

# Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre Inc

## “Boys to Men: Learning to Live Their Dream”

### What is Tirkandi Inaburra?

The Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre (Tirkandi Inaburra) is a residential centre that offers Indigenous youth programs which strengthen cultural identity, personal identity and resilience. It represents a long cherished dream of the Indigenous people of the Riverina area. The Centre is located on 780 hectares of land near Coleambally, Central Southern NSW, and held under trust by the Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre. Tirkandi Inaburra is a Non Government Organisation (NGO) that works in partnership with the NSW Government. The Indigenous communities within our communities have welcomed the project as a real and positive step in preventing their youth from becoming involved in the criminal justice system, improving education levels and closing immediate gaps in the lives of our participants.

### Who can use the Centre?

Tirkandi Inaburra targets young Indigenous males aged between 12 – 15 years, who have potential but may just be starting to "get into trouble" or showing signs of being at risk of contact with the criminal justice system. The centre is also used by participants who need to better their education levels, this is achieved through schooling at the centre. Participants come from communities located

between the Lachlan and the Murray Rivers and between Balranald and the western side of the Blue Mountains. Participants have to apply and be accepted to attend the Centre. Tirkandi Inaburra selects young people who can most benefit from the programs offered. Tirkandi Inaburra has a strict selection criteria and not every application is accepted. It does not cost participants family anything to use Tirkandi Inaburra.

### What does Tirkandi Inaburra do?

Tirkandi Inaburra is located in a culturally appropriate rural setting, the Centre provides educational, vocational and cultural programs within a positive and strengthening environment. Tirkandi Inaburra has a learning centre on site and teachers are provided through a partnership with the Department of Education. The facility has a capacity of 14 Indigenous males who voluntarily reside at Tirkandi Inaburra for between three to six months. Young Indigenous males will have their immediate problems addressed and the enriching aspects of their culture strengthened. Indigenous elders are critically involved in delivering the Centre's programs and in supporting young people as mentors when they return to their communities.

Tirkandi Inaburra's programs target self identity, cultural identity, connection to family, country and community. Tirkandi Inaburra works to actively engage families in the Centre's programs and supports family social and emotional wellbeing through links to other agencies and services. Tirkandi Inaburra aims to reduce Indigenous over representation in the criminal justice system.

### Who can refer someone to Tirkandi Inaburra?

The referral process to Tirkandi Inaburra is easy as long as the participant is eligible and falls within the selection criteria. Participants can be referred by family members, community members, government or non government organisations such as Department of Education, Community Services, and local Lands Council or any other Aboriginal organisation etc.

Anyone can refer young indigenous males by contacting Tirkandi Inaburra on (02) 6954 4800 or 1800 759 040.

### Education at Tirkandi Inaburra

Tirkandi Inaburra operates in partnership with the NSW Education Department. Tirkandi Inaburra's

Learning Centre has three permanent teachers and two teachers aids. This enables the participants the opportunity to learn and achieve greater as a result of a one on one learning environment. The school operates between 9am – 1pm until week 2, then 9am – 3pm for the remainder of the school term.

### Tirkandi Inaburra Selection Criteria

Tirkandi Inaburra's selection criteria are as follows;

- Indigenous boys between 12 and 15 years of age;
- Who reside within our catchment area;
- Are disengaging from school, community and family;
- Have low education levels and want to better these levels;
- At risk of contact with the Criminal Justice system;
- First offenders/non-serious offenders;
- Agree to voluntarily enter the Centre and commit to the program;
- Want to make the 'shift' and improve their chances in life;
- Are coming to the notice of police, have been involved in caution or conferencing, are making their first appearance in court;
- Who are currently enrolled in school.

## Tirkandi Inaburra Catchment Area

APPLICANTS MUST RESIDE WITHIN THE CATCHMENT AREA



For more details, please contact:

**Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural Development Centre**

Ph 02 6954 4800 or 1800 759 040 | Fax 02 6954 4855

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