



MEDIA RELEASE
2 February 2016

FOUNDATION RECEIVES FUNDING BOOST

A new Lotterwest Grant will assist the Graham (Polly) Farmer Foundation to improve the delivery of its existing and proposed Learning Clubs in regional Australia.

The \$41,082 grant, which was presented by the Hon Peter Collier, Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Electoral Affairs, will enable The Foundation to appoint the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) to undertake an external study and report into the first three years of activities of the Tom Price After School Learning Club.

Graham farmer CEO Neil Jarvis said the study and evaluation would include site visits, interviews, data collection and analysis, provide continuous improvement input to the project and culminate in a final report recommending a preferred model.

The Tom Price After School Learning Club (TPASLC) project commenced in February 2012 under a partnership between The Foundation and Tom Price Primary School and is funded by Rio Tinto and the Yinhawangka Charitable Trust. The Gumala Aboriginal Corporation also make important 'in-kind' contributions to the project.

At the end of 2015 there were 29 students enrolled in the program (with an additional 24 students involved in a trial outreach program), which supports literacy, numeracy and related educational and personal development among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

The Club operates after school for two days a week for 1.5 hours each day with a target of 32 operational weeks in each year.

"The development of the out-of-school hour's primary school program for Aboriginal children supports the acceleration of their education outcomes, and helps them to complete a seamless transition from primary into secondary school, while underwriting their ongoing educational success and improved life outcomes," Mr Jarvis said.

"This injection of funding has been especially welcomed as it will contribute additional best practice to The Foundation's existing and proposed Learning Clubs."

The study is expected to deliver its findings by the end of 2016.

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Pic caption: (L-R) Neil Jarvis - CEO Graham Farmer Foundation, Dr Sue Gordon AM - Patron and President Graham Farmer Foundation, Hon Peter Collier, Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Electoral Affairs

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