MEDIA RELEASE

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GOVERNMENT OPENS TENDERS TO SUCCESSFUL INDIGENOUS JOBS PROGRAM

More organisations will be able to access Indigenous Employment Program (IEP) funding to provide job and training opportunities for Indigenous Australians thanks to a new tender released today.

Minister for Indigenous Employment and Economic Development Mark Arbib today announced the Australian Government's Indigenous Employment Program Panel membership would be expanded from 1 July next year.

Senator Arbib said a Request for Tender had been released on AusTender to expand the number of organisations which could deliver Indigenous job and business support projects.

“There are currently 450 members on the Employment and Economic Development and Business Panels who can access funding under the IEP to deliver business and job projects to Indigenous Australians,” Senator Arbib said.

“By reopening the Panels we will enable more eligible organisations which are working in the field to access IEP support.”

Senator Arbib said IEP projects had delivered more than 31,000 job and training commencements for Indigenous Australians during the 2010-11 financial year, 14 per cent above its target.

“Strong partnerships between Indigenous job seekers, communities, employers and IEP Panel members are producing results around Australia,” Senator Arbib said.

“As the Gillard Government works towards halving the employment gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians by 2018, we want to give more organisations the chance to access support to help create Indigenous jobs and enterprise.

“New and existing Panel members will have the opportunity to deliver IEP projects from 1 July, 2012 to 30 June, 2015.”

Request for Tender documentation can be obtained from the AusTender website at www.tenders.gov.au. Organisations must register on AusTender for access.

Submissions close at 4pm on 19 September, 2011.

Information sessions will be conducted in all capital cities and in Dubbo, Shepparton, Cairns and Alice Springs from September 5 to 9, 2011 for interested parties.
For further information regarding specific venues, dates and times and to register attendance, organisations should contact the Employment Services Purchasing Hotline on 1300 733 514.

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