



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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Media Release

Mobile Playgroup for Indigenous Children

Indigenous families in the Hunter will benefit from the Federal Government's announcement of funding for a mobile playgroup for the region, Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson says.

The announcement is part of a \$5 million Australian Government package of specialised playgroups to be established in 20 regional and remote Indigenous communities across Australia delivering a range of activities to around 2400 children.

"As we celebrate NAIDOC Week around the Hunter, I am pleased to announce this funding for Indigenous families and children in our region," Ms Grierson said.

"Following the National Apology in February, this is another of the Rudd Government's practical initiatives to improve the lives of Indigenous children."

"It is also an important opportunity for parents to establish support networks with others in their communities."

"The new mobile playgroups will bring a range of fun activities to children all around our region."

"They operate with little or no infrastructure and carry as much equipment as possible in their vehicles, which are funded as part of the initiative."

"Two early childhood workers run each playgroup and encourage parent involvement in playgroup activities, while a family support worker provides links with community services."

The Department of Families, Communities, Housing & Indigenous Affairs will soon begin the process of selecting an organisation to run the mobile playgroup, which will be based out of Newcastle.

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