

Tuesday 2 September 2014

NSW Ombudsman
New Deputy Ombudsman (Aboriginal Programs) appointed

NSW Ombudsman Bruce Barbour announced the appointment today of the inaugural Deputy Ombudsman (Aboriginal Programs). The first appointee to this statutory position is Mr Danny Lester.

“I am pleased to have the opportunity to select the first person to perform this vital role” the Ombudsman said. **“The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Victor Dominello, commented recently on the importance of this position and the work it will do, and I agree with him. After a careful selection process, I have selected Mr Danny Lester to be the first Deputy Ombudsman (Aboriginal Programs). I have the utmost confidence in Danny, and I look forward to working closely with him.”**

Mr Lester’s first focus as Deputy Ombudsman will be setting the direction and approach for the Ombudsman’s monitoring responsibilities in relation to the government’s OCHRE initiatives.

“I am honoured and excited to take up this position at such an important time” said Mr Lester. **“Our community has the opportunity to have a very real say in the way services are designed and delivered. I will be ensuring the OCHRE initiatives, and any future reforms identified to be monitored, are delivering what is promised and bringing about real change.”**

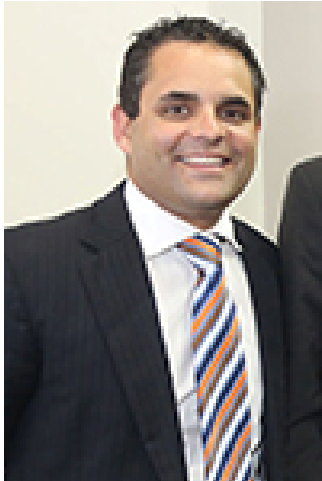
Danny Lester has held a range of positions focussed on improving service provision for Aboriginal communities, both within the NSW government and in non government organisations. His most recent role has been as the Chief Executive Officer of the Aboriginal Employment Strategy. A brief biography of Mr Lester is attached.

“Danny’s experience in both developing and advising on programs for Aboriginal communities, as well as his first hand experience working to bring about change, made him a logical choice for this position” said Mr Barbour. **“I have no doubt he will bring the same levels of passion, commitment, skill, dedication and drive he has shown in all his earlier work to his new role.”**

Mr Lester will take up the position of Deputy Ombudsman (Aboriginal Programs) from 7 October 2014.

More information about the OCHRE reforms is available [here](#).

Danny Lester



Danny Lester started his career working in frontline positions within Commonwealth and NSW government departments.

He then moved into the non government sector, working in a range of positions with both the Aboriginal Employment Strategy (AES) and the Australian Employment Covenant. His most recent position has been Chief Executive Officer of the AES, which he has held since August 2009.

Danny has focussed his working life on improving the educational outcomes, employment opportunities and economic sustainability available for Aboriginal people.

His experience and understanding of the issues facing communities was reflected in his inclusion on the Aboriginal Ministerial Taskforce in 2011. The recommendations of the Taskforce were the basis for the NSW Government's plan for Aboriginal Affairs, *Opportunity, Choice, Healing, Responsibility, Empowerment* (OCHRE).

In addition to his responsibilities with the Aboriginal Employment Strategy, Danny has served on the Board of the Sydney Local Health District, has been a member of the TAFE NSW Advisory Council, and as a member of the advisory council for the Centre for Social Impact.

Danny holds a Bachelor of Adult Education from the University of Technology, majoring in Aboriginal Studies and Community Education. He was also awarded a Diploma in Business in 2009 by University of New England.