



Ray Williams MP

Member for Castle Hill
Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier
for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR WESTERN SYDNEY WRITERS

Emerging Western Sydney writers will benefit from \$75,000 in NSW Government funding for professional development opportunities to further boost the region's growing literary profile.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier for Western Sydney Ray Williams said the funding will be provided to Western Sydney University's Writing and Society Research Centre to support local writers in creating and publishing new works.

"With a diverse population of two million, Western Sydney has some of our nation's most dynamic literary voices and we're pleased to provide new opportunities for the region's literature to be recognised nationally and internationally," Mr Williams said.

"Our community has a wealth of talent and I have no doubt this opportunity will support our local writers develop their skills and enhance their careers."

Deputy Premier and Minister for the Arts Troy Grant said this investment is part of the NSW Government's \$7.5 million four-year commitment to boost Western Sydney arts and cultural opportunities.

"Western Sydney is a priority area under our Government's Create in NSW 10-year policy framework which aims to provide artists and audiences with innovative and rewarding cultural experiences no matter where they live," Mr Grant said.

WSU's Writing and Society Centre will work in partnership with multi-award-winning Giramondo Publishing Company and Sweatshop Western Sydney Literature Movement on this exciting new initiative.

The Centre has a strong record in developing and supporting Australia's most significant contemporary authors through to publication.

Such authors include Michael Mohammed Ahmed, Director of Sweatshop Western Sydney Literature Movement whose first book *The Tribe* was shortlisted for the Readings New Writing Award," he said. "*The Tribe* has enjoyed success as a play as a part of Urban Theatre Project's *Bankstown: Live* (Sydney Festival 2015) and Belvoir Theatre's 2016 season.

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