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Delivering Opportunities for Indigenous Territorians

The Northern Territory Government has launched a new strategy to lift development, create jobs and bring Indigenous Territorians into the broader economy.


The Chief Minister Paul Henderson said the strategy will guide and encourage economic development in the regions and is vital for Indigenous advancement.

“Getting a job, owning a property, increasing business participation and becoming financially independent are the key issues to closing the gap of Indigenous disadvantage,” he said.

“The strategy builds on the first NT Indigenous Economic Development Strategy launched in 2005. It recognises that one-size doesn’t fit all when it comes to regional economic development and that attracting and securing private investment is critical.”

Mr Henderson said the new strategy also complements other Government initiatives including national partnerships in areas such as education and housing; the Working Futures policy to establish 20 sustainable regional towns; and providing support through the Indigenous Business Development Program.*
The strategy includes a number of key initiatives to

- Supporting the development of Indigenous enterprises on Aboriginal land and work with land councils to negotiate secure leases for the development of local businesses;
- Improve numeracy and literacy and offer students real pathways to employment;
- Promote joint ventures and commercial partnerships;
- Continue to support Indigenous entrepreneurs through the Indigenous Business Development Program;
- Develop and deliver work readiness programs.

Mr Hampton said the four-year IED Strategy set real and achievable targets that require commitment from all levels of government, the private sector and communities.

“By 2012 we are committed to seeing 3000 more Indigenous Territorians start employment across the private and public sectors; 10 per cent Indigenous employment in the public sector; and 200 new Indigenous businesses.

“I'm sure some people will see these as ambitious goals we are setting but I am confident that by building strong partnerships, and with real commitment, we will reach these targets over the next five years.

“We can’t afford not to if we are to develop our regions and ensure that Indigenous Territorians share in our economic prosperity.”

* See attached examples of Indigenous success stories helped by the NT Government’s Indigenous Business Development Program

Businesses Helped by the NT Government's Indigenous Business Development Program

- Aboriginal Bush Traders – a registered business that includes a retail outlet in Darwin and a market stall at Mindil Beach. The Aboriginal Bush Traders stall showcases local Indigenous product from a variety of producers across the Top End. The stall enables a number of Indigenous enterprises to gain valuable experience in displaying and selling their wares in a real environment, catering to local, interstate and international visitors to Darwin. IBDP provided support for the purchase of equipment.
• Katherine Regional Mechanical Services – owned and operated by Darren Ah Chin, who is a certified automotive technical and diesel engineering mechanical plant operator. The business provides a mobile automotive repair service to Katherine residents and visitors. The business was an IBDP recipient to assist with the purchase of equipment.

• Two Ilpa – provides cross-cultural training for NT Government, non-Government organisations and private sector. The business is an Indigenous-owned and operated translation service and cultural awareness service. Ken Lechlietner fluently speaks four languages including Aranda, Anmatjere, Warlpiri and English. He holds a certificate in community administration, has a Northern Territory interpreter and translator service certificate and is currently undertaking a Bachelor of Arts in Aboriginal Policy and Management. The business received IBDP support to purchase office equipment.

• Rainbow Valley Cultural Tours – a joint venture with Alice Wanderer providing Indigenous-guided day tours to places of traditional cultural significance never before open to the public. The business is owned by Ricky Orr who is a traditional custodian of land at Rainbow Valley. The business was an IBDP recipient to purchase equipment.

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