



## Indigenous shearers get Fletcher support

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**An Indigenous shearing school has received the backing of Australia's largest sheep producer.**

• [Map: Brewarrina 2839](#)

Dubbo's Fletcher International is providing sheep for young Aboriginal trainees to practise shearing.

Rory Lynch from the Indigenous Land Corporation says the school teaches 20 students each year on a property near Brewarrina.

He says the project is arming young people with the skills for long-term employment.

"It's targeted towards young Indigenous men. It's an area of high Aboriginal unemployment, but yet there's still a labour shortage in terms of trained shearers, so it's pretty important for the agricultural and the Indigenous community," he said.

"It's been quite successful. We've had graduates of the school now running contracting teams of their own. There's been a very high success rate of people going into full-time employment."

New accommodation facilities have also allowed the school to accept students from across far west New South Wales.

Mr Lynch says the course has proven successful in the past.

"The age group that we're targeting [is] generally straight out of school anyway, so they haven't had jobs before," he said.

"A lot of it is about building up work ethic as well for people who haven't been previously employed in any sort of industry and providing them with some skills where there's some local demand."

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