



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle

**Media Release**  
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### **Indigenous Services to Receive Extra Boost**

Local indigenous service provider Wandiyali ATSI Incorporated is to receive \$447,658 in funding over the next three years as part of the Australian Government's new \$37 million Indigenous Community Support Service, Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP, today announced.

"This investment will help connect young Novocastrians of indigenous descent to a wide range of important services," Ms Grierson said.

"The announcement has come at a particularly significant time, being the beginning of NAIDOC week, our annual celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures."

"This year's theme for NAIDOC week is 'Honouring our Elders and Nurturing our Youth' – and that's something this funding will give real support to."

Ms Grierson is today speaking at the official opening of NAIDOC week, at Newcastle's Town Hall.

Wandiyali is among 58 non-profit organisations across Australia which will deliver the new Indigenous Community Support Service through a network of 84 services reaching 130 communities.

The organisation was established in 1997 to work with Indigenous youth in the community. It works across seven Local Government areas from Lake Macquarie to Merriwa.

Wandiyali has partnerships with many service providers in mainstream and Indigenous services.

The Australian Government has undertaken significant reforms to Indigenous employment and support services to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

The new Community Support Service will build on the role previously played by Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) providers in linking Indigenous people to services and support in their region.

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