

Hands Up Across The Nation: Indigenous Literacy Appeal

email

Written by Barry O'Farrell MP

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NSW Opposition Leader Barry O'Farrell attended the launch of the Hands Across the Nation Indigenous Literacy Appeal in Sydney today.

The Hands Across the Nation Appeal is an initiative of the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation to help solve the Indigenous literacy problem.

"It's alarming that four out of five Indigenous children living in remote communities can't read at the minimum standard," Mr O'Farrell said.

"It's essential that Indigenous children – like all our children – receive literacy skills in order to reach their full potential in life," he said.

"Literacy is an essential part of all our lives – and is an important part in education, training and employment opportunities.

"The Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation does an incredible job of training and supporting more than 150 teachers and carers to improve literacy for over 1000 Indigenous children."

Mr O'Farrell was joined at the launch with ALNF ambassadors including The Wiggles, rugby league great Mario Fenech, Olympian Matt Shirvington, MasterChef host Sarah Wilson, current affairs host Kerry O'Brien, and former magazine editor Deborah Thomas, to have their hands painted.

"Having our hands painted is symbolic of the campaign to join together to bridge the Indigenous literacy gap," Mr O'Farrell said.

"There is much more work to do, and all of us can make a difference to this cause.

"I congratulate ALNF founders Mary-Ruth Mendel, Kim Kelly and elder of the Yuin Nation Max Dulumunmun Harrison, who carried out the smoking ceremony, for their commitment and efforts to raise Aboriginal literacy.

"I encourage everyone to visit and donate to this worthy cause at www.alnf.org.au," Mr O'Farrell said.

