

## Bringing healing to NSW Aboriginal communities

Aboriginal communities across NSW will be supported to elevate and address their healing needs through regional gatherings.

The Healing Foundation is delighted to be partnering with NSW Aboriginal Affairs to deliver six Aboriginal healing forums in 2016/2017.

Today's announcement by the NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Leslie Williams follows the success of Mapu Yaan Gurri, Mapu Marrunggirr, an initial healing forum run by Aboriginal Affairs and the Healing Foundation in 2014.

The upcoming forums will bring communities, government and non-government organisations together to discuss how healing can best be supported at a community level for Aboriginal people in NSW. They will continue to support a stronger partnership approach between government and Aboriginal communities in making healing a reality.

"Healing allows our people the opportunity to create and support sustainable change," Healing Foundation CEO Richard Weston said.

"Recognising the impact of trauma on ourselves, our families and communities is the first step towards healing from the intergenerational effects of policies like the Stolen Generations, and this will be covered through the forums.

"This partnership will allow Aboriginal communities throughout NSW to benefit from our experience in supporting healing forums and community healing strategies across Australia, as well as promote Indigenous knowledge and evidence of what works in healing.

"Healing is now in the NSW Government's OCHRE Plan and these forums represent the next step in their commitment to supporting and sustaining community healing."

"These forums flow from the ongoing conversations between Aboriginal people and the NSW Government about how we can best support community led healing," NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Leslie Williams said.

"Healing is about leading and developing our own solutions and creating our own futures. Healing forums are a crucial part of this process," Mr Weston said.

*The Healing Foundation is a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation with a focus on building culturally strong, community led healing solutions. More information is available at [www.healingfoundation.org.au](http://www.healingfoundation.org.au)*

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