

Indigenous Economic Development Strategy

Action Plan 2010–2012



Australian Government





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Introduction

The Australian Government has been investing in Indigenous economic development and working on establishing a solid base to launch the 2010-2018 Indigenous Economic Development Strategy.

This Action Plan 2010-2012 summarises:

- our progress to date on each of the key strategic areas for action; and
- our planned future actions over the next two years.

Through ongoing engagement, Action Plans after 2012 will be developed in partnership with Indigenous leaders and the private, community and government sectors and will detail actions that are agreed priorities across these sectors.

PROGRESS IN: Education and individual capabilities

A record \$63.7 billion is being invested in Australian schools over three years from 2009–10. This almost doubles the previous \$33.5 billion commitment to funding and infrastructure and represents a 90 per cent increase over the previous four years. A commitment of \$2.2 billion over six years from 2008–09 has been made in the Digital Education Revolution, and \$2.5 billion over 10 years from 2008–09 for the Trade Training Centres in Schools Program, \$19.0 million of which is being provided for schools in the 29 Remote Service Delivery (RSD) communities. \$16.2 billion is being invested in Building the Education Revolution, of which \$89.0 million has been approved for schools in the 29 RSD communities. A major focus of these programs is targeting disadvantaged schools and students. Large numbers of Indigenous students are benefiting from this investment across Australia.

The Australian Government is working closely with state and territory governments on the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan 2010-2014*. An investment of \$15.4 million over four years by the Australian Government complements this activity to improve early childhood and school education outcomes for Indigenous children and young people.

1.1 Early childhood development and readiness for school

Our investments in early childhood and readiness for school focus on providing more quality services in areas such as preschool education, childcare, family support and parenting; and maternal, antenatal care and early childhood health.

The National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education commits the Australian Government and the states and territories to work together to ensure that by 2013 all Australian children, including those in remote communities, will have access to early childhood education in the year prior to formal schooling.

The National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development includes joint Australian, state and territory investment of \$564 million to improve outcomes for Indigenous children in their early years. This includes action across the domains of health, early childhood development, schooling and housing.

The Australian Government is providing \$955 million to states and territories over five years to achieve universal access to early childhood education. An additional \$15 million has been set aside to develop better data and performance information for early childhood education in Australia.

Children attending around 140 centre-based early childhood services, including around 100 Indigenous services, will benefit from improvements to the physical environment, level of staff qualifications, and governance and administrative capacity of their centre.

The Indigenous Parenting Support Program provides additional early childhood services and informal parenting support services. By April 2010, 11 services were operational, assisting over 240 families. Three of these services are in RSD priority communities.

1.2 School attendance and engagement

The \$1.5 billion Low Socio Economic Status School Communities National Partnership supports the learning needs and wellbeing of disadvantaged Indigenous students to improve engagement and attendance. The \$550 million Teacher Quality National Partnership will support teachers, including teachers in schools with predominantly Indigenous students.

Under the Parental and Community Engagement (PaCE) program, 69 projects have been developed to build strong Indigenous leadership and strengthen engagement between families, students and schools.

The Government has provided \$24.6 million under the School Enrolment and Attendance Measure (SEAM) to encourage parents to take responsibility for their children's education and increase school attendance. SEAM trials have been progressively rolled out in six Northern Territory communities from January 2009 (Katherine, Katherine Town Camps, Hermannsburg, Wallace Rockhole, Wadeye and Tiwi Islands) and began in selected locations in Queensland in October 2009 (four suburbs in the Logan area, as well as Doomadgee and Mornington Island).

The Sporting Chance Program has been expanded to a total funding pool of \$41.3 million between 2009 and 2012. In 2009, 37 school-based sports academies and five education engagement programs for some 8,000 students were funded through this program.

The Australian Indigenous Education Foundation has received \$20 million to establish secondary school scholarships for Indigenous students.

Aboriginal Hostels Limited (AHL) will construct and manage three new boarding facilities for Indigenous secondary students in Years 8 to 12 in the Northern Territory, providing 152 new beds in boarding schools to help more remote students obtain a secondary school education.

