Regional Partnership Agreement

between

the Illawarra Aboriginal Community,

the Australian Government

and

the State Government of New South Wales

2011 – 2014
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Abbreviations

AANSW  Aboriginal Affairs NSW
AECG  Aboriginal Education Consultative Group
AHO  Aboriginal Housing Office
ABS  Australian Bureau of Statistics
COAG  Council of Australian Governments
CtG  Closing the Gap
DEEWR  (Commonwealth) Department for Employment, Education and Workplace Relations
DET  (NSW) Department of Education and Training
DPC  (NSW) Department of Premier and Cabinet
FaHCSIA  (Commonwealth) Department of Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs.
IACBWG  Illawarra Aboriginal Community Based Working Group
IAC  Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation
IAMS  Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service
ILALC  Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council
LGA  Local Government Area
RPA  Regional Partnership Agreement
SICC  Sydney Indigenous Coordination Centre
TWT  Two Ways Together
1. Overview

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Community profile: key issues

- The Illawarra region covers the Local Government Areas (LGA) areas of Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama and Wingecarribee.

- The traditional owners of the Wollongong area are the Dharawal (also spelt Tarawal or Thurruwal) people. The Wodi Wodi is a sub-group of the Dharawal nation who occupied areas around Lake Illawarra, including Berkeley and Hooka Creek. The Gundungurra people lived in the area known as the Southern Highlands. The Illawarra region has many different groups that represent traditional owners.

- The ABS 2006 Census identified 5,268 Aboriginal residents in the Illawarra area. This represents 1.7% of the total population which is less than the NSW average of 2.1%. However some areas of the Illawarra have rates higher than the NSW average. For example the Aboriginal population in Shellharbour is 2.3% of the total population.

- In 2006 approximately 39% of the Illawarra Aboriginal population in the Greater Wollongong area was aged less than 18 years. This is a much younger profile than the non-Aboriginal population. Infants under five years old were 12% of Greater Wollongong's Aboriginal population in 2006. This proportion is 6% more than in the non-Aboriginal population. Access to early childhood services continues to be an issue for the community. 5% less Aboriginal children are in pre-school compared to non-Aboriginal children.

- In 2006 21% of Great Wollongong Aboriginal residents aged 15+ completed Year 12 compared to 37% non-Aboriginal residents (a gap of 15%).

- Aboriginal people in the Illawarra region continue to experience higher unemployment rates than the non-Aboriginal population and are also less likely to be engaged in the formal workforce. The 2006 Census found that that Aboriginal employment rates for Wollongong was 46.1% compared to 66.5% for the non-Aboriginal population.

- Aboriginal unemployment rates are also particularly higher for younger members of the community. For example in 2006 the unemployment rate for those aged 15–24 years was 17% higher for Aboriginal young people compared to non-Aboriginal young people.

- According to 2006 ABS figures, 594 Aboriginal households in Greater Wollongong lived in public housing which is 24% of Aboriginal households. This rate was 3% more than the proportion of Aboriginal households in public housing across NSW (21%) and 3.6 times the proportion of other Greater Wollongong households in public housing (7%).

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1 Data taken from AANSW (2009) Portrait of Great Wollongong Partnership Community compared with NSW
1.1.2 Community structures and the RPA

- In 2003 the Illawarra Aboriginal Community Based Working Group (IACBWG) was established by Aboriginal elders and community members. This comprises community members, government representatives and Aboriginal and non-government agencies. The network provides a place to discuss issues of concern to the community and identify appropriate responses from government and non government agencies. Representatives from this group, known as delegates, attend meetings with the NSW Government Senior Managers group for the Illawarra region and are part of the Regional Partnership Project Steering Committee.

- The IACBWG meets monthly and includes time for interagency sharing between Aboriginal community and organisations and non Aboriginal agencies. A Koori time session is held at each meeting for Aboriginal members only.

- The IACBWG also has five people who are nominated as facilitators of the Cluster groups. These Cluster groups focus on the areas of areas of education and economic development, law and justice, housing, social health and wellbeing and culture and heritage. The groups provide reports at the monthly IACBWG meetings and have their own plans.

- Since 2005 the IACBWG has been working with the Australian Government through the Sydney Indigenous Coordination Centre and the NSW Government, through Aboriginal Affairs NSW and the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, to negotiate a Regional Partnership Agreement.

