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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Join Australia's funniest Aboriginal woman and boost cultural opportunities for young Aboriginal people**

Australia's funniest Aboriginal woman, Stephanie Tisdell, will headline Life Without Barriers' Annual Fundraising Gala Dinner, which will be held at the Grange Golf Club in Kembla Grange on Friday, 15 June. All funds raised will go cultural opportunities and connectedness for Aboriginal young people in out-of-home care in the Illawarra and South Coast.

Life Without Barriers' Regional Manager David Newman is encouraging as many people as possible to snap up a ticket for an entertaining evening of music, entertainment, prizes and raffles, that will go to a great cause.

"Many of our Aboriginal young people in care are living away from family and so are disconnected from their traditional country," Mr Newman said. "It's really important to us that, working with and walking alongside our Aboriginal brothers and sisters, we provide young people in care with as many opportunities as we can to connect with their identity and their very rich history of Aboriginal culture.

"The funding that we have to do this can only go so far, so we are holding this dinner to raise funds for our young people to return to their traditional country and experience the knowledge of their people through exploration, stories, songs and conversing with their elders," he said.

"All money raised will give our young people in care the opportunity to engage in skills on Aboriginal heritage – whether that be understanding family lines, stories and languages, crafting tools, and recognising and cooking bush foods," Mr Newman said.

Noel Butler, a Budawang Elder from the Dhurga language group, Yuin Country will be coordinating the cultural activities for the young people. He will also be speaking at the Gala Dinner about his work with Aboriginal young people.

"We are part of the largest continuing culture in the world," Mr Butler said. "All funds raised from the Gala Dinner will enable kids to know and understand their history, find strength in themselves and their abilities and be proud of themselves as Aboriginal people."

"I invite everyone to join us for a great evening. Come have a few laughs with us and get behind this great cause," Mr Newman said.

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**The Life Without Barriers Gala Dinner will be held at the Grange Golf Club, 110 Princes Highway, Kembla Grange, on Friday 15 June from 6pm. Tickets can be purchased [here](#) or contact the Life Without Barriers office on (02) 4260 2200.**

**ENDS**

**Media Enquiries**

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**About Life Without Barriers:** Life Without Barriers (LWB) is one of Australia's largest not-for-profit social purpose organisations, delivering innovative, community-based programs to more than 18,000 people from diverse community groups across the country. LWB works in more than 440 communities delivering services in family support, disability, out-of-home care, aged care, mental health, youth justice, homelessness, substance abuse, and provides support for refugees and asylum seekers.