1.3 Retention and attainment

Funding of \$2.6 billion over five years from 2008-09 has been provided for the three Smarter Schools National Partnerships including \$540 million for the Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership. Working in partnership with a number of education providers, the Australian Government is supporting intensive literacy and numeracy programs such as Accelerated Intensive Mathematics (AIM) in Queensland and Make it Count across Queensland, South Australia, New South Wales and Western Australia.

The Australian Government will invest \$15.4 million over four years for a flexible funding pool to support projects that improve education outcomes for children and young people under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan 2010-2014*.

In 2009, COAG agreed to a Compact with Young Australians to promote young people's participation in education and training, providing protection from the anticipated tighter labour market, and ensuring they would have the qualifications needed to take up jobs as the economy recovered.

The Compact is delivered under the National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions, which includes a range of measures to strengthen the

education, training opportunities and support for young people. The Compact promotes skills acquisition for young Indigenous Australians and adopts a 'learn or earn' approach.

Under the same National Partnership Agreement, the National Youth Participation Requirement requires all young people to participate in schooling (or an approved equivalent) to Year 10, and then participate full-time (at least 25 hours per week) in education, training or employment, or a combination of these activities, until age 17. The Youth Connections program will also contribute to halving the gap in Year 12 attainment.

The Australian Government funds an entitlement to education and training places for all 15 to 24 year olds which focuses on attaining Year 12 or equivalent qualifications so young people have the necessary qualifications required to get and keep a job and develop their careers. Entitlement places are for a government-subsidised qualification and subject to admission requirements and course availability.

There are also strengthened participation requirements for some types of income support. A focus on learning or earning also applies to those under the age of 21 who seek income support through Youth Allowance (Other) or the Family Tax Benefit (Part A). If they do not have a Year 12 or equivalent qualification, these young people need to participate in education and training full-time, or participate in part-time study or training in combination with other approved activities, usually for at least 25 hours per week, until they attain Year 12 or an equivalent Certificate Level II qualification.

The Indigenous Youth Leadership Program provides access to up to 300 scholarships each year (240 secondary and 60 tertiary places) to improve educational outcomes and address access issues. Since 2006, 481 scholarships have been provided.

The Indigenous Youth Mobility Program provides greater access to quality education and training options for Indigenous Australians and the Government and has 324 accommodation places and has expanded in 17 host locations.

The Australian Government is providing a further \$10 million over four years to support the expansion of the Clontarf Foundation's school-based football academies in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

We are on track to achieve the target of funding 200 additional teachers for the Northern Territory. As at 1 February 2010, a total of 140.5 full-time equivalent teachers were employed and retained in schools in remote communities in the Northern Territory as part of this initiative.

Diversionary programs have been implemented to engage Indigenous youth aged 11–25, affected by substance abuse and disengaged from school. Five funded projects are providing localised support in areas where demand is highest for support to reduce petrol sniffing.

1.4 Tertiary education

The Australian Government has provided increased support for Indigenous students through the Universities Reform package, Indigenous Support Units, Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council and ABSTUDY.

IBA provides tertiary education assistance through the IBA Scholarships Fund which assists mature-aged Indigenous Australians to achieve economics, commerce or business degrees and return to communities with their new skills and knowledge.

1.5 Vocational training

The Trade Training Centres in Schools Program will provide \$2.5 billion over 10 years to enable all secondary schools across Australia to apply for funding of between \$500,000 and \$1.5 million for Trade Training Centres. Schools in remote locations:

- can deliver qualifications targeting the needs and education levels of remote areas, including pre-vocational, Certificate I or Certificate II qualifications; and
- can apply for funding to build multi-purpose rooms for temporary teacher accommodation.

1.6 Adult skills and capabilities

In 2010–11, the Australian Government is investing an extra \$15.7 million in the Workplace English Language and Literacy program, which works with industry to help employers improve the language, literacy and numeracy skills of their employees. This investment will provide an additional 9,500 places over four years, giving thousands of people greater access to intensive, vocationally oriented language, literacy and numeracy assistance.

The Cape York welfare reforms take a social development approach to rebuilding social norms, strengthening capabilities, restoring Indigenous authority and increasing individual responsibility in the four Cape York communities of Aurukun, Coen, Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge. The Cape York welfare reforms are supported by the Australian and Queensland Governments, working in partnership with the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership and the communities. They involve reforms that cross all of the priority action areas of the Indigenous Economic Development Strategy. The reforms involve restructuring incentives and opportunities and encompass four streams of action around social responsibility, education, employment and economic development, and housing.

