Redfern today by NSW Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Frank Sartor, and Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) Chairperson Shirley McPherson.

Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Mal Brough, said the Australian Government, through the ILC, had made \$14.8 million available to purchase the site from the NSW Department of Education.

"We want people from all walks of life to get the chance to excel in their chosen field and the positive experiences that the centre will offer will help young Indigenous Australians become leaders and role models in their own community," Mr Brough said.

"Along with plans to gain private sector involvement in the redevelopment, the total commitment is expected to exceed \$34 million."

Mr Sartor said the Redfern Waterloo Authority had helped negotiate the deal to establish a new youth precinct and showcase for Indigenous culture.

"The best way to improve the circumstances of Indigenous families in Redfern and Waterloo is by supporting a range of opportunities in education and employment," Mr Sartor said.

"This new Centre will help young people from this area and other communities achieve their full potential through mentoring, training and learning initiatives.

"It is expected to help up to 5,000 kids a year, when fully operational."

Ms McPherson said redevelopment of the former Redfern Public School site was expected to commence early next year and is due for completion in 2009.

"The ILC is proud to be taking a leading role in redeveloping the former Redfern Public School site for the benefit of current and future generations," Ms McPherson said.

Plans for the NIDC include a new 25-metre heated swimming pool and sports training field.

The redevelopment includes construction of new multi-use classrooms and accommodation and dining facilities for up to 100 people.

The existing Murawina Child Care Centre and four school buildings (including two heritage-listed buildings) will be refurbished.

The Centre will accommodate a number of established programs, including:

- The Exodus Foundation, which will establish a tutorial centre for children aged 10-14;
- The National Aboriginal Sports Corporation Australia, which runs a number of sporting and life development programs for Indigenous people encouraging health lifestyles through sport and education;
- The Lloyd McDermott Rugby Development Team, which provides opportunity for Indigenous youth to become involved in rugby union, netball and golf.

NSW for Aboriginal Affairs Milton Orkopoulos welcomed the new use for the site.

"It is great to see Redfern's importance to the Aboriginal community across Australia acknowledged through the announcement of the NIDC on this site," said Mr Orkopoulos.

"This centre is another important practical step on the road to addressing Aboriginal disadvantage."

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MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

11 July 2006

Plans by the Indigenous Land Corporation to transform the Redfern Public School into the first National Centre for Indigenous development focussing on sporting, educational and social excellence for young people Australia-wide have received strong support.

Sol Bellear, CEO of the Redfern Aboriginal Authority said he was very pleased with the recent initiatives being developed in Redfern by both the ILC and the Redfern-Waterloo Authority. "The community of Redfern needs major initiatives like this. Resources and infrastructure can only make Redfern a greater place to live by boosting employment and training opportunities and most importantly, by increasing the self-esteem of the individuals who live here. For too long Redfern has been associated with negativity, its time all levels of government began addressing that fundamental issue."

The Centre will provide much needed accommodation and training facilities for peak Indigenous sports development organisations.

National Aboriginal Sports Corporation Australia founder David Liddiard said the new Centre will provide a reward for young Indigenous people who have demonstrated achievements in their own communities. "This new facility will enhance individual skills and competencies by providing leadership opportunities for our young people so that they can return and use these skills in their own regional and remote communities."

The Lloyd McDermott Rugby Development Team currently brings over 500 Indigenous youths to Sydney each year for rugby, golf and netball programs. The Team will utilise the accommodation and training facilities on site all year round. CEO, Tom Evans believes the Centre will provide a focal point for all NSW Indigenous Sport, "a major initiative with a true vision".

Aboriginal owned and managed Murawina Child Care Centre will continue to operate from the site providing affordable day care to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous children. Tonette Simpson CEO, looks forward to the new opportunities of an integrated facility and hopes that Murawina's early childhood programs complement the work of the other organisations involved in the Centre.

The Exodus Foundation Tutorial Centre will run literacy programs for 60 Indigenous students aged between 10 and 14 from the Centre's specially designed classrooms (see Exodus Foundation press release for details).



FACT SHEET

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL SPORTS CORPORATION AUSTRALIA (NASCA)

David Liddiard, ex rugby league star founded NASCA 10 years ago as a way to connect with young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in some of the most disadvantaged communities in Australia. NASCA's aim was to help young Indigenous people understand that they can have dreams – and achieve them.

NASCA's programs are about having fun, but they are also about inspiring and motivating Indigenous youth to reach their full potential. Programs include:

- **ARMtour** (Athletes as Role Models) - High profile athletes (both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) volunteer their time to travel to communities where they conduct sports clinics and education programs. To date, ARMtour has reached more than 6,000 young people in 11 different communities.
- **"Hunting for an Australian Tiger"** - a national sports development program to promote the talents and careers of young Aboriginal golfers. NASCA achieves this through regular visits to centres of Aboriginal population to hold golfing workshops and competitions for Aboriginal children and ongoing mentoring programs.
- **Rugby League** - a joint initiative with NRL aimed at promoting the game and identifying and developing young Aboriginal players. In a typical year, NASCA runs 40 rugby league clinics involving around 4000 young people.
- **"Casting the Net"** - a program for Indigenous girls and women in remote and rural areas to play netball; improving their self esteem, encouraging a healthy lifestyle and creating a pathway for Indigenous players to reach elite levels.
- **Basketball** - a new community development program with the Sydney Kings, focused on youth in Redfern and Alexandria Park.
- **Educational scholarships** - encouraging and rewarding students' achievements in sport and education

Indigenous athletes involved with NASCA on all levels, from being out in the communities running programs through to NASCA Board membership are **Dean Widders** (Parramatta Eels), **Kyle Vander Kuyp** (Olympic hurdler) and **Michael O'Loughlin** (Sydney Swans).

