



Australian Government
Indigenous Business Australia

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MEDIA RELEASE

IBA celebrates contributions to *Closing the Gap* at NAIDOC Week breakfast

Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) is hosting a breakfast to celebrate its achievements in Indigenous economic development at its annual NAIDOC Week breakfast this Friday in Brisbane.

This breakfast celebrates IBA's contribution to the Government's *Closing the Gap* initiative and will introduce IBA's new Chair by guest speaker Minister for Families, Housing, Communities and Indigenous Affairs, Hon Jenny Macklin.

Guests at the event will include representatives from the private sector, Indigenous groups, various government departments and agencies along with IBA employees and Board representatives. Guests will also be addressed by IBA's new Chair and the Corporate Development Director of Leighton – HWE, Mr John Jones.

General Manager of IBA, Mr Ron Morony, says IBA has long supported NAIDOC week as it is an important time to reflect on the achievements of Indigenous Australians and to look to the future for what can be achieved.

"As an organisation with 21 locations throughout Australia this breakfast event is one of many activities that IBA staff will be participating in during the week-long celebrations," Mr Morony said.

The theme of the breakfast is *Acknowledging the past and building a sustainable future* which complements the progress IBA has made in the area of Indigenous economic development.

The recently released *2009 Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators Report* shows that there has been progress against few of the *Closing the Gap* targets.

"IBA is pleased to highlight that it contributes to two of the areas of positive progress in addressing Indigenous disadvantage - namely home ownership and employment," Mr Morony concluded.

The report highlights the contribution that IBA's home ownership program has made towards the increase in home ownership from 26% in 2001 to 29%.

The event will also give IBA the opportunity to introduce the *IBA Scholarship Fund*, aimed at encouraging mature age Indigenous people to undertake study in commercial, economic or business areas, and then apply the skills and knowledge they acquire in their communities.

Education is of significant importance to Indigenous Australians to build upon the existing capacity and knowledge within communities and enhance the futures of individuals and the communities in which they live.

Hosted by ABC's Message Stick host Miriam Corowa, the breakfast will be held at the Riverview Room at the Brisbane Conventions and Exhibition Centre.

IBA works towards a nation in which Indigenous Australians are economically independent and part of the mainstream economy through home ownership, small business development and joint venture investment opportunities.

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