



MEDIA RELEASE

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Luke Carroll leads new call for investment to close the gap

Wiradjuri actor and TV presenter Luke Carroll is leading a new push to support Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, saying they're the best vehicle to close the gap.

Mr Carroll is the face of the Stronger Future campaign, asking the NSW public to throw their support behind organisations that are operated by and for the Aboriginal community.

"We spend a lot of money on programs meant to support Aboriginal people and close the gap, but most of that money isn't going to Aboriginal organisations," Mr Carroll said.

"At the end of the day, Aboriginal community-controlled organisations are the only ones able to drive change with the full backing and trust of the Aboriginal community.

"We know that they care because they're the ones delivering solutions for their own people. These organisations are built on self-determination, transparency and accountability to Aboriginal people."

Aboriginal community-controlled organisations are defined as independent, not-for-profit community service organisations, owned and operated by Aboriginal people. There are dozens of these organisations, big and small, operating across NSW.

The Stronger Future campaign is led by AbSec (Aboriginal Child, Family and Community Care State Secretariat), the peak body for Aboriginal children and families in NSW, and an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation itself.

"While Aboriginal culture remains vibrant and positive, our people have dealt with a lot of negative things over the years," said AbSec CEO and proud Bundjalung man, Tim Ireland.

"Even now, in the year 2018, authorities are 10 times more likely to remove Aboriginal kids from their homes than non-Indigenous children. That's one of the key issues we work to resolve at AbSec, and one of the reasons we need investment in trusted Aboriginal organisations who can work intensively alongside our families," Mr Ireland said.

"There's a lot of back and forth about closing the gap, but really, what we want is pretty simple in principle. It's Aboriginal communities designing and delivering the solutions to the challenges we face, with self-determination, transparency and accountability to Aboriginal people."

Mr Ireland and Mr Carroll ask members of the public to join them in supporting Aboriginal community-controlled organisations.

“No matter the colour of our skin, we all want health, safety and happiness for our precious children. We can make this happen together. **Please take a minute to visit strongerfuture.org.au and add your name to our statement of support for Aboriginal organisations,**” Mr Carroll said.

Tim Ireland and Luke Carroll are available for interview opportunities.

**Please direct all media enquiries to
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The Stronger Future TVC is available here: <https://vimeo.com/260155002>

Please contact AbSec if you require the video file.

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