Closing the gap for Indigenous students

As part of its strategy to improve outcomes for Indigenous Victorians, the Brumby Government is contributing funding towards the development of eight new academies for Indigenous students. This State Budget provides $1.7 million over three years to contribute to the development of five football academies and three dance academies for Indigenous students.

Philanthropy and the Federal Government will provide the remaining funding for this pioneering program.

The program will establish:

• Five football academies in Government schools at Mildura, Robinvale, Swan Hill, Bairnsdale and Warrnambool

• Three dance academies in Government schools at Ballarat, Eaglehawk and Mooroopna.


As well as delivering a football program, Academy staff – who will include former AFL players – will act as mentors.

Clontarf Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation which aims to improve the health, employment, education and life skills of Australia’s teenage male Indigenous population.

The dance academies will:

• Provide an education program that engages Years 7–10 Koorie girls with their schooling.

• Close the gap through the development of literacy and numeracy skills.

• Provide opportunities for mentoring and development.