

TREASURER TOM KOUTSANTONIS

Thursday, 22 June 2017

Funding for South Australian Aboriginal Interpreter Service

The 2017-18 State Budget includes \$2.3 million over four years for the establishment of a South Australian Aboriginal Interpreter Service.

The establishment of a new office builds on an existing service, which is provided on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands.

The initiative aims to improve service delivery to Aboriginal South Australians by increasing the pool of interpreters available across regional and metropolitan South Australia and raising awareness in the public sector about when and how interpreters should be engaged.

The South Australian Aboriginal Interpreter Service will include staff based in Adelaide and Port Augusta, and it will work in conjunction with the Northern Territory Aboriginal Interpreter Service.

The new office will be responsible for:

- Engaging, recruiting and training interpreters.
- Providing training for public servants engaging with interpreters.
- Meeting with government agencies to ensure interpreters are used to support government service delivery.

Background

In 2015, the State Government developed the *South Australian Policy for Aboriginal Languages Interpreters and Translators*, which aims to ensure State Government agencies are using Aboriginal language interpreters consistently and appropriately.

Under the policy, South Australian Government agencies are guided in the use of Aboriginal languages interpreters and translators where communication in the English language will be a barrier to understanding, accessing and contributing to government services.

Training for public servants, the judiciary and other service providers will improve the use, access and understanding of the need to access interpreters - particularly in the areas of health and justice.

In 2015, the Federal Government announced a trial to provide accredited interpreters on the APY Lands. The State Government's funding will allow the service to be expanded across the state.

Quotes attributable to Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis

The Aboriginal Interpreter Service will increase access to skilled interpreters across regional and metropolitan South Australia and ensure that interpreters are used appropriately.

This interpreter service will help address the problem of supply and use of interpreters, particularly in the critical areas of health, child protection and policing.

Quotes attributable to Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Minister Kyam Maher

With the English language sometimes being the third or fourth language spoken by Aboriginal people, it is important that State Government agencies engage with interpreters and ensure Aboriginal people are afforded appropriate access to services.

This funding will help to deliver better outcomes for Aboriginal South Australians through increased access to services and improved communication, as well as providing Aboriginal people with new opportunities to participate in training and employment as qualified interpreters.

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