- Extensive community consultation has taken place on the RPA and in 2009 community members agreed to work towards a final agreement. While this process has been facilitated through the IACBWG it was agreed that other community input was needed to ensure that all community perspectives were represented in the final agreement. The community nominated four advocates for the RPA and these people joined a new committee known as the Delegates, Advocates and Government Steering Committee whose role was to both support the work of the IACBWG and finalise the RPA.

- At the October 2010 IACBWG meeting the RPA was endorsed by the Working Group and a motion was passed that all Illawarra Aboriginal organisations should be given the opportunity to endorse the final RPA. A process was put in place to undertake consultation with these groups. This took place in October and November 2010 and resulted in 15 different organisations agreeing to join with the IACBWG in becoming signatories to the RPA.
2.0 Key Principles and Commitments

- Nothing in this Agreement detracts from the legitimate aspirations of the Aboriginal people of the Illawarra region for self determination and self management. Nor does the Agreement prevent or stop Aboriginal families and communities who are not IACBWG members from approaching Governments and negotiating agreements outside of the RPA.

- The economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being of Aboriginal people in the Illawarra region can best be achieved where national, state and local priorities are fully aligned with the aspirations of Aboriginal people at the regional and community level. This includes the aspiration for the preservation, maintenance and expression of art, culture and business from past, present and future.

- Aboriginal people have a specific right to be involved in the management and protection of country and heritage. Governments recognise and will incorporate Aboriginal knowledge, insights, values and involvement in efforts to conserve and protect the environment.

- Governance arrangements involving representation of Aboriginal people and communities of the Illawarra region will be reflected in partnership structures. The arrangements will take into account:
  - The roles and responsibilities of government agencies and the local Aboriginal governance framework;
  - Monitoring and reporting arrangements;
  - Lines of accountability; and
  - Community consultative processes.

- This Agreement is a statement of mutual intent to work together to build on local strengths to address needs in the community.

Aboriginal people in the Illawarra region assert that there are two fundamental and indivisible elements to improving services to Aboriginal people to achieve better outcomes:

- Partnerships between Governments and representative groups of Aboriginal people who identify regional and community circumstances and need; and

- Responsibility of mainstream Departments to provide efficient, effective and culturally responsible services in accordance with those priorities determined by Aboriginal people and accountable to them.

The partners agree that service delivery is the most important aspect of the development of Aboriginal people and communities, underpinning their aspirations for self determination.

The principles of service delivery arrangements are to:

- Build self management and self reliance as a response to Aboriginal community self determination;
- Develop the capacity of individuals, families and communities for the future;
- Improve the coordination of services among contributing Departments;
- Invest in communities in accordance with regional and community plans;
- Foster and support a balance between special initiatives and mainstream services; and
- Strengthen capacity for regional governance.
These principles and commitments are consistent with those made in the NSW Governments Aboriginal Affairs Plan: Two Ways Together 2003 – 2012 (TWT) and TWT Illawarra-South East Regional Action Plan. The NSW State Plan was released in November 2006 by the NSW Government to deliver better results for the broader NSW community from Government services. The NSW State Plan contains goals, priorities and targets for NSW Government action over the next ten years.

The NSW Government is committed to ‘Reducing The Gap’ and the NSW State Plan has targets related specifically to Aboriginal people in five initial focus areas:

1. Safe Families  
2. Education  
3. Environmental Health  
4. Economic Development  
5. Building Community Resilience, which supports the delivery of the above focus areas

As part of TWT, an Illawarra - South East Regional Action Plan was developed in 2007 and identified four goals to be addressed at the regional level over the following two years. These are:

- Aboriginal children are better prepared for school.  
- Implement early intervention and prevention activities that address chronic disease.  
- Safer communities.  
- Culturally appropriate service delivery.

These principles and commitments also reinforce those made through the Australian Government’s commitment to Closing the Gap targets (see below), the Service Delivery Principles for Services for Indigenous Australians (COAG 2008), the Urban and Regional Service Delivery Strategy for Indigenous Australians (COAG 2009) and the Overarching Bilateral Indigenous Plan between the NSW Government and the Australian Government.

