



Australian Government
Indigenous Business Australia

3 August 2009

MEDIA RELEASE

First round of IBA's Indigenous Scholarships now open

Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) has announced the opening of the first round of its Scholarship Fund today.

The IBA Scholarship Fund aims to provide mature age Indigenous Australians with opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills in business and finance through education to contribute to economic development in Indigenous communities.

IBA Chair, Dr Dawn Casey stated that it is important for Indigenous Australians to set their sights on study and on bringing relevant skills back to their communities.

"Indigenous people with skills and education in commerce and related disciplines are needed urgently in most Indigenous communities", Dr Casey said.

Courses that the IBA Scholarship Fund supports are those that relate to business, commerce, accounting, financial management, commerce, tourism management, and economic leadership.

The recently released *2009 Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators Report* points to a large gap in the level of education of Indigenous Australians compared to non-Indigenous Australians.

These low numbers are often cited as a contributing factor to the frequent lack of economic development and participation by those communities in the mainstream economy.

The IBA Scholarships are intended for those mature age Indigenous Australians who face financial barriers that prevents them from the option of study.

The IBA Scholarship Fund will provide tailored financial assistance to successful applicants, allowing them to undertake study in commercial and economic management at their preferred institution.

Qualifications can be achieved at recognised education institutions such as TAFE, University and other relevant education providers.

Applications for this round of Scholarships close 30 September 2009, and are open for Indigenous mature age people looking to study in the first semester of 2010.

Application forms, eligibility criteria and further information are available at www.iba.gov.au or for other enquiries email scholarships@iba.gov.au or call 1800 107 107.

Media contact: Daniel Hughes 02 6121 2731, 0427 011 938 or daniel.hughes@iba.gov.au



5th Floor Bonner House West, Neptune St, Woden ACT 2606 | PO Box 38 Woden ACT 2606
Phone (02) 6121 2700 | Fax (02) 6121 2730 | www.iba.gov.au | ABN: 25 192 932 833