1.7 Healthy individuals and communities

Investment in Indigenous health has increased significantly, with a focus on increasing access to primary health care services, building the health workforce – including recruiting more Indigenous Australians – and targeting specific health issues and major risk factors that contribute to the gap in life expectancy for Indigenous Australians.

The National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes, with joint Australian, state and territory investment of \$1.6 billion over four

years, is tackling chronic disease, expanding the health workforce, and improving access to and the capacity of the primary healthcare system. Through this National Partnership, the Australian Government is providing: \$161 million to tackle risk factors for chronic disease; \$474 million to improve chronic disease management and follow-up care, and \$171 million to increase the capacity of the primary care workforce.

The Government is funding more than 160 new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outreach Workers, 75 additional health professionals and practice managers in Indigenous health services, 94 project officers in the Divisions of General Practice network and National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation state affiliates; additional nursing scholarships, GP registrar training posts and nurse clinical placements.

The National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development, with joint Commonwealth, state and territory investment of \$564 million over six years, includes: \$292 million to establish 35 Children and Family Centres across Australia; \$107 million to increase access to antenatal care and support services, teenage sexual health services and child and maternal health; \$90.3 million to deliver new mothers and babies services, with additional health professionals to provide these services to local communities; and \$75 million complementary state and territory investment. The Government has already approved funding for 56 new mothers and babies services, 46 of which are operational. States and territories have begun recruiting new staff to support the delivery of new and expanded programs.

The Indigenous Mothers' Accommodation Fund, with capital funding of \$10.0 million over three years from 2008-09, is expanding affordable accommodation options for Indigenous women needing to travel to cities or regional centres to receive care before, during, and after the birth of their child.

Australian Government funding for chronic disease prevention and management, dental services, improving the eye and ear health of Indigenous Australians and expanding the primary-care workforce through outreach workers, project officers, general practitioners and nurses are all contributing to the health of Indigenous Australians and to improving their ability to participate in education and the economy.

IEDS Action Plan 2010-2012 Education and individual capabilities

Priorities	Action	Partners
<p><i>Early childhood development and readiness for school</i></p> <p>School attendance and engagement</p> <p>Retention and attainment</p> <p>From school to work</p> <p>Vocational training</p> <p>Tertiary education</p> <p>Adult skills and capabilities</p> <p>Healthy individuals and communities</p>	<p>1. Implement the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan which provides a blueprint for further action on education. Drawing on resources committed through national education reform, the Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan will identify and work with focus schools with Indigenous students with the greatest need to improve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • readiness for school – like universal access to preschool; • engagement and connections – fostering links between schools and parents like employing Indigenous community educators and utilising the Parental and Community Engagement Program (PACE); • attendance – through incentives such as the School Enrolment and Attendance Measure (SEAM) and school nutrition programs; • literacy and numeracy – sharing information across education providers on which approaches prove most successful for Indigenous students; and • leadership, quality teaching and workforce development – like actions to encourage school principals to participate in training like <i>Stronger Smarter</i> and <i>Dare to Lead</i> to set their schools up for success with Indigenous students. Pathways to post-school options – like early career guidance and mentoring, including the Indigenous Youth Mobility Program. <p>2. Through the Indigenous Employment and Enterprise Network work with the private sector to develop stronger partnerships with schools, supporting work experience opportunities and mentoring for success, like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creating comprehensive pathways to employment for Indigenous students prior to Year 10; and • identifying mentoring and role models sporting heroes programs that inspire Indigenous students to stay in school. <p>3. Promote the “Learn. Earn. Legend!” message, emphasising the importance of young Indigenous Australians getting a good education so they can reach their career goals.</p> <p>4. Develop and test new models and approaches to adult literacy and numeracy.</p> <p>5. Work with state and territory governments to create pre-release work readiness and life-skills training for Indigenous prisoners.</p> <p>6. Work to support a healthy transition to adulthood for Indigenous Australians, building on existing programs, including those being delivered through COAG.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous education leaders • Schools • DEEWR • FaHCSIA • DoHA • State and territory governments • Training organisations • Private sector, from small-to-medium enterprises, to large corporate organisations • Non-government early childhood and school education providers • AHL • IBA

PROGRESS IN: Jobs

2.1 Employment services

As the largest employment program for Indigenous Australians, assisting over 95,000 Indigenous people, Job Services Australia (JSA) plays a pivotal role in closing the employment gap. Since it commenced on 1 July 2009 through to 31 March 2010, JSA had achieved over 25,600 job placements for Indigenous Australians and over 5,500 disadvantaged Indigenous job seekers had been placed in jobs for at least 13 weeks. Indigenous job seekers are able to access specialist services from over 181 JSA sites and a total of 18 Indigenous organisations have been contracted in their own right to provide JSA services.