The Australian Government is committed to ‘Closing the Gap’ targets which are to:

- Close the life expectancy gap within a generation.  
- Halve the mortality gap for Indigenous children under five within a decade.  
- Halve the gap for Indigenous students in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade.  
- Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.  
- Within five years all four year olds in remote Indigenous communities have access to quality early childhood education program.  
- At least halve the gap for Indigenous students in Year 12 or equivalent attainment rates by 2020.
The agreed COAG priority areas are:

- Healthy homes
- Safe communities
- Health
- Early childhood
- Schooling
- Economic participation
- Governance and leadership
3.0 Goals and objectives of the agreement

The goals of the Agreement are to:

- Make a contribution to meeting the Closing the Gap targets, particularly in the areas of education and economic participation;
- Improve service delivery by Government Departments and Agencies; and
- Increase the capacity of the Illawarra Aboriginal community to address issues that are contributing to the gap in Aboriginal disadvantage.

The objectives of this Agreement are to:

- Establish partnership arrangements between Aboriginal people, communities and Governments;
- Work collaboratively to implement effective coordination and flexible delivery of services by Government Departments to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people;
- Utilise and support effective mechanisms to enable Aboriginal people to participate fully in determining the need, establishing priorities, participation in decisions regarding the provision of services, and implementing projects at the community level;
- Assist mainstream Agencies to meet their responsibilities in the provision of standard services to Aboriginal people and also in the delivery of special programs, services and initiatives;
- Share responsibility for achieving measurable and sustainable improvements for Aboriginal people living in the region;
- Support and strengthen regional and community governance, decision making and accountability; and
- Further develop community capacity building.
4.0 Parties to the agreement

The parties to this Regional Partnership Agreement are:

The Illawarra Aboriginal Community through:

- the Illawarra Aboriginal Community Based Working Group and Aboriginal organisations in the Illawarra region;
- the Commonwealth of Australia (Australian Government), represented by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Aboriginal Affairs (FaHCSIA) through the Sydney Aboriginal Coordination Centre (Sydney ICC); and
- the State of New South Wales (NSW Government) represented by Aboriginal Affairs NSW, Department of Human Services NSW (AANSW).

The Agreement:

- Recognises and respects each of the parties’ rights, roles, responsibilities and obligations;
- Provides a basis for cooperation and partnership in service delivery between community and governments;
- Supports ongoing negotiation between the parties to enhance the management, provision and delivery of services; and
- Acknowledges the need to identify regional and community priorities, and to build Government assistance around them.

4.1 Roles of the Parties to the Agreement

4.1.1 Illawarra Aboriginal Community Based Working Group and Aboriginal organisations

The Aboriginal community parties to the agreement include 16 individual Aboriginal organisations and the Illawarra Aboriginal Community Based Working Group.

The Illawarra Aboriginal Community Based Working Group is a local participatory mechanism developed by Aboriginal people in the Wollongong-Shellharbour-Kiama-Wingecarribee area.

The vision of the Illawarra Aboriginal Community Based Working Group is to nurture culturally sensitive Government services through a partnership approach that respects the uniqueness, authority and integrity of the Aboriginal people in the Illawarra region.

The membership of the Illawarra Aboriginal Community Based Working Group is open to Aboriginal community members, Aboriginal Elders, Traditional Owners, Aboriginal organisations, Non Government Organisations and all Government Departments at the local, State and Federal level.

The members of the Illawarra Aboriginal Community Based Working Group and Cluster Groups engage in regular consultation with Aboriginal people and communities in the Illawarra region. The Illawarra Aboriginal Community Based Working Group and Cluster Groups are owned by the Aboriginal people and communities of the Illawarra themselves and are of their making.

The aim of the Illawarra Aboriginal Community Based Working Group is to open the lines of communication between all levels of Government and local Aboriginal people and communities of the Illawarra region.
4.1.2 The Australian Government

The Australian Government recognises that Aboriginal people and communities must be involved in deciding on a regional and local basis how Government programs will meet their needs and how projects will be implemented.

The Australian Government wants to improve the way Government Departments administer programs and deliver services to Aboriginal people and is seeking coordinated service delivery based on a ‘whole of government’ approach.

