

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 improve or further develop 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 need 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 for their boys to attend Tirkandi Inaburra.

What does Tirkandi Inaburra do?

Tirkandi Inaburra is located in a culturally appropriate rural setting, the Centre provides educational, vocational, sporting 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 a single school term. Young Indigenous males will have their immediate health issues 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.