Reforms to CDEP and IEP came into effect on 1 July 2009. In remote Australia, the CDEP program has been restructured to build individual skills and capacity to take up work where opportunities arise; provide on-the-job work experience; provide access to training; build the capacity of local Indigenous organisations to deliver a range of services; and make sure community members undertaking similar activities have the same income and participation requirements as each other.

The Government is committed to supporting the reformed IEP to increase Indigenous Australians' employment outcomes and participation in economic activities. The reformed IEP is designed to be more flexible and responsive. It supports a broader range of activities than the previous program. Results for the first nine months include 12,750 placements including nearly 7,600 employment placements. Under the reformed IEP, support is available for activities that increase employment opportunities and economic participation for Indigenous Australians.

The National Partnership on Indigenous Economic Participation is creating up to 2,000 sustainable jobs in areas of government service delivery that have previously relied on subsidisation through CDEP. Currently a total of 1,358 positions have been created and a high proportion of these jobs have been filled. The Australian Government is also involved in the creation of 564 jobs in the arts and culture sector for Indigenous Australians as a result of reforms to the CDEP scheme.

The Jobs Fund has been established to provide support to families and communities most affected by the Global Economic Recession. Eleven Indigenous organisations were successful in the first round in securing funding for projects that will result in 323 jobs, 59 traineeships and 28 work experience places. In the second round, one Indigenous organisation was successful for a project expected to create 21 jobs, six traineeships and six work experience places.

Significant new health investment is building the health workforce, including targeted initiatives to recruit, train and provide ongoing support for Indigenous Australians across the health professions where they will deliver programs and services to close the gap in Indigenous disadvantage.

2.2 Public sector employment

The Australian and state and territory governments have agreed to raise the level of Indigenous employment in the public sector to at least 2.7 per cent to reflect the proportion of Indigenous people in the population. The Government has already invested \$6.0 million over three years from 2009-10 to support Australian Public Service Employment and Capability Strategy which has already recruited over 430 Indigenous cadets, graduates and trainees since 2006.

Working on Country funding is part of an overall Australian Government commitment of \$236 million to create up to 660 Indigenous ranger positions to provide an environmental service to the Australian Government. Currently, there are 66 Working on Country projects approved across Australia with a total of approximately 630 approved Indigenous ranger positions.

2.3 Government procurement

The enhanced Indigenous Opportunities Policy was announced by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation and the Minister for Employment Participation on 25 February 2010. Through the policy, the Australian Government will be able to further engage with the private sector in relation to Indigenous employment and support for Indigenous businesses.

The National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH) will deliver 4,200 new houses and 4,800 refurbished houses over 10 years and has set a target of a minimum 20 per cent Indigenous on-site workforce over the life of the agreement. The Australian and Northern Territory Governments are jointly undertaking the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program as the first tranche of work under the NPARIH in the Northern Territory. The program is exceeding the 20 per cent employment target with currently over 35 per cent of the programs onsite workforce being Indigenous.