FaHCSIA through the Sydney ICC will coordinate the Australian Government Departments’ input to the negotiation, development and implementation of the agreed action plans; provide support and direction in increasing community capacity and leadership and monitoring and evaluating the effective implementation of these plans and agreements.

4.1.3 The NSW Government

The NSW Government is committed to working through partnerships with Aboriginal people and other Governments to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people. The NSW State Plan and TWT are the NSW Government’s pathways to achieve this.

Aboriginal Affairs NSW, Department of Human Services NSW (AANSW) with the assistance of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) will coordinate State Government agencies’ input to the negotiation, development and implementation of the agreed action plans. They will provide support and direction in increasing community capacity and leadership as well as contributing to monitoring and evaluating the effective implementation of these plans and agreements.

5.0 Operational Arrangements

5.1 Planning and Resourcing

The attached agreed Action Plans take into account the priority areas set under the Urban and Regional Service Delivery Strategy for Indigenous Australians and the NSW and Australian Government commitments on Closing the Gap in Aboriginal disadvantage. They are aimed at securing service improvements in each area through more effective use of existing resources and identifying new opportunities for meeting the Closing the Gap targets. They do not outline all investments currently made by Governments such as those delivered through the National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Aboriginal Health and core funding to agencies such as the Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service and the Illawarra Land Council (see Annex A for a summary of key initiatives focussing on Closing the Gap in the Illawarra).

The Action Plans guide the investment from the Governments towards achieving the objectives of this Agreement. Planning arrangements will involve:

- Greater coherence and transparency in the way individual Government Departments operate;
- Responsibility and accountability by all parties to the Agreement;
- Setting of agreed performance measures;
- A balance between mainstream funding, Aboriginal specific programs and services and local initiatives consistent with the principles of mutual obligation;
- Flexibility of Government Departments to meet identified community priorities and needs; and
- Other stakeholders from local government, non government and private sectors.
The Illawarra Aboriginal Community Based Working Group through the relevant Cluster Groups has identified actions to respond to specific local priorities, projects and outcomes. The first Action Plans that form part of this Agreement will particular address issues relating to -

- Leadership and governance
- Reducing the gap in employment outcomes and promoting economic development
- Reducing the gap in educational attainment
- Capacity building and access to services such as housing.

5.2 Partnership Structure

5.2.1 Regional Partnership Project Steering Committee

The Parties agree to commit to developing a partnership approach to the implementation of the Agreement.

The Parties will continue to work through a Regional Partnership Project Steering Committee (RPPSC) where all Parties that are signatory to the Agreement will have representation. The RPPSC will:

- Provide leadership for the agreement ensuring a cohesive approach between partners, stakeholders and people living in the region;
- Establish a productive and collaborative working relationship with the Illawarra Aboriginal Community Based Working Group.
- Oversee the implementation of the objectives of the Regional Partnership Agreement and other agreements;
- Facilitate communication and collaboration between Parties to the Regional Partnership Agreement;
- Agree on new priorities and areas for joint action; and
- Oversee the implementation and performance management of the agreement.

5.3 Performance Reporting, Management and Evaluation

An important component of the RPA is evaluation and monitoring to ensure desired results are being achieved. Responsibility in this area is shared between government agencies, the organisations actually delivering the service and the community, through the parties signed up to the agreement. Normal contractual obligations will apply to funded organisations. The Illawarra Aboriginal Community Based Working Group and Cluster Groups will provide one vehicle through which the outcomes of the overall RPA will be monitored. The IACBWG will also have responsibilities in keeping the community informed of progress and engaging communities in two-way feedback on progress or otherwise with initiatives.

The Parties agree to report progress against timeframes, performance indicators and agreed benchmarks for agreed action plans and to provide sufficient information to an agreed mechanism established for this purpose.

The Parties agree, subject to applicable privacy legislation, to collect, provide data and to make performance information available for evaluations, as agreed to, from time to time, and such permission will not be unreasonably withheld.
Data collected during, or as part of, an activity carried out under this Agreement will be made available to all Parties to the Agreement. All Parties will endeavour to comply with the Information Privacy Principles in Section 14 of the *Privacy Act 1988* as if they were an ‘agency’ as defined in the Act.

Intellectual Property rights are respected under the purposes of this agreement and where appropriate, release of any information requires endorsement from all Parties to this agreement.

