New job opportunities for Aboriginal Territorians

25 August 2015

Aboriginal Territorians will receive better training and professional development to help open the door to more job opportunities as a result of Northern Territory Government grants awarded to six Indigenous employment projects.

Chief Minister Adam Giles and Business Minister Peter Styles announced the successful grants today during a visit to the Darwin High School to see Indigenous trainees at work at the new NT Open Education Centre.

Mr Giles said the Indigenous Workforce Participation Initiatives Program supported projects that resulted in more Aboriginal Territorians entering and remaining in employment and developing careers within the workforce.

“My Government is determined to build the capacity of Aboriginal Territorians and Aboriginal communities so they can take full advantage of business and job opportunities,” he said.

“Priority areas for this year’s grants were projects with specific sustainable job outcomes and that helped create a mobile workforce.”

One of the successful projects involves local Indigenous employment company IE Project and construction company Probuild partnering to provide an ‘incubator’ for construction training alongside employment.

Twelve Indigenous trainees have commenced a paid 10 week program combining training and employment in the construction of the new NT Open Education Centre.

To maximise the contact time and learning of the trainees, a demountable classroom has been installed to allow classroom training to take place at the construction site.

The training will be conducted by an Indigenous trainer experienced in the construction sector and trainees will be mentored during the practical components of the course by a qualified Indigenous tradesman.

At the end of the course, trainees will receive a Certificate II in Construction from Batchelor Institute and a number of trainees will continue employment with Probuild or a subcontractor on the $12.9 million NT Open Education Centre project.

Trainees not retained on the NT Open Education Centre project will be placed in alternative employment by IE Project.

Mr Styles said three Aboriginal organisations, two private businesses and a government department had been successful in this year’s funding round.
“The Department of Business Indigenous Workforce Participation Initiatives Program assists industry and business, including not-for-profits, to plan and establish practices and systems to expand employment opportunities for Aboriginal Territorians,” he said.

“In addition to this program, my Department is also working hard to deliver two other initiatives to create employment and economic opportunities for remote and regional Territorians – Start.Run.Grow and Business in the Bush.

“These initiatives are helping employ more business development officers to help businesses improve their competitiveness and assist Aboriginal business start-ups.”

More than $613,000 has been awarded in grants through the Indigenous Workforce Participation Initiatives Program this year for projects including:

IE Project Pty Ltd – to develop a stable, managed and supported mobile Aboriginal workforce able to move across contracts and employment;

- Karen Sheldon Catering Pty Ltd – assist construction entities to ensure workplace entry for trainees; coordinate, mentor and link to training; broker supports; and embed systems for Aboriginal employment;
- Northern Joblink Limited – pre-employment support and work experience for placement into community care positions in the East Arnhem region.
- NT Department of Correctional Services – a pilot program to prepare Aboriginal prisoners for employment on pastoral properties;
- Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi Corporation – Individual career planning and professional development to enable workers who have completed traineeships to transition to ongoing positions and expand their ability to take up the full responsibilities of their roles;
- Wurli-Wurlinjang Aboriginal Corporation – To maximise local Aboriginal participation in the Katherine region and enhance the expertise of community support workers via professional development and the establishment of a case work model for the future workforce.

“The recent introduction of the NT Government IE provisional sum is making a huge difference to opportunities available to Indigenous people,” IE Project Director Wendy Moulds added.

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