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## Alice Men Gain Leadership Qualifications

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Three Indigenous men from Alice Springs will today celebrate their graduation from a leadership program which aims to redress the low numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males employed within the NT Public Sector.

Employment, Education and Training Minister Syd Stirling will personally congratulate the graduates of the Kigaruk Indigenous Men's Leadership Development Program today.

“Around 5% of the NTPS is Indigenous and a mere 1.6% are Indigenous males, which is hardly representatives of our community,” Mr Stirling said.

“This program is part of broader efforts to bring the NTPS workforce profile more into line with the population profile of the Northern Territory .

“But it's about more than just boosting Indigenous employment in the public sector. It also aims to address the lack of representation of Indigenous men in senior management and executive officer positions within the NTPS.

The three Alice Springs men to successfully complete the program, which was jointly coordinated through Charles Darwin University and the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment, are:

- Mr Richard Hayes (Manager, Community Relations Unit, Schools Division, Department of Employment, Education and Training)
- Mr Peter Lake (Indigenous Sports Program Officer, Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs)
- Mr Chris Field (Acting Core Store Manager, Minerals and Energy, Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development)

“These men were among 25 from across the Territory who underwent a rigorous academic and practical program over an 11-month period, emerging with the requirements to qualify for a Diploma of Business (Frontline Management),” Mr Stirling said.

“Completion of the Diploma counts towards a Bachelor degree in Business, if they choose to further their studies.

“This is a fantastic achievement and hopefully the start of a successful career in senior management for each of these men.”

**Mr Stirling will meet with the three Alice Springs graduates today at 11am in the OCPE Conference Room, First Floor, Belvedere House, corner Bath & Parsons Streets.**

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