



# Media Release

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**JENNY MACKLIN MP**

**Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services  
and Indigenous Affairs**

**SHARON GRIERSON MP**

**Member for Newcastle**

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## **Mobile playgroup to benefit Indigenous communities**

The Awabakal Newcastle Aboriginal Co-operative will begin its mobile playgroup service for Indigenous families in the Hunter later this month with the purchase of a specially equipped van.

The Australian Government has provided \$500,000 to Awabakal for the purchase of the van, equipment, a family worker and two child care workers to facilitate the playgroup.

Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin, said playgroups provide important opportunities for parents to establish social and support networks to assist them in parenting.

“Providing a specialised playgroup in the Hunter builds on the Government’s commitment to improve the lives of Indigenous children,” Ms Macklin said.

“Playgroups are a great opportunity for children to learn social and physical skills in a fun environment, while giving their parents an opportunity to meet with other families and develop supportive relationships.”

The arrival of a purpose built vehicle this week will allow the mobile playgroup to provide a range of ongoing services to children and their parents.

Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson said the new mobile playgroup is a flexible way for children in the Hunter region to participate in a range of fun activities including music and singing.

“The mobile playgroup is customised to transport a large range of children’s play equipment as well as providing a tool for parents to access other family support services,” Ms Grierson said.

The mobile playgroup will service the Newcastle and Hunter region.

The funding for the Newcastle playgroup is part of the expansion of the playgroups program for Indigenous families and will contribute to the Australian Government’s commitment on closing the gap between Indigenous and non Indigenous Australians.