Once established, NASCA predict future numbers of participants at the Centre to be in the order of 200 non-residential and 30 residential per month.



FACT SHEET

LLOYD MCDERMOTT RUGBY DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The Lloyd McDermott Rugby Development Team was established in 1991 as a way to introduce rugby union to Indigenous male and female youth across Australia.

The Lloyd McDermott Rugby Development Team is the only Indigenous organisation that is recognised as the peak body for Indigenous participation in rugby union by the Australian Rugby Union and all affiliates. This is evidenced by the Team's participation in the ARU National Championships in a range of age groups and sexes.

The Lloyd McDermott Rugby Development Team provides educational opportunities for participants from regional and remote communities by assisting them to undertake educational scholarships at a number of private schools within Sydney and Regional areas. Students also participate in leadership courses.

Some notable players from the Redfern area who have participated in the Lloyd McDermott programs are:

- Brendan Williams - Randwick Rugby - ACT Brumbies, NSW Waratahs, Australian U19's, U21's 7's and now playing for Bennetton in Italy
- Willy Gordon - Randwick Rugby - ACT Brumbies, Australian Schoolboy's U19's, U21's 7's.
- Nathan Merritt – played for Cronulla and recently returned to the Rabbitohs.

Since 1995, the Lloyd McDermott Rugby Development Team has been heavily involved with the youth of Redfern/Waterloo and the Alexandria Park Community High School.

Lloyd McDermott Rugby Development Team expects to bring a minimum of 500 participants to the Centre on a yearly basis.



Australian Government
Indigenous Land Corporation

FACT SHEET

EXODUS FOUNDATION TUTORIAL CENTRE

The Exodus Foundation will operate a tutorial centre in newly built, specifically designed classrooms within the future National Indigenous Development Centre.

The Exodus Foundation's acclaimed education programme based on teaching methods developed in conjunction with Macquarie University has assisted the lives of hundreds of students at the Exodus Foundation's Ashfield Tutorial school for the past 10 years.

The new Tutorial Centre in Redfern will cater for 60 Indigenous children annually, providing intensive literacy programs for young people aged between 10 -14 years to improve literacy levels, school attendance and classroom behaviour. Many children from the Redfern area currently travel to attend the Ashfield Tutorial Centre.

The future Tutorial Centre will also provide an afternoon program providing "top-up" education for children who need extra work and possibly with adult programs as well.

The Exodus Foundation has obtained funding commitments from the Commonwealth and the private sector.



FACT SHEET

MURAWINA CHILD CARE CENTRE

Indigenous owned and managed Murawina Child Care Centre was established in 1973 and for many years operated from a small terrace property on “the Block”. Murawina moved to the former Redfern Public School in 2003 under a long-term lease arrangement with the NSW Department of Education and Training.

The affordable and culturally appropriate full day care centre and pre-school caters for up to 69 children, many of which are Indigenous. However, Murawina also accepts non-Indigenous children from the local community.

The ILC recognises the existing Murawina lease arrangement and is honouring the NSW Government’s commitment to retain the Child Care Centre on site for a further 26 years.

Tonette Simpson, Murawina’s CEO looks forward to the new opportunities of an integrated facility and believes that Murawina’s early childhood programs complement the work of the other organisations involved in the Centre.



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
ASHFIELD PARISH MISSION

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MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL Tuesday, 11 July 2006

A NEW DEAL FOR REDERN

The groundbreaking education programme of Rev. Bill Crews' Exodus Foundation will be included in the new National Centre for Indigenous Development at Redfern – the plans for which will be announced today.

Rev. Bill Crews will join Frank Sartor, the NSW Minister for Planning and Minister for Redfern Waterloo, and Shirley McPherson, the Chairperson of the Indigenous Land Corporation for the official project launch on the site of the old Redfern Public School.

The Indigenous Land Corporation has purchased the site for construction of the National Centre for Indigenous Development which will house organisations providing educational, sporting, recreational and accommodation services for Indigenous youth.

When completed the National Centre for Indigenous Development will feature the Exodus Foundation's acclaimed education programme which is based on the teaching methods developed in conjunction with Macquarie University. Over the past 10 years the programme has changed the lives of hundreds of students at the Exodus Foundation's Ashfield Tutorial school.

"We already help dozens of Aboriginal students with their schooling every year. Many of the students we help are at risk of dropping out of the education system entirely, but after completing our programme over 90% of them remain at school for at least 4 years", said Rev. Crews.

The Federal Government has already contributed \$50,000 to the Exodus Foundation education programme which will operate in specifically designed classrooms within the Centre catering for the educational needs of up to 60 students every year.

"This development is a new deal for Redfern. It represents a fresh start, and will provide young Aboriginal people with the means to lift themselves out of the poverty trap", said Rev. Crews.

Date: Tuesday, 11th July 2006

Time: 11:00am

Venue: Old School Hall, Redfern Public School
180 George Street, Redfern

Rev. Crews is available for interview

Phone: 9751 1795 or 8752 4600

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