IEDS Action Plan 2010-2012 Jobs

Priorities	Action	Partners
Welfare incentives Employment services Public sector employment Private sector employment and retention Government procurement Recognise achievement and best practice	<p>7. Build on CDEP and JSA reforms to improve employment services and create positive incentives to work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trial a brokerage service that connects employers with Indigenous job seekers to better match employment demand with supply. • Better target the IEP to projects that deliver clear and sustainable employment and business outcomes. <p>8. Work with the private sector to create incentives to work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trial local employment clusters that bring together local partners to design and deliver pre-employment training that is directly linked to available local jobs. • Develop collaborative, industry-specific approaches to training matched with employment sectors where demand for workers is greatest like mining and resources, tourism, health and education. <p>9. Develop demonstration projects that build skills and leadership of Indigenous women who are not part of the paid workforce.</p> <p>10. Conduct research to better understand the characteristics of those Indigenous Australians not in the labour force.</p> <p>11. Make steady and transparent progress towards the goal of 2.7 per cent of Indigenous employment in the Australian Public Sector by 2015.</p> <p>12. Implement the Indigenous Opportunities Policy from 1 July 2010 that will require tenderers for Australian Government contracts (in excess of \$5 million and in regions with a significant Indigenous population) to have Indigenous employment and training plans.</p> <p>13. Better support job seekers to participate and meet their job search requirements.</p> <p>14. Meet 20 per cent employment target through Remote Indigenous Housing National Partnership Agreement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous leaders • Employment service providers • FaHCSIA • DEEWR • State and Territory Governments • Private sector, from small to medium enterprises to large corporates • Private sector industry peak bodies • Training organisations • Community sector • DEWHA • DRET • AHL

PROGRESS IN: Business and entrepreneurship

3.1 Business support

IBA and DEEWR will continue to expand business support and provide business loans for Indigenous enterprises through the Business Development Program and the IEP. In 2009-10 the IBA provided 74 business development loans totalling \$14.89 million, provided business support totalling \$7.79 million and supported 56 economic development initiatives (totalling \$1.99 million).

Through the ILC's statutory land management function, 15 agricultural, pastoral and tourism businesses are operating as commercial enterprises. These businesses operate with residential, industry-based training facilities to facilitate 537 training opportunities and to create career pathways that lead to the employment of approximately 390 Indigenous Australians.

The Remote Enterprise Centre was opened in Alice Springs on 21 May 2008, a Government investment of \$10 million. The centre links remote small and medium enterprises in the Northern Territory and remote areas of Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland to new ideas, technologies and markets, through highly skilled business advisers.

In 2009-10, the Australian Government provided an additional \$9.9 million over four years to increase operational funding for Indigenous art centres. This funding will be delivered in partnership with the state and territory governments for projects that increase the skills of Indigenous arts centre managers and staff in governance, business, financial management and arts administration and support art centres to develop and implement succession planning strategies.

The 2010-11 Budget includes continued funding of \$4.0 million over four years for the Business Skills for Visual Artists initiative, which will provide funding for Indigenous arts centres and help the development of a sustainable and ethical Indigenous arts industry.

The Indigenous sector has a significant role in the implementation of the 2009 *National Long Term Tourism Strategy* through the Indigenous Tourism Development Working Group. A key element of this Working Group is the facilitation of partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous businesses to allow skills transfer and overall business development and growth.

3.2 Private-sector engagement and partnerships

The Australian Government invested \$3 million over three years to establish the Australian Indigenous Minority Supplier Council pilot project, which directly links certified Indigenous businesses with purchasing members in the private sector, as well as in public sector organisations.

Under the Business Action Agenda, an Ambassador for Business Action was appointed in February 2010. The Ambassador will promote private sector engagement, supported by activities undertaken by Indigenous Enterprise Partnerships. The agenda will also create

a structure for the private sector to provide feedback to the Government on Indigenous economic development issues.

The Government and the Minerals Council of Australia signed a new Memorandum of Understanding renewing their commitment to build long-term partnerships between the minerals industry, Indigenous communities, and government and community service providers.

The Australian Government is providing funding of \$0.5 million per year for the Working in Partnerships Program. This program aims to support and encourage cultural change which is taking place in relations between the Indigenous communities and the mining industry, and to promote long term, effective partnerships which benefit all stakeholders.

3.3 Procurement

Through the enhanced Indigenous Opportunities Policy, the Australian Government will be able to further engage with the private sector to integrate Indigenous businesses into supply chains.

