



Taking care of business in the Top End

In the next leg of its inquiry into developing Indigenous enterprises, the House of Representatives Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Committee is travelling to the Northern Territory to hear from community-run and partnership enterprises in Darwin and the East Kimberley region of Kununurra.

Committee Chair Richard Marles said that while Indigenous communities in the Territory have been in the news because of the economic and social challenges they face, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the region hold the record for participation in sustainable community-run businesses which affirm their culture.

“The remote Top End and East Kimberley communities are drawcards for international tourism,” Mr Marles said. “Aboriginal people in these regions, and across the Northern Territory, have built successful business models around the communication of their traditional practices and cultural knowledge.”

At the Darwin public hearing on Wednesday 6 August 2008, the Committee will hear from John Greatorex of Charles Darwin University about Yolngu cultural tourism, from the Larrakia Development Corporation on the Darla residential estate, as well as from government partnership and business mentor organisations. Basil Hall of Hall Editions printmaking studio will provide a practitioner’s view of the opportunities and challenges for Indigenous talent across remote communities.

In Kununurra on Thursday 7 August, representatives from Argyle Diamond Mines will tell how boosting Indigenous participation means doing business better. The Committee will also visit Red Rock Gallery and Waringarri Art Centre, two long established but different models of Indigenous art enterprise, to see the achievements of the Miriwoong people.

Mr Marles added that the Committee would keep its ear to the ground to assess the extent to which Aboriginal participants in the tourism and arts industries have control of their product.

Public hearing schedule for Wednesday 6 August VENUE: 94 Boulter Road Berrimah

9.00 am	John Greatorex	12.10 pm	NT Industry & Capability Network
9.25 am	Basil Hall	1.00 pm	Rollo Manning & Keith Djiniyini
9.50 am	Indigenous Business Incubator	1.20pm	Business & Community Developments
10.25am	Outback Stores	Pty Ltd	
11.05am	Indigenous Business Australia	1.40pm	Sarina Jan
11.30 pm	Larrakia Development Corporation		

Public hearing schedule for Thursday 7 August VENUE: ICC, Lot 2250 Coolibah Road Kununurra

10.30 am	Tour of Waringarri Aboriginal Art Centre and Red Rock Gallery	12.00 pm	Price Louvel
11.30 am	Wunan Foundation	12.30 pm	Red Rock Gallery and Waringarri Art Centre
		1.30 pm	Argyle Diamonds

Further details on the inquiry can be obtained from the Committee’s website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/atsia>.

For **media comment**, please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Richard Marles MP, on 02 6277 4330 (Canberra) or 03 5221 3033 (Electorate Office).

For **background information**, please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4559 or 0421 611182 by email at atsia.reps@aph.gov.au