



Australian Government
Indigenous Business Australia

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MEDIA RELEASE
Youth Forum to kick-start First Nations Economic Conference

Up to 80 young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders from all parts of Australia have been invited to attend a Youth Forum at the start of an historic First Nations Economic Opportunities Conference in Sydney in July at which the focus is on business.

Co-hosted by Indigenous Business Australia (IBA), the youth component is aimed at encouraging young Australians to embrace business in an attempt to grow the level of Indigenous community wealth.

“It is an opportunity for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to learn about the challenges they are likely to experience in business. At the same time they will experience first hand some of the highlights that success in business can bring, both from local and overseas delegates who are already engaged in global trade through sectors like mining and tourism,” said IBA chairman Joseph Elu.

“While the objective is to assist and promote Indigenous entrepreneurs, IBA is also looking to share its local knowledge and expertise with visiting delegates from Canada and New Zealand for the economic upliftment of all First Nations people.”

Mr Elu said the two-day Youth Forum will provide an opportunity for delegates to hear from a wide array of speakers, representing small business as well as multinational corporations, to cater to differing levels of interest. Among the key speakers is well known celebrity chef Mark Olive, otherwise known as the Black Olive.

Also on the panel is former Senator Aden Ridgeway, now the Executive Chairman of Indigenous Tourism Australia, businessman Damien Amamoo of Inception Strategies and Jahna Lynas of BHP Billiton who is a member of the Indigenous Youth Leadership Programme.

The inaugural IBA conference will run from 17-20 July and will be co-hosted by the Department for Employment and Workplace Relations.

It marks a whole-of-government initiative to advance the economic cause of First Nations peoples that will see more than 500 delegates attend an event that features mining, tourism and property development as key elements in a busy programme.



“It is our intention to bring together people from a diverse range of disciplinary fields and nations who are engaged in developing, have ownership of, or have an impact on the emerging Indigenous business landscape,” Mr Elu said.

Workplace Relations Minister Kevin Andrews said the event will also allow Australians to learn from the achievements of Indigenous groups in other parts of the world. He said he would welcome private sector involvement in a busy programme that will provide an opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to showcase their successes.

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