



IBA loan proves to be 'a little dream come true'

BY VANESSA BROWN

PLASTERER Grant King is celebrating the successful approval of a business loan, which has enabled him to purchase more tools and a new work vehicle for his local business Totally Plastered.

Mr King has been plastering for about 27 years, getting his start as a teenager in the family business with his father, Bob King. He worked alongside his father for about 14 years and then began to follow contracted work around the state, before forming his own business a year ago.

After hitting some difficulties in his personal life, Mr King's plastering licence lapsed and he applied to Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) for assistance.

IBA is a progressive, commercially focused organisation that promotes and encourages self-management, self-sufficiency and economic independence for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It is partnered with the Government's Indigenous Economic Development Strategy.

IBA contracted out Bronwyn Humphries - of Ventures Business Support Service - to provide Mr King with a personal Business Mentor and after the continued hindrance of red tape, a loan was finally granted on January 13.

"It took me two and a half years [to get the loan]. That was a long time to wait out and hopefully start your business. I've done as much as I could do with what I had," Mr King said.

"It was just a matter of persevering, and we did. Thank God for Bronwyn Humphries who persevered with me over the two and a half years we worked together and just kept doing whatever had to be done to get there."

Miss Humphries said she is thrilled with the results.

"Grant now has the reliable vehicle and all the industry tools he requires for his plastering business," she said.

"With IBA assistance, [Grant's business] is fully operational and can quote on and complete the most intricate plastering work any discerning client could require."

Mr King said he is now ready to branch out into commercial work and hopes to eventually employ a number of youth.

"It's a little dream come true. I know I have to pay back the money but it gives me a hand," he said.

"Now there's nothing that's going to hold me back."

□ For all those with plastering needs, Grant King can be contacted on 0402 472 821.



LOCAL plasterer Grant King is celebrating the approval of a \$25,000 loan which has enabled him to purchase a new vehicle and tools for his business Totally Plastered.