The Parties agree that in the third year of this Agreement’s operation, the effectiveness of this Agreement will be independently reviewed.

### 5.4 Dispute Resolution Arrangements

Where any Party believes there is a dispute in relation to any matter under this Agreement, it shall then give a written dispute notice to the other Parties, specifying the nature of the dispute.

Within three weeks of delivery of the dispute notice to the other Parties, the Parties shall meet and negotiate in good faith over a period of up to three weeks in order to resolve the dispute amicably.

If the dispute is resolved amicably, then the resolution shall be committed to in writing and attached as a Schedule to and thereafter become part of this Agreement.

If the Parties have been unable to resolve the dispute to the satisfaction of all Parties in accordance with the above process, then the Parties shall appoint a qualified independent mediator within four weeks and the mediator shall endeavour for up to three weeks to help the Parties reach agreement in relation to the dispute.

The mediator will conduct the mediation in accordance with the rules of mediation and the costs of the mediator will be paid in equal shares between the parties in dispute, and each Party shall bear its own costs.

The processes of mediation are to:

1. Be voluntary and non-binding on the Parties;
2. Facilitate agreement between the Parties;
3. Not impose a decision upon the Parties; and
4. Be confidential.

Where independent mediation fails to resolve a dispute in relation to any matter under this Agreement, the Parties will apply their best endeavours to amend or renegotiate this Agreement.

### 6. Duration and Variation of Agreement

This Agreement will commence on the date of signing by all Parties and will continue for a period of three years or until all of the Parties agree to terminate the Agreement or prepare another document to replace this Agreement.

The Parties may agree in writing at any time to change the contents of this Agreement.

If any Party wishes to withdraw from this Agreement, that party will give at least three months notice to the other Parties.
Action Areas of the
Illawarra Regional Partnership Agreement
### Action Area 1: Leadership and Governance

**Project Description:**

Develop the leadership and community governance skills of members of the Illawarra Aboriginal Community Based Working group, its Cluster groups and other Aboriginal community groups in the Illawarra area. This will be achieved through –

- Employment of a regional coordinator to support the work of the IACBWG and its Cluster groups
- Facilitating access to specialised Aboriginal leadership programs for Aboriginal men, women and young people

**Project Rationale:**

The Strategic Plan and operating guidelines for the IACBWG have not been updated since 2006. There is a need to strengthen the operations of the IACBWG to ensure that it continues to be able to effectively advocate for the needs of the Illawarra Aboriginal community, and provide accountability to the community.

There is also a need to build the leadership skills of members of the Illawarra Aboriginal community to ensure that they are able to fully participate in local, State and National initiatives that are working towards Closing the Gap.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Lead Agency &amp; Partners</th>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>When</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding of a regional coordinator for the IACBWG to coordinate its responsibilities under the RPA, its relationships with Government partners and to facilitate processes to improve the effectiveness of the IACBWG.</td>
<td>FaHCSIA</td>
<td>Strategic plan and operating guidelines of the IACBWG are updated.</td>
<td>Recruitment taking place in 2010.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identification, through consultation with Aboriginal community members, of needs and opportunities for FaHCSIA leadership programs to be implemented. These leadership programs will be complemented by opportunities for accredited training in governance and management (see action area 5).</td>
<td>FaHCSIA</td>
<td>No of participants in leadership programs.</td>
<td>Needs identified within three months of signing RPA. Programs implemented within 12 months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment of a Place Based Project Officer to work with the IACBWG and the community on governance issues.</td>
<td>AANSW</td>
<td>Formal recognition of the IACBWG.</td>
<td>Position currently being recruited.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Action Area 2: Closing the Gap on Employment Outcomes**

**Project description:**
- To implement strategies to increase employment opportunities for Aboriginal people in the Illawarra Health and Community Services Sector.
- To identify other sectors (such as the green economy) where there are opportunities for employment growth for Aboriginal people.

**Project Rationale:** Unemployment is higher among Aboriginal people in the Illawarra compared to non-Aboriginal people. In 2009 the Education, Employment and Business Development Cluster group initiated a research project (funded by DEEWR and DoHA) to identify practical actions to increase employment opportunities in the health and community services sector which is the fastest growing sector in the Illawarra region. This research was completed in June 2010 and identifies a number of key actions to build pathways into employment for Aboriginal people in the health and community services sector. This research has demonstrated the benefits of taking an evidence based approach to identifying employment opportunities and a similar approach will be applied to other sectors.

