



March 15, 2016

MEDIA RELEASE

NSWRC welcomes launch of Friends of Reconciliation group in NSW Parliament

The New South Wales Reconciliation Council (NSWRC) welcomes the launch of the NSW Parliamentary Friends of Reconciliation, to be held tomorrow.

Premier Mike Baird and other senior parliamentary figures will attend the launch, which marks the re-establishment of a parliamentary friendship group devoted to reconciliation in NSW.

NSWRC Director Gilly Dempsey sees the renewed bipartisan commitment to reconciliation in NSW as a positive step.

“Reconciliation is about building better relationships between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for the benefit of all Australians,” said Ms Dempsey. “This launch is a step forward for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and supporters of reconciliation in New South Wales.”

The NSW Reconciliation Council has been working to bring Aboriginal voices to NSW Parliament since 2006 with its annual Reconciliation in Parliament event, held in partnership with ANTaR NSW. The 2015 event involved a panel that included NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Leslie Williams and former Deputy Opposition Leader Linda Burney, and was attended by almost 30 Members of Parliament.

NSWRC Indigenous Co-Chair Lindon Coombes said he was pleased that the work of the NSW Reconciliation Council’s work was motivating MPs to further action on reconciliation in NSW.

“We’re delighted that the conversations we saw taking place at Reconciliation in Parliament can now be continued formally by this reconstituted group. It’s also exciting to see MPs demonstrating their commitment to reconciliation in other ways – over the past 12 months many Government and Opposition MPs have signed up as members of our organisation,” he said.

“We hope that this will enable more MPs to learn and talk about reconciliation, and to come up with innovative ideas and actions that make a difference,” said Mr Coombes.





The New South Wales Reconciliation Council is the peak representative body for reconciliation in NSW. Our vision is to create a reconciled, just and equitable community for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians. Our membership is currently made up of Reconciliation Groups and individuals across NSW – Indigenous and non-Indigenous people working together to advance reconciliation in their communities.

For further information or comment, please see the contact details below:

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