IEDS Action Plan 2010-2012 Business and Entrepreneurship

Priorities	Action	Partners
Access to capital Business support Private sector engagement and partnerships Procurement Role models and leadership Better information	<p>15. Work with the financial sector to improve access to micro-finance and other capital for small and medium Indigenous enterprises.</p> <p>16. DEEWR will provide financial support to state and regional Indigenous business networks that provide business leadership, support and networking opportunities for Indigenous businesses.</p> <p>17. A Business Advisory Group will be established to provide direct, expert advice on the provision of business support and policies needed to support growth in the sector.</p> <p>18. Realign Indigenous business support programs to be more client-centred and service business development from start-up to growth. Corporate sector coaching to be included as a key component.</p> <p>19. Work with Australian Bureau of Statistics to design better ways to capture data on the size, diversity and growth of the Indigenous private sector.</p> <p>20. Identify emerging industries and development opportunities through regional economic development assessments, initially in up to five regions that will draw on RSD Local Implementation Plans where relevant and on any existing scoping works.</p> <p>21. Improve access to new capital for Indigenous business by working with IBA and private financial sector.</p> <p>22. Implement the Indigenous Opportunities Policy that requires the use of Indigenous suppliers in Government procurement.</p> <p>23. Investigate procurement models that provide more direct contracting opportunities for Indigenous suppliers.</p> <p>24. Work with state and territory governments to identify opportunities for coordinated procurement in remote areas to create business opportunities for Indigenous businesses.</p> <p>25. Trial local procurement clusters in up to three regions that have collective demand for goods and services.</p> <p>26. Continue to encourage security over communally-held Indigenous land to encourage private sector investment.</p> <p>27. Recognise and highlight successful Indigenous businesses, for example through awards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous business leaders • FaHCSIA • DEEWR • DIISR • DAFF • DRET • AGD • Private sector businesses • Finance sector • Industry peak bodies • State and territory governments • IBA • ILC

PROGRESS IN: Financial security and independence

4.1 Home ownership

A capital injection of \$56.0 million in 2010-11 into the Home Ownership program, via a temporary transfer of unutilised capital from the Home Ownership on Indigenous Land Program, will provide around 250 additional home loans for Indigenous Australians.

Future demand for Home Ownership on Indigenous Land loans will be met initially from its annual capital appropriation, with any excess demand met from revenue from the Home Ownership Program. The Home Ownership Program will continue to provide concessional home loans to over 300 new families each year from its existing fund.

In 2009-10 IBA approved 348 home loans totalling \$86.8 million under the Home Ownership Program and nine loans totalling \$1.3 million for Home Ownership on Indigenous Land. In May 2010, the Government publicly released an issues paper on home ownership, outlining Indigenous home ownership in the context of other housing initiatives.

4.2 Savings and superannuation

The Federal Budget 2010-11 announcements included a new, lower tax on savings – a 50 per cent discount on up to \$1,000 of interest income, rewarding people better for good money management. The Federal Budget 2010-11 also announced a stronger, fairer superannuation system for all Australians, including increasing the super guarantee to 12 per cent, assisting 8.4 million Australians. From 1 July 2012, \$500 will be contributed to offset contributions tax for those on incomes up to \$37,000.

4.3 Financial management skills

The Australian Government funded the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) pilot. The Government has provided one-off grant funding to selected community finance organisations for business development purposes and to facilitate a circle of investors, including banks and philanthropists, to make capital and loan funding available to the organisations participating in the pilot. This will enable these organisations to offer their financial products and services (including consumer and micro-enterprise loan products) to financially excluded individuals.

Additional funding of \$53 million over four years has been allocated for the Northern Territory and \$5.6 million has been allocated for Western Australia in 2010-11, to continue and expand coverage of Commonwealth Financial Counselling (CFC) and Money Management education services. A further \$6.5 million over two years (2009-11) has been committed to trial financial capability and inclusion projects to boost the financial capability of Indigenous Australians. Projects include the expansion of access to money management education; funding a mobile money management education unit; building the capability of Indigenous money management workers; and supporting the Indigenous Financial Service Network to increase access to financial literacy services and banking products for Indigenous Australians.

4.4 Leadership and capacity building

The new national Indigenous representative body, the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, is being established in recognition of the need for Indigenous leadership on the national political stage. The new body will ensure Indigenous Australians play a central role in research, policy and program development on issues that affect them. It will be an effective mechanism through which Indigenous leaders can harness a diverse range of views to provide strategic advice to Government on national matters.

The Indigenous Leadership Development Program has been providing individual leadership development and capacity building since 2004. Around 1,000 Indigenous men, women and young people are expected to participate in 2010-11.

