



Media Release

Minister for Indigenous Affairs

Senator the Hon. Nigel Scullion

Leader of the Nationals in the Senate
Country Liberals Senator for the Northern Territory

Member for Moncrieff

The Hon. Steven Ciobo MP

Wednesday, 18 December 2013

\$300,000 investment in Indigenous employment

Indigenous businesses in Ipswich, Logan and the Gold Coast will be supported to recruit more Indigenous staff via a \$303,600 investment from the Australian Government through the Indigenous Employment Programme (IEP).

Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion, and the Member for Moncrieff, Steven Ciobo, said today the Government's investment would support 20 Indigenous businesses from a range of industries in the Gold Coast, Logan and Ipswich areas to recruit more Indigenous employees.

"The Australian Government is committed to ensuring as many Indigenous people as possible are working in real jobs," Minister Scullion said.

"The IEP supports a broad range of activities that meet the needs of employers, Indigenous Australians and their communities.

Mr Ciobo said the Opportune Business Networking Project based on the Gold Coast, which also operates in Ipswich and Logan, would deliver specialist support to business owners and would improve the overall viability and success of the Indigenous businesses involved.

"The project will strengthen the ability of those Indigenous businesses to compete with mainstream enterprises and improve their capacity to recruit and retain Indigenous employees in the future," Mr Ciobo said.

Minister Scullion said IEP was supporting employers to provide sustainable employment opportunities for Indigenous people and was helping to develop Indigenous workforce strategies that support local and regional economic growth.

"In the period between July 2012 and November 2013, the IEP has provided employment assistance to 14,320 Indigenous people."