



Jai Rowell MP

Minister for Mental Health
Assistant Minister for Health

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 3 February 2015

NEW NSW GOVERNMENT CADETSHIP PROGRAM TO BOOST ABORIGINAL DENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

NSW Minister for Mental Health and Assistant Minister for Health Jai Rowell recently launched the Aboriginal Oral Health Cadetship for Dental Prosthetists at the NSW Centre for Oral Health Strategy at Westmead Hospital.

Mr Rowell was joined by Liberal candidate for Seven Hills Mark Taylor in launching the cadetship program, saying it was part of the Government's ongoing commitment to support more Aboriginal people interested in pursuing a career in oral health to undergo training in their chosen field.

"The Cadetships for Dental Technicians will help build our dental workforce by providing Aboriginal cadets with the necessary training and skills to become technicians qualified to build dentures, mouth guards and bridges," Mr Rowell said.

"This is part of a project being led by the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health to provide comprehensive oral health services to Aboriginal people in rural and remote communities across NSW."

The project is jointly funded by the Australian Government Graduate Year Programs for Oral Health Therapists and Dentists; the NSW Centre for Oral Health Strategy of the NSW Ministry of Health; the Dental Council of NSW and the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, to employ two Aboriginal people in regional and remote New South Wales.

"The NSW Centre for Oral Health Strategy has committed \$200,000 to this important initiative over the next two and a half years," Mr Rowell said.

"This partnership shows the NSW Government is delivering on our commitment to improve access to care for Aboriginal people and develop education and training pathways for Aboriginal people to become oral health professionals.

"The cadetships will enable two individuals to undertake studies in a Diploma of Dental Technology over two and a half years, commencing in 2015.

"This project involves the use of a small van equipped with a laboratory to be used across urban rural and remote communities in NSW, out of which the Cadets will work."

The Aboriginal Oral Health Cadetships supported the NSW Government's Oral Health 2020: *Strategic Framework for Dental Health* and the soon to be released NSW Aboriginal Oral Health Plan 2014-2020.