TRIBUTE TO MR DAVID LIDDIARD

Extract from NSW Legislative Council Hansard and Papers
Tuesday 21 August 2012

Motion by the Hon. MARIE FICARRA agreed to:

1. That this House notes that:

(a) Mr. David Liddiard has devoted himself to youth welfare and development, Indigenous health and education and Indigenous employment and participation for over 30 years,

(b) Mr. Liddiard is a Ngarabal man and a respected and well-known passionate advocate of Indigenous Australians,

(c) Mr. Liddiard was a successful sportsman, playing in the National Rugby League, was the recipient of the Dally M Rookie of the Year in 1983, played in two grand finals for Parramatta Eels in 1983 and 1984 and won the Premiership in 1983,

(d) In 1995, Mr. Liddiard founded the National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy [NASCA], which provides real opportunities for Indigenous youth in sport and education,

(e) The National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy has had impressive success with thousands of Indigenous youth being involved and this success has broadened into other areas, such as education, health and employment with one of the National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy's programs, ARMTour [Athletes as Role Models on Tour], taking athletes out to remote communities and interacting with Indigenous communities providing them with positive role models and positive information about the issues that confront them proving to be highly successful,

(f) In addition to his role as founder and Chief Executive Officer of the National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy, Mr. Liddiard has spear-headed initiatives which provide practical support to corporates and businesses with workplace participation strategies for Indigenous talent,

(g) Mr. Liddiard was the first chairperson of Messagestick, an Indigenous telecommunications company, and managed Indigenous Corporate Partnerships for Dare to Lead, and currently for his business CorporateConnect.AB. He has also established a new Indigenous business "Birubi" which takes on civil, building and construction works, and provides training and mentoring to support transition and retention of Indigenous people in workplaces. He has initiated numerous projects with many organisations to secure better opportunities for Indigenous Australians,

(h) Mr. Liddiard has been the key driver for the Gunya Tourism business, established at Titjikala community in remote Northern Territory, which is a community driven tourism enterprise for local employment,

(i) Mr. Liddiard was also a founding supporter of the Australian Indigenous Minority Supplier Council which supports Indigenous economic business development, and

2. That this House acknowledges and commends Mr. David Liddiard for his outstanding service and devotion to improving the health, education and well-being of Indigenous youth and Indigenous communities across the nation.