



Australian Government
Indigenous Business Australia

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MEDIA RELEASE

IBA supports Costello's "new ways of working" plea

Mr Bob Blair, the Acting Chairman of Indigenous Business Australia (IBA), fully supports Reverend Tim Costello's sentiments about the need for "new ways of working" to close the gap in Indigenous life expectancy.

"The health sector cannot single-handedly close the gap in Indigenous life expectancy," Mr Blair said.

"In looking for solutions, Australia must recognise the importance of economic factors that affect Indigenous health.

"For many years, IBA has heard first hand from our Indigenous clients about the positive economic and social benefits of owning a home or a business.

"This year, we conducted research that confirms that people in home ownership are better off, financially and socially.

"These benefits of home ownership contribute to overall health and wellbeing and thereby impact on Indigenous life expectancy.

The research, commissioned by IBA and conducted by the Centre for Appropriate Technology, highlighted the key social benefits of home ownership being an increased sense of security, control over living circumstances, pride and a sense of ownership.

A majority of households reported no significant health issues with high income growth, strong employment histories and a high propensity to repair and maintain homes were amongst the key economic findings.

"It was a well accepted fact that poverty, overcrowding and general disadvantage contribute to poor health outcomes," Mr Blair continued.

"The households that participated in this survey, across Queensland and the Northern Territory lived in homes with an average of three to four occupants and are able to take care of essential maintenance and repairs themselves, as they are needed.

"Stable, functional living standards for Indigenous Australians help families educate their children, take care of their health needs and improve their socio-economic status," Mr Blair concluded.

IBA is continually seeking new commercial solutions to increase the number of Indigenous Australians in business and home ownership.

Last Tuesday IBA hosted a business briefing drawing together business experts and Indigenous business leaders to discuss constructive and proactive ways to weather the current financial crisis.

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