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An action plan for Phase 2 of the Health and Community service Workforce Project will be developed and implemented. This will particularly address the areas of:</td>
<td>DEEWR EEBD Cluster Group DoHA NSW DET-State Training Services AANSW</td>
<td>Action plan developed and funding identified by June 2011.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Increasing opportunities for health and community services related work experience and traineeships for Aboriginal people (including those in schools).</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Improving the marketing of jobs in the health and community sector to the Aboriginal community.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Increasing the opportunities for local health and community services organisations to develop and implement Aboriginal Employment Strategies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Implementing strategic partnerships between training providers, job service providers and employers, particularly in the areas of nursing, childcare and aged care.</td>
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<td>Increase the employment of Aboriginal people in the Illawarra through –</td>
<td>DPC AANSW</td>
<td>Meet NSW Government target of 2%. Increase in signatories to job compact</td>
<td>June 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>• implementation of the Making it our Business, NSW Aboriginal Employment Action Plan, 2009 -2012 and;</td>
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<td>• developing and implementing a Job Compact on Aboriginal Employment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contribute to initiatives that are developing employment opportunities for Aboriginal people in the green economy. This work is consistent with recommendations made in the Green Jobs Illawarra Action Plan (NSW Govt 2009)</td>
<td>EEBD Cluster Group, RDA DET, DEEWR</td>
<td>Develop and implement action plan that promotes green jobs.</td>
<td>December 2011.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Action Area 3: Closing the Gap on Educational Outcomes.

**Project Description:**
- To deliver effective and responsive education with a focus on improving educational outcomes particularly in the areas of literacy, numeracy, attendance and retention.
- To implement strategies to encourage parents to support their children's education from pre school onwards.

**Project Rationale:** The proportion of the Illawarra Aboriginal population who have only completed Year 8 is above the NSW average. While this rate improves in Years 9 and 10, it reduces again in Year 11 as many people leave school. In 2006 there was a gap of 15% in school retention rates to year 12 between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. The Education, Employment and Business Development Cluster group has identified improving educational outcomes as one of the key strategies to build community capacity and economic participation.

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Targets</th>
<th>When</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expand the number of work experience opportunities and school based traineeships such as those offered through Project Murra.</td>
<td>DEEWR DET- Schools AECG</td>
<td>Increase in school retention rates.</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reduction in Aboriginal youth unemployment rates.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>To build the relationship between Aboriginal parents and school communities through:</td>
<td>DET DEEWR (PACE) EEBD Cluster group AECG</td>
<td>Parents engaging with schools.</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>actively promoting the parent resource guide developed by the EEBD Cluster Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>implementation of a Parent and Community Engagement Project (PaCE) in schools in the Illawarra region with a high proportion of Aboriginal students.</td>
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<td>ensuring that culture and heritage issues are addressed appropriately</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide practical support to ensure that children are supported to stay engaged with schooling. This support could include –</td>
<td>DET- Schools AECG Community Support Service</td>
<td>Improvements in the NAPLAN tests for Aboriginal students.</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>activities and programs that engage children within the school, such as breakfast clubs, homework centres, lunch programs etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Increase in school attendance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ensuring that Aboriginal parents are aware of financial support available to assist with education.</td>
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**Action Area 4: Increase access to housing for Aboriginal people in the Illawarra region**

**Project Description:**
To drive innovative solutions to meet a range of housing needs for Aboriginal people in the Illawarra. This project is to implement a pilot project for Aboriginal young people with disabilities and develop options for delivery of mid term accommodation to Koori youth.

**Project Rationale:** Access to and appropriateness of housing has a direct impact on the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people. The Access to Housing cluster group has identified a hidden need for more suitable accommodation for young Aboriginal people with a disability. The ABS 2006 data reports that Aboriginal people represented 7% of the population of people with disabilities under the age of 20 years. These people with disabilities are often living in overcrowded conditions and do not always access the support services they are eligible for.

