

Media Release: Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations,

Media Release Minister for Employment
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The Hon Joe Hockey MP
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT
AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

South Sydney Rabbitohs onside for Indigenous jobs

The Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, the Hon Joe Hockey MP, will today announce a \$2 million Indigenous employment programme between the South Sydney Rabbitohs and the Australian Government.

"The Australian Government is working towards full employment. What this means is that every Australian who wants a job can get a job. As the Minister for Jobs that is my most important goal," Minister Hockey said.

"Australia's unemployment rate is at a 33 year low but at the same time too many Indigenous Australians are missing out on this prosperity. Indigenous unemployment is still too high.

"Having a job is one of the most important ways for people to participate in our society and giving someone a job is just as meaningful.

"Through partnerships, like the one we are establishing with the Rabbitohs and Souths Cares, the Australian Government hopes to provide every opportunity for Indigenous Australians to get a job, start a career, and build a sustainable future.

"The initial phase of the programme is a six-month scoping project to identify employment and training opportunities, as well as opportunities with the South Sydney Leagues Club and the club's corporate sponsors. This project is also part of a larger, whole-of-government education and employment programme being established with the Rabbitohs.

"It's obvious the Rabbitohs have a serious commitment to working with disadvantaged young people and their families by directly engaging current players in the delivery of programmes across communities. This is admirable.

"The funding of up to \$2 million will help to provide more than 200 jobs across NSW, with mentoring and skills development included, to Indigenous Australians. This will be a huge challenge for all involved but I'm more than confident in the Rabbitohs' fighting spirit and positive leadership."

The Indigenous employment programme will be announced by Minister Hockey with Rabbitohs Executive Chairman Peter Holmes Court, Rabbitohs CEO Shane Richardson, and Rabbitohs player and Souths Cares Ambassador David Peachey at the Erskineville Oval at 2pm on Friday 14 September 2007.

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