Leadership and capacity building is a particular focus of the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery, to ensure that communities have the capacity and skills to engage with governments in planning for a better future. Around Australia, 40 Indigenous Engagement Officers are now working in remote communities in the Northern Territory and in Remote Service Delivery priority communities outside the Northern Territory.

4.5 Indigenous assets

The Australian Government is working with states and territories and native title representative bodies to develop mechanisms to better exploit economic and social development opportunities arising from native title determinations or settlements.

The ILC is a key player in developing Indigenous businesses, delivery of on-the-job training and securing employment in the private sector. Particular examples include the ILC's development of businesses and jobs at Mossman Gorge Tourism Centre in Queensland (40 plus jobs), Roebuck Export Cattle Depot via Broome (10 plus jobs), Gunbalanya Meat Supplies in the NT (20 plus jobs) and Rumbalara Health Services in Victoria (40 plus jobs in aged care). In 2009-10 the ILC expects to achieve over 700 training outcomes, 400 employment outcomes and bring 300,000 hectares of Indigenous land back into production.

IEDS Action Plan 2010-2012 Financial Security and Independence

Priorities	Action	Partners
Home ownership Savings and superannuation Financial management skills Leadership and capacity building Indigenous assets	<p>28. Establish the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples to provide Indigenous leadership and advice to Government on Aboriginal affairs (\$29.2 million over five years).</p> <p>29. Release a home ownership issues paper to explore how to increase opportunities for home ownership. Work with the private financial sector to develop ways of unlocking equity in residential properties for future asset creation and expand financial advisory services to Indigenous Australians.</p> <p>30. Work with the financial sector to expand financial planning and money management programs that have a proven track record in increasing financial literacy and numeracy.</p> <p>31. Work with the financial sector, particularly Indigenous institutions such as the Traditional Credit Union, to improve the range of financial services and products for Indigenous Australians.</p> <p>32. Ensure high quality/robust tenancy arrangements in public housing are in place to promote greater care and responsibility for homes.</p> <p>33. Clarify the tax treatment of native title payments to improve certainty for investors and Traditional Owners.</p> <p>34. Work with the Indigenous Land Corporation, Native Title Representative Bodies, Land Councils, Traditional Owners and the banking sector to develop arrangements that ensure Indigenous owned land can be better used as security for financing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOFD • Treasury • FaHCSIA • DEEWR • DRET • AGD • Indigenous leaders • Financial sector • Land councils • Native Title Representative Bodies • ILC • Indigenous asset owners • IBA

PROGRESS IN: Strengthening foundations

5.1 Infrastructure and housing

The Australian Government has made housing a major priority, in particular social housing for the disadvantaged and homeless. The National Partnership Agreement on Social Housing is providing \$400 million to the states and territories over two years from 2008/09 and will increase social housing by around 1,900 dwellings by 2011.

The Australian Government's \$6.2 billion investment in social housing, as part of the Nation Building and Economic Stimulus Plan, will provide approximately 1,400 new dwellings for Indigenous Australians in urban and regional Australia.

To address the Indigenous remote housing need, the Australian Government is investing a total of \$5.5 billion over 10 years to provide up to 4,200 new houses and 4,800 refurbished houses. Funding is also available for a repairs and maintenance program, assessing housing condition, tenancy management, improvements to town camps and the provision of employment-related accommodation.

The Australian Government is increasing public access to online resources and services through the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Public Internet Access. By June this year, approximately 46 public access internet facilities will be installed in 46 remote Indigenous communities.

The East Kimberley Development Package National Partnership Agreement (EKDP NPA) is a \$195 million investment in upgrades to existing, and construction of new, health and education and training infrastructure as well as social and employee-related transitional housing and community and transport infrastructure. In line with the National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Economic Participation, under the EKDP NPA, a location-specific Indigenous Workforce Implementation Plan has been put in place to maximise Indigenous employment in EKDP construction projects. The Indigenous Workforce Implementation includes provision for trade level training as well as strategies for employing unskilled labour.

The National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing supports the outcome of robust and standardised tenancy management of all remote Indigenous housing that ensures rent collection, asset protection and governance arrangements consistent with public housing standards. Parties to the agreement are also committed to the progressive resolution of land tenure on remote community-titled land in order to secure government and commercial investment, economic development opportunities and home ownership possibilities in economically sustainable communities.

