

Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre Inc

“Boys to Men: Learning to Live Their Dream”

What is Tirkandi Inaburra?

The Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre (Tirkandi Inaburra) will be a residential centre offering Indigenous youth programs that strengthen cultural and personal identity and resilience. It represents a long cherished dream of the Indigenous people of the area.

The Centre will be located on 780 hectares of land near Coleambally, Central Southern NSW, and held under trust by the Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre.

It will be managed and operated by the local Indigenous community within a working partnership with the NSW Government.

The NSW Government announced in March 2003 that it would fund the Centre. Funding is being provided by the NSW Attorney's General Department.

Tirkandi Inaburra in conjunction with the NSW Attorney General's Department, have undertaken extensive consultation with Indigenous young people, local Indigenous communities and other key stakeholders and the Indigenous communities have welcomed the

project as a real and positive step in preventing their youth from becoming involved in the criminal justice system.

Who will use the Centre?

Tirkandi Inaburra will be for young Indigenous males who have potential but are just starting to "get into trouble" or showing signs of being at risk of contact with the criminal justice system.

Participants will come from communities located between the Lachlan and the Murray Rivers and between Balranald and the western side of the Blue Mountains. Participants will apply to go to the Centre. Tirkandi Inaburra will select young people who can most benefit from the programs offered.

What will Tirkandi Inaburra do?

Tirkandi Inaburra aims to reduce Indigenous over representation in the criminal justice system.

Located in a culturally appropriate rural setting, the Centre will provide educational, vocational and cultural programs within a positive, strengthening environment. Schooling will be provided at the Centre with teachers provided

through Coleambally Central School.

The facility will house 16 Indigenous males who are aged between 12 and 15 years and who will voluntarily reside at Tirkandi Inaburra for between three to six months.

Young Indigenous males will have their immediate problems addressed and the enriching aspects of their culture strengthened.

Indigenous elders will be critically involved in developing and delivering the Centre's programs and in supporting young people as mentors when they return to their communities.

Tirkandi Inaburra will also work to actively engage families in the Centre's programs and will support family healing through links to other agencies and services.

When will it be ready?

Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre will accept its first participants in early 2006.

Work commenced on the Centre's design in February 2004 with construction to be finalised in late 2005.



Attorney General's
department of nsw

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