



Gareth Ward
Minister for Families and Communities
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MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 23 August 2019

TRAINING HUB TO UPSKILL CASEWORKERS

A new \$3 million training program based in the Illawarra for workers in the child and family sector will play a crucial role in helping children stay with or find their forever family.

The Permanency Support Program (PSP) Learning Hub, based in Warrawong, will offer training and workforce development to hundreds of caseworkers and casework managers from across NSW.

Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services Gareth Ward said the centre would support the state's aim of providing all children with a safe, permanent and loving home to thrive.

"The PSP Learning Hub will be a leader in training staff to provide permanency for vulnerable children and young people across the state," Mr Ward said.

"Permanency options include supporting families to stay safely together, restoring children to their birth parents, guardianship and open adoption."

Aboriginal-owned business Curijo will establish the PSP Learning Hub in Warrawong and will deliver training and development in partnership with Early Childhood Training and Resource Centre (ECTARC) and Cassey Consulting.

Curijo Project Manager, Tina McGhie said the service would provide face-to-face and online training, coaching and mentoring and would work with legal and cultural subject matter experts to support a community of practice.

"This program will benefit caseworkers across the state and help them deliver great outcomes for vulnerable children and families," Ms McGhie said.

"We're committed to permanency in all its forms and believe this program can make a real difference."

The PSP Learning Hub will be available to caseworkers and casework managers from 52 non-Government organisations as well as staff from the Department of Communities and Justice. It will employ up to 17 staff and contractors and begin operation later this year.

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