



Australian Government
Indigenous Business Australia

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MEDIA RELEASE

Dawn Casey to head Indigenous Business Australia

The Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Honourable Jenny Macklin announced Dr Dawn Casey's appointment as Chair of Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) at IBA's annual NAIDOC Week breakfast in Brisbane on 10 July 2009.

Dr Casey is well known for her leadership roles at the National, Western Australian and Powerhouse Museums and has a long public service career working for Federal and State Governments.

Her appointment provides the opportunity to influence the way in which economic services are delivered to Indigenous Australians through IBA's support and lending services that ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders can participate in business, own their own home or the labour market.

Dr Casey said she sees her appointment as Chair as both an honour and opportunity to influence the commercial and economic aspects of Indigenous development.

"I welcome the opportunity to work with the Honourable Jenny Macklin, Deputy Chair Mr Bob Blair, the six Board members of IBA and the administrative arm to set a course for the organisation over the next few years.

"Mr Blair has played a significant role as acting Chair of IBA and it is a great feeling to be working with Indigenous and non Indigenous business leaders that make up the Board of IBA.

Dr Casey added that she embraces the challenge of finding commercial solutions to close the gaps of disadvantage and low rates of participation in the mainstream economy by Indigenous Australians.

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

Dr Casey stated that she is pleased to highlight IBA's contributions in two of the areas of positive progress in addressing Indigenous disadvantage - namely home ownership and employment.

"I am delighted to lead an organisation which is demonstrating that Indigenous Australians do want to participate in the mainstream economy and home ownership and participating in small business are two very important areas where significant progress can be made.

"I am keen to use my experience to find ways to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who may choose a commercial path or simply choose to own their own home.

"The IBA board and I are looking at the current policies and operations of the organisation and we are seeking constructive feedback on how we can best perform the important task ahead of us," Dr Casey concluded.

A Murri woman from the gulf country, Dr Casey is the recipient of many honorary awards including three Public Service Medals (PSM) and the Centenary of Federation Medal.

IBA is a statutory authority which provides home loans, business loans and specialised commercial investments for Indigenous Australians. IBA is expected to report a capital base of \$1billion for the 2009 financial year, having grown from very humble beginnings when it was first established in 1990.

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