In Illawarra the rate of Indigenous homelessness is 143 per 10,000 persons compared to 31 per 10,000 persons for non Indigenous (NSW Homelessness Action Plan)

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<th>Targets</th>
<th>When</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To establish an Independent Living Project for young Aboriginal people with a Disability through developing a partnership between Aboriginal Housing Office, NSW Housing, ADHAC and FaHCSIA. The Aboriginal Housing Office has made available suitable unit accommodation for this pilot project and support services will be coordinated by ADAHC.</td>
<td>NSW Housing Aboriginal Housing Office ADHAC Access to Housing Cluster Group</td>
<td>Pilot project implemented.</td>
<td>Pilot established December 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>To develop a model of Supported Accommodation for Aboriginal young people through a partnership with Shellharbour Aboriginal Community Youth Association, Southern Youth and Family Services and the Illawarra Community Housing Trust.</td>
<td>Access to Housing Cluster Group NSW Housing SACYA</td>
<td>Model developed which includes funding required and management arrangements.</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Action Area 5: Strengthening Capacity of Aboriginal Organisations

**Project Description:**
To implement a program of support and accredited training for Aboriginal community organisations in the areas of governance, management and/or program implementation.

**Project Rationale:** The Urban and Regional Service Delivery Strategy identifies the importance of building the capacity of Aboriginal organisations as one strategy to increase Aboriginal people's access to effective and culturally appropriate services. Aboriginal organisations are also important avenues to increase Aboriginal employment opportunities. Many Aboriginal organisations struggle to meet governance requirements and often also have difficulties in securing adequate levels of ongoing funding to enable governance and management structures to be strengthened.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Lead Agency &amp; Partners</th>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>When</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| - Consult with Aboriginal organisations who express interest in being part of the program, to identify areas where support and further development is required to achieve long term sustainability.  
- Plan and implement a program of support over a two year period. This support will include the provision of accredited training in the areas of governance and community management. | FaHCSIA  
NSW Community Services  
DPC  
AANSW  
ORIC  
Illawarra Forum Inc | Needs assessments completed and plan developed.  
Plan implemented.  
Demonstrated increase in capacity of agencies (such as attracting additional funding).  
Increase in number of Aboriginal people with management qualifications. | June 2011  
2012  
2013 |
**Action Area 6: Increased access to effective and culturally competent services.**

**Project Description:**
To implement a program of activities that increases Aboriginal people’s access to effective services.

**Project Rationale:** At a recent community consultation meeting (held in May 2010) a number of concerns were raised about barriers to accessing appropriate services from mainstream agencies. The Urban and Regional Service Delivery Strategy identifies that Governments need to work in partnership with Aboriginal people to ensure government investments in mainstream agencies are delivering effective and accessible services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Lead Agency &amp; Partners</th>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>When</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| A reference group comprising representatives from the IACBWG, DPC, AANSW, FaHCSIA, the Illawarra Forum and the ICC will be formed to develop a process for identifying barriers to services and a plan to address these barriers. Strategies may include –  
- Implementation of a tool kit that assists agencies to assess their own cultural competence and issues that need to be addressed.  
- Implementation of cultural respect and cultural competence education and training programs for mainstream agencies that involve local Aboriginal community members.  
- Agency forums/open days that can assist with building trust between Aboriginal community and service providers. | FaHCSIA DPC AANSW Community Support Service | Plan developed and implemented. | 2012 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Area 1: Leadership and Governance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordination support for the IACBWG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Government (FaHCSIA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1: $125,000 for regional coordinator (confirmed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2: $125,000 (proposed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3: $125,000 (proposed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional planning and meeting support for the IACBWG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Government:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1: $7,000 a year committed by DPC and AANSW (confirmed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2 and 3: $14,000 (proposed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnership Community and Community Engagement Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.5fte Partnership Community Project Officer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance, leadership and skill building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Government (FaHCSIA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal Leadership and Engagement Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Area 2: Closing the gap in employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of Phase 2 of Health and Community Services Workforce Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Government (DEEWR) Project funding to be confirmed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning of employment opportunities in green economy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Government (DEEWR) Project funding confirmed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Making it our Business</em> implementation plan for NSW Public Service and development of Job Compact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Government</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Action Area 3: Closing the gap in education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Funding Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase opportunities for parental engagement in schooling</td>
<td>Australian Government (DEEWR) Project funding to be confirmed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School traineeships, Project Murra.</td>
<td>Australian Government (DEEWR) Funding confirmed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Action Area 4: Increase access to housing for Aboriginal people in the Illawarra region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Funding Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To provide set up support for the Independent Living Project for young Aboriginal people with a Disability pilot project</td>
<td>Australian Government (FaHCSIA) $20,000 for set up costs (confirmed)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Action Area 5: Building capacity of Aboriginal organisations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Funding Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal capacity development project that focuses on working with small Aboriginal organisations in Illawarra area. Organisation and strategies to be identified through consultation.</td>
<td>Australian Government (FaHCSIA) $240,000 over 3 years $140,000 in Year 1 to conduct consultation with Aboriginal organisations and community groups and to support capacity building initiatives (confirmed) $50,000 a year in subsequent years for capacity building project (proposed)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Action Area 6: Increasing access to effective and culturally competent services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Funding Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partnership project between IACBWG, DPC, ICC and Illawarra Forum; identifying barriers and developing actions. Community Support Service (through Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation)</td>
<td>Australian Government (FaHCSIA) $30,000 (confirmed subject to project plan) $150,000 a year (confirmed)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Annex A

