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IBA means business with scholarships



INDIGENOUS Business Australia (IBA) has announced the opening of another round of its Scholarship Fund.

The IBA Scholarship Fund provides mature-age Indigenous Australians with the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in business and finance through tertiary education.

IBA Chair Dawn Casey said it was important for mature-age Indigenous Australians to embrace opportunities for further study.

"The IBA Scholarship Fund provides great opportunities for mature-age Indigenous Australians to study in the fields of business, commerce or finance," she said last week.

"Our IBA scholars will be able to take their skills and qualifications back to their home communities. This is an important step to help build economic development within our Indigenous communities."

The fund provides comprehensive, tailored financial assistance to successful scholarship applicants, giving them the

opportunity to study away from home if need be.

Qualifications that the fund supports can be achieved at TAFE, university and other relevant education providers. Courses can relate to business, accounting, financial management, commerce, tourism management or governance.

Ross Andrews, a business student from Cairns currently assisted by IBA, said he had found his study experience to be challenging, yet rewarding.

"It's been 15 years since I last studied and it's highly challenging being in an

academic environment after a considerable time working," Mr Andrews said.

"But it's personally stimulating, and my professional and life experience has enabled me to embrace those challenges quite quickly."

Applications for this round of Scholarships, for mature-age Indigenous Australians looking to study in 2011, close 30 September.

For information, go to the website www.iba.gov.au/scholarships, email scholarships@iba.gov.au, or call 1800 107 107.