

**THE HON MARK BUTLER MP
MEMBER FOR PORT ADELAIDE
CANDIDATE FOR HINDMARSH**

**SENATOR PATRICK DODSON
SHADOW ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS
SENATOR FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

LABOR INVESTING IN ABORIGINAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

A Shorten Labor Government will invest \$5 million towards closing the gap in South Australia by assisting the Port Adelaide Football Club in establishing the Aboriginal Centre of Excellence.

The Aboriginal Centre of Excellence will help close the gap for Indigenous students by providing boarding capacity for 50 both male and female students from metro, rural and regional South Australia.

Students will be able to reach their full potential residing full time at the Centre while attending school, with additional programs focused on culture and identity, resilience, wellbeing, health and fitness, respectful relationships; and substance misuse.

While there has been some progress in closing the gap, it's clear that the targets are not being met and we are not on track.

There is a clear message from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and community groups around the nation that they need to be more involved in the policy design and implementation.

That's why the Centre of Excellence has been structured with Power Community Limited (PCL) and has been built on their strong success of current programs including the Aboriginal Leadership Conference and Aboriginal Power Cup.

Member for Port Adelaide, Mark Butler said "The Western suburbs have a rich tradition of strong Indigenous groups that focus on closing the gap.

I'm proud a Labor Government will assist Indigenous students' right across South Australia, with the centre based right here in Alberton."

Port Adelaide Chief Executive, Keith Thomas said "On behalf of the Port Adelaide Football Club I thank the Labor Party for this pledge ahead of the upcoming Federal election.

"This commitment is a tremendous vote of confidence in our vision for creating this Centre dedicated to young Aboriginal students.

"The Aboriginal Centre of Excellence will provide Power Community Ltd with a dedicated space to deliver our industry-leading Aboriginal programs in a state-of-the-art environment, and to help foster reconciliation through providing cultural awareness education in the wider community."

Shadow Assistant Minister for Indigenous Affairs and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, Senator Patrick Dodson said "I am pleased to see the Port Adelaide Football club establish this centre.

"It will support First Nations students reach their full potential while focusing on cultural identity and health and well-being. These are all important priorities for closing the gap."

THURSDAY, 21 MARCH 2019

MEDIA CONTACT: LUCY CARUSO 0408 803 428