



Benefits to Indigenous People and Communities from Microenterprise Development in Regional and Remote Australia

Economic benefits:

- Increasing income and asset accumulation
- Job creation, reducing reliance on welfare
- Pathways into the real economy and access to the formal banking sector
- Building of real local economies with “ripple effect” to other local businesses
- Increasing tax revenues and cost savings to the nation

Social benefits:

- Reaching the most marginalised people, families and communities
- Increasing availability of locally produced goods and services in regional and remote communities
- Positive community role models through empowered individuals confronting the passive welfare culture
- Improving health and well-being of families and communities through increasing disposable income to purchase necessities
- Positively strengthening the wider Australian community’s impression of Indigenous people

Cultural benefits:

- Economic and social outcomes that allow people and communities to invest in and focus on what is valuable to them
- Building sustainable micro and small businesses that promote and support Indigenous culture – for example, cultural and eco-tourism, arts, crafts, dance, food, history and story telling

***“Only by entering into the real economy will Aboriginal people have both the will and means of seeing our culture survive. We cannot rely on others to save our culture.”
(Noel Pearson, 2005)***