

## **Aboriginal students commence training to join NSW Police College**

Ten Aboriginal men and women will commence the IPROWD program at TAFE Illawarra's Nowra Campus, to help them gain entry to the NSW Police College at Goulburn. The program known as the Indigenous Police Recruitment Our Way Delivery (IPROWD) commenced in 7 locations across NSW on Monday 6 February with 95 new students commencing the program statewide.

The 2012 IPROWD program builds on the outstanding successes of 2011 where 104 students successfully completed IPROWD which has proven to be a successful pathway for Aboriginal people to either become NSW Police Officers, or benefit from employment in a variety of roles.

The IPROWD program is funded by the Australian Government and Minister Julie Collins said: "IPROWD is a fantastic initiative between the Australian Government, TAFE NSW and the NSW Police Force. For many Indigenous Australians, the chance to train and secure a job with the NSW Police Force seems out of reach."

"IPROWD will help participants develop the skills and academic qualifications needed for a career in the NSW Police Force," she added.

The Australian Government through the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations is providing \$2.9m in funding to support the IPROWD state wide initiative and the results that this project is achieving is outstanding. Currently 88 per cent of IPROWD students successfully gain a National Certificate III qualification and over 60% of students are progressing with applications to join the NSW Police Force. In January 2012, 14 of the 2011 graduates commenced at the NSW Police College in Goulburn and another 25 are hoping to progress in May 2012.

Lucy Arundell, Relieving Institute Director, TAFE Illawarra said: "IPROWD is an excellent example of the value partnerships like this can bring to people. It is a life-changing experience for the people who have taken part,"

"TAFE Illawarra is committed to closing the gap on the disadvantage Aboriginal people experience in education. I congratulate the students who have taken up this opportunity that will open doors to employment and further education." she added.

Assistant Commissioner Mark Jenkins, Commander of Human Resources, said: "As an organisation the NSW Police Force aims to reflect the community we represent and the IPROWD program is a way to assist potential Indigenous recruits reach their goal of joining the Force,"

The IPROWD training program includes a Certificate III in Vocation and Study pathways to meet the entry requirements of the Associate Degree in Policing Practice offered by Charles Sturt University at the NSW Police College. The program is tailored to give Aboriginal people the confidence, skills and knowledge to join the Police. To achieve this members of the NSW Police from the Local Area Police Commands work collaboratively with TAFE teachers to provide assistance and mentoring to the students.

**Media are invited to attend a special presentation at TAFE Illawarra's Nowra Campus (60 Beinda Street Bomaderry in Destiny's Restaurant) on Monday 27 February 2012 at 10.00am.  
For media enquiries please contact Maria Sevastis on 4222 2928 or 0407 668 668.**

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