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IBA pays tribute to former manager



INDIGENOUS Business Australia (IBA) has paid tribute to its former General Manager Ron Morony, who retired last month after 13 years at the agency's helm.

IBA Chairperson Dawn Casey has written to stakeholders, saying Mr Morony made a significant contribution to Indigenous Affairs for over 35 years, especially in Indigenous economic development.

"During Ron's almost 13 years as the General Manager, Indigenous Business Australia has seen substantial growth in the organisation's responsibilities including the areas of Homes and Business Development and Support Program," Dr Casey wrote.

"In addition, the initial capital base has grown to around \$320 million."

Dr Casey said she understood that Mr Morony had built many significant and enduring partnerships with Indigenous

corporations and the private sector during his time with IBA.

Mr Morony, an Arrernte man from Central Australia, told *The Koori Mail* last month that, while he had been heartened while at IBA to meet younger Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women taking a leadership role in business, he was appalled at governments' lack of real engagement with Indigenous people.

He spoke of Indigenous frustration and despair that government 'rhetoric' didn't match the real situation on the ground.

IBA is currently recruiting a new General Manager, with former high-ranking Commonwealth public servant Bruce Gemmell acting in the position in the interim.

Mr Gemmell is now a consultant but spent 34 years in the public service. He retired in 2007 after six years as former deputy chief executive officer and chief operating officer for the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA).



RON MORONY