



Australian Government
Indigenous Business Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

26 June 2008

IBA supports Government Inquiry into Indigenous Business opportunities

Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) Acting Chairman Bob Blair has welcomed the House of Representatives inquiry to consider ways to increase Indigenous enterprises.

He congratulated Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin and Small Business Minister Craig Emerson for supporting the inquiry which gives a focus on how Indigenous Australians have and can participate in the mainstream economy of this country.

“There has never been a better time for us to participate in the growth and prosperity of this country and for us there is a sense of urgency as we need to build solid commercial foundations so that our people can also prosper,” said Mr Blair.

“IBA has a solid track record in this area and we look forward to working with the committee in its consideration of the issues.

“As a business person I know, how we can grow as a people through participation in business.

“We need to look at ways we can participate in the business sector to provide jobs and a future for our young people,” Mr Blair continued.

IBA has a range of support services which it offers to Indigenous Australians, seeking to participate in enterprise and, to address one of the issues that faces Indigenous Australians of poverty.

“Any efforts towards increasing Indigenous business opportunities can only be a good thing, and that is why I have offered my support for this initiative.

“The real measure will be the way the government responds to the findings of this committee,” said Mr Blair.

The Government has referred an inquiry to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs into strategies to develop Indigenous enterprises.

“We are pleased with the commitment shown by the Australian Government in working towards closing the gap in employment outcomes for Indigenous Australians, and we know that State and Territory Governments are also looking at how they can assist,” Mr Blair said.

IBA will be presenting a detailed submission to the committee and offers its support in identifying some of the successful Indigenous businesses who have already established a presence in a range of industry sectors.

Media contact: Daniel Hughes on 02 6121 2731, 0427 011 938 or email daniel.hughes@iba.gov.au



5th Floor Bonner House West, Neptune St, Woden ACT 2606 | PO Box 38 Woden ACT 2606
Phone (02) 6121 2700 | Fax (02) 6121 2730 | www.iba.gov.au | ABN: 25 192 932 833