

LOCAL JPS HELP INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY OBTAIN BIRTH CERTIFICATES

The Tuggerah Lakes Branch of the NSW Justices Association has received a generous grant from the Wallarrah 2 Community Foundation to further develop their collaboration with the Pathfinders National Aboriginal Birth Certificate Program (PNABCP) and fund the costs associated with attending signing days.

The grant will help the combined forces of the NSW Justices Association and the PNABCP provide essential documentation to thousands of Indigenous Australians in Wyong and regional areas.

The Pathfinders National Aboriginal Birth Certificate Program is a vital initiative devised to help indigenous children obtain birth certificates. To date the Program has provided birth certificates to over 2,000 indigenous children through signing days in regional areas of NSW.

“Annually, 6,000 Aboriginal children across Australia are not registered at birth, and are subsequently denied access to many facets of Australian society,” said Director Bruce Gibbs JP, State Vice President of the NSW Justices Association and Hon. Secretary of the Tuggerah Lakes Branch. “Without this vital document, many Indigenous Australians face lifetime struggles without access to basic rights and services such as education, employment, getting a tax file number or even opening a bank account.

“The spirit of contributing to the community by our volunteers is also very much alive in the Tuggerah Lakes area, with members of the public always commenting on the wonderful service provided by our eight community JP desks and expressing their appreciation. After receiving a grant from Wallarrah 2 last year, the Tuggerah Lakes Branch was able to increase their number of JP services across the Wyong area, opening a new Community JP Desk in the northern districts at Lake Munmorah Shopping Centre”, he added.

The branch has also reported that their membership increased by 25 per cent since last year, and credited the grant from Wallarrah 2 as the catalyst for their now wide reaching accessibility through various membership drives.

Peter Smith, Community Manager of Wallarrah 2 Coal Project said, “Wallarrah 2 is proud to support the Tuggerah Lakes Branch to extend its services to the Central Coast Community.”

“The Pathfinders National Aboriginal Birth Certificate Program is such an important initiative and we are thrilled that we can help fund the partnership between the NSW Justices Association Tuggerah Lakes Branch and the Pathfinders Program,” he added.



L-R: Mr Bruce Gibbs JP, Hon Secretary of Tuggerah Lakes Branch of NSW Justices Association with volunteers Darlene Ford JP & Victoria Peat JP.

For more information, interviews or photos:
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