



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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NEW PLAYGROUP TO ASSIST INDIGENOUS CHILDREN

The Australian Government has announced that the Awabakal Newcastle Aboriginal Co-operative will receive up to \$500,000 over three years to operate a new playgroup for Indigenous children and their families.

Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson has welcomed the announcement by the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin.

"It's wonderful to see a local organisation like Awabakal selected to provide this much needed service to the Indigenous community of Newcastle and the region," Ms Grierson said.

"The mobile playgroup will provide a range of assistance to families, and help to improve the health and wellbeing of their children."

"Playgroups are a great chance for kids to learn social and physical skills in a fun environment, while giving their parents an opportunity to meet up with other families and develop support networks."

The funding for the Newcastle playgroup is part of the *Expansion of Playgroups for Indigenous Families* initiative.

"These playgroups are an important part of the Australian Government's plans to improve the strength, safety and wellbeing of Indigenous families."

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