



Australian Government
Indigenous Business Australia

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MEDIA RELEASE

IBA Celebrating Economic Change at Annual NAIDOC Week Breakfast

Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) celebrated achievements in Indigenous economic development at its annual NAIDOC Week breakfast this morning at the Yaama Dhiyaan Function Centre today in Sydney.

The theme for NAIDOC Week this year is *Change: the next step is ours*.

This year's NAIDOC theme resonates strongly with IBA being an organisation that assists Indigenous Australians to better support themselves through economic means.

While engagement is driven by Indigenous Australians, the growing willingness of major corporate organisations to support Indigenous economic development is evidenced by the number of those represented at today's function.

For IBA, NAIDOC week is a time to reinforce the reason why IBA is here, to support a process of change that began many years ago and which is going forward today.

Times are changing, with more Indigenous Australians becoming home owners, business operators and seeking investments each year.

IBA Deputy Chair Ian Trust reflected on the achievements that IBA's programs have made in recent years how it's often these small steps which don't even get noticed which have the most effect.

"And these are the steps which make the most impact, steps which connect people and families and communities through commerce.

Other speakers at the breakfast were Reconciliation Australia Board member Fred Chaney AO, AFL High Performance Coach Michael O'Loughlin and Author Dr Anita Heiss was the event MC.

Mr Chaney believes that Indigenous participation in business is changing.

"The growing involvement of the business community is encouraging Indigenous business and employment meaning that there are more opportunities for Indigenous Australians than in the past.

Michael O'Loughlin spoke of the importance of education, employment and lifestyle for Indigenous Australians.

"To break the poverty cycle, Indigenous Australians need to participate in the economy, in all industries and at all levels within those industries.

A variety of guests attended the breakfast including representatives from the private sector, Indigenous groups, government departments and agencies along with the IBA Board and employees.

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