



**Australian Government**  
**Indigenous Business Australia**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**IBA celebrates purchase of Holiday Inn Townsville**

Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) celebrated its purchase of the Holiday Inn Townsville today with a function held at the iconic North Queensland hotel.

A number of dignitaries and representatives from local Indigenous communities were on hand to celebrate and view the recently resurfaced rooftop pool and the completed prototype rooms, providing a preview of the high quality of accommodation that will be offered at this landmark hotel.

The hotel was purchased in June this year as a major economic initiative involving Indigenous Australians in the Tourism and Hospitality industry in Northern Queensland.

Since then, a design architect has been engaged to develop a new concept for the rooms, restaurant, function rooms and reception with the refurbishment of the hotel to be completed by late April 2009.

IBA General Manager Ron Morony said since the acquisition a number of initiatives implemented have already provided benefits to local Indigenous communities.

“One of the outcomes that we wanted to achieve by purchasing the Holiday Inn was to generate and support employment, training and business development opportunities within the region.

“As part of our ongoing training and employment programs IBA has so far sponsored 8 Indigenous Step Students at the Hotel for their practical experience.

“All of these students have since found employment, with one of the graduates recruited to a full time position with the Holiday Inn.

“We have also commissioned local Indigenous artists from Umbrella Studios to paint 400 art pieces for the scheduled refurbishment of the Hotel rooms,” Mr Morony said.

To date, 40 beds have been donated to the Mungalla Community and a further 15 to Crisis Accommodation supporting Townsville’s homeless Indigenous youth.

It is expected that during the refurbishment process that the Hotel will further donate beds, furniture and fridges to the surrounding communities.

IBA's approach is to invest in commercial enterprises across Australia with Indigenous and private sector partners to build an asset base for IBA and for its Indigenous partners.

IBA is holding discussions with a number of Indigenous groups regarding potential equity participation and ownership of the Holiday Inn and will explore opportunities to use the Hotel as a hub for small business development.

The Holiday Inn Townsville offers 199 guest rooms of four star rating spanning over 19 levels. Features include restaurant, conference/function room, five meeting rooms, top floor outdoor pool, business centre and four retail outlets.

The hotel will continue to be managed and operated by IHG (Intercontinental Hotels Group) and be branded as a "Holiday Inn".

**Media contact: Daniel Hughes 02 6121 2731, 0427 011 938 or [daniel.hughes@iba.gov.au](mailto:daniel.hughes@iba.gov.au)**