



Troy Grant

Deputy Premier of NSW
Minister for Justice and Police

John Barilaro

Minister for Skills

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW JUSTICE TO INCREASE ITS INDIGENOUS WORKFORCE

Deputy Premier and Minister for Justice Troy Grant has urged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school students to consider a career in the NSW Justice system, under a broad strategy to boost its number of indigenous employees.

Mr Grant today launched the NSW Justice department's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy. The strategy aims to achieve a six per cent employment of indigenous Australians at NSW Justice by 2017 through recruitment, education and retention initiatives in fields from courts and tribunals through to corrections.

Mr Grant said that NSW Justice will also create 10 new roles for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school-based trainees that will help them gain a nationally accredited qualification Certificate II in Business.

"This initiative is about ensuring we attract and keep positive indigenous role models in our justice system and strengthen NSW Justice's role as one of this Government's leading departments when it comes to workplace diversity," Mr Grant said.

"It's particularly important that we have diversity in our justice system because Aboriginal people are overrepresented in our courts and prisons and we want to break this cycle.

"Already Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees represent four per cent of the NSW Justice workforce, which exceeds the current NSW Government target of 2.6 per cent, but we want to improve on that even further."

Minister for Skills John Barilaro said the 10 new NSW Justice traineeships are being funded as part of the NSW Government's \$1 million Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment Program. This initiative offers job pathways for Aboriginal students in Government by providing them with on-the-job skills and qualifications.

"We want every young person in NSW to have the skills they need to take up future job opportunities in our growing economy," Mr Barilaro said.

"Delivering more job pathways for Aboriginal students to get the training and learn the skills for a long career is a priority for the NSW Government."