**Summary of other key funding initiatives focussing on Closing the Gap**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Partnership on Closing the Gap in Aboriginal Health Outcomes;</td>
<td>Funding of Aboriginal Health Outreach Officers in Illawarra Division of GPs and Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous Chronic Disease Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Partnership on Homelessness</td>
<td><strong>Assisting Aboriginal young people leaving care (Illawarra)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This project aims to prevent Aboriginal homelessness by assisting 20 young people in care transition to independent living. Under this project additional case worker positions will be established in an existing Aboriginal specific leaving care service provider to assist Aboriginal young people leaving care to move into appropriate and sustainable accommodation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Partnership Agreement for Low Socio Economic Status School Communities</td>
<td>Implementation plans for each of the Smarter Schools National Partnerships include strategies to support Aboriginal students, teachers, school leaders and school communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Partnership for Literacy and Numeracy (National Smarter Schools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnerships)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Community Builders (NSW Community Services)                                   | • Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation; Koori Youth Culture Connect (3 years)  
• Kiama Council Aboriginal Engagement Project (2 years)  
• Shellharbour Council, Aboriginal Culture & Heritage 'Toolkit/ Protocol' (1 year) |
Signatories to the

Illawarra Regional Partnership Agreement
Illawarra Aboriginal Regional Partnership Agreement

This Agreement is made on the 9th Day of December 2010.

Signed for and on behalf of the Australian Government by:

.................................................................................................

The Hon Jenny Macklin
Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Signed for and on behalf of the New South Wales Government by:

.................................................................................................

The Hon Paul Lynch
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Illawarra Aboriginal Regional Partnership Agreement

This Agreement is made on the 9th Day of December 2010.

Signed by the following Illawarra Aboriginal Community organisations and groups:

Signature : ...........................................  Signature : ...........................................
Print Name: .........................................  Print Name: .........................................
Illawarra Aboriginal Community Based Working Group  Wodi Wodi Traditional Elders Group

Signature : ...........................................  Signature : ...........................................
Print Name: .........................................  Print Name: .........................................
KEJ Traditional Elders Group  Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council
This Agreement is made on the 9th Day of December 2010.

Signature: ..............................................  Signature: ..............................................

Print Name: ..........................................  Print Name: ..........................................  

Illawarra Koori Men’s Group  Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation

Signature: ..............................................  Signature: ..............................................

Print Name: ..........................................  Print Name: ..........................................  

Shellharbour Aboriginal Community and Youth Association  Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service

Signature: ..............................................  Signature: ..............................................

Print Name: ..........................................  Print Name: ..........................................  

Illawarra Dubays  Kula N’gadu Association
This Agreement is made on the 9th Day of December 2010.

Signature: ..............................................  Signature: ..............................................
Print Name: ............................................  Print Name: ............................................
Kullila Welfare & Aboriginal Housing Corp  Boolarng Nangamai Aboriginal Corporation

Signature: ..............................................  Signature: ..............................................
Print Name: ............................................  Print Name: ............................................
Yamanda Association  Moyengully