Secure tenure is an essential part of our new approach to Indigenous housing. It secures government investment and enables proper tenancy management whilst ensuring Government is accountable for ongoing repairs and maintenance.

Indigenous communities have entered into whole-of-township leases for Nguiu in the Tiwi Islands, and for Angurugu, Umbakumba and Milyakburra in the Groote Eylandt region. Housing leases have been signed or agreed for a further 10 communities in the Northern Territory as well as on the APY Lands in South Australia, and agreements to lease have been signed for a number of communities in Queensland. Leases have also

been signed for the Town Camps in Tennant Creek and Alice Springs and new tenure arrangements are in place in Ilpeye Ilpeye to provide options for home ownership.

5.2 Land and property rights

The Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) program is being expanded through a \$50 million commitment under the Caring for Our Country initiative and through a funding partnership with the ILC providing a further \$7 million. There are now 37 declared protected areas, covering over 23 million hectares of land across Australia.

The *Indigenous Australian Art Commercial Code of Conduct* was approved by industry in August 2009 and endorsed by the Australian and state and territory governments at the Cultural Ministers Council in October 2009. The Code will be implemented and administered by industry via a public company and a managing Board of Directors. The Government is providing \$0.544 million over three years to support the company and Board and to raise awareness of the Code among the industry, artists and consumers. The Board of Directors is finalising legal and administrative frameworks and is expected to open applications to potential Code members later this year.

The Resale Royalty Right for Visual Artists Act 2009 received Royal Assent on 9 December 2009 and will commence on 9 June 2010. The right entitles visual artists to five per cent of the resale price of their work when sold for \$1,000 or more.

On 7 April 2010, the Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts announced that the Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) had been engaged as the successful tenderer to establish and administer the resale royalty scheme, following an open tender process. As the scheme's collecting society, CAL will be responsible for collecting and paying royalties, maintaining a database of eligible resales, and identifying resale royalty rights holders.

The Australian Government provided an additional \$50 million over four years to speed up the resolution of Native Title claims. Of these funds, \$45.8 million has been provided to Native Title Representative Bodies to improve their staffing and capacity.

5.3 Governance

The Australian Government is exploring opportunities to improve and strengthen Indigenous corporate governance. This includes a focus on the intergenerational benefits which can be achieved through the sustainable management of native title settlement and Indigenous Land Use Agreement payments.

5.4 Tax and welfare

The Government has supported a trial of welfare reform in four communities on Cape York. An important community-generated initiative, this trial also involves a landmark partnership between the Australian and Queensland Governments. The trial aims to:

- deliver services in an integrated way to remove the disincentives that cause dependency cycles;
- increase individual responsibility and active participation within the community; and
- provide a holistic approach to community services and development.

On 24 November 2009, the Government introduced legislation into Parliament to reinstate the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* and to introduce a new national model of income management. Subject to passage of the Bill, the new model will commence across the Northern Territory from 1 July 2010, and target people with the most need for support, including those with a high risk of social isolation, poor money management skills, and those who participate in risky behaviours. Drawing on evidence from the NT, income management will be progressively implemented in disadvantaged locations across Australia.

Changes to the Australian tax system, announced as part of the Federal Budget 2010-11, will make tax time simpler for all Australians. These changes include raising the effective tax free threshold to \$16,000 from 2010-11 and a standard deduction to simplify the tax system and leave more in the pocket for 6.4 million Australians.

On 18 May 2010, the Government released a consultation paper entitled *Native Title, Indigenous Economic Development and Tax*. The consultation paper discusses the interaction between the income tax system and native title and sets out three possible approaches to reform. The consultation paper also discusses how existing deductible gift recipient categories could be better adapted to reflect the needs of Indigenous communities.

IEDS Action Plan 2010-2012 Strengthening Foundations

Priorities	Action	Partners
Infrastructure and housing Land and property rights Governance Tax and welfare Mainstream access Safe and secure communities	<p>35. Undertake remote economic development assessments and link these to Local Implementation planning in the 29 priority remote service delivery locations.</p> <p>36. Encourage directors of Indigenous asset-holding bodies to adopt high standards of corporate governance and financial management.</p> <p>37. Work with the financial sector to develop new approaches to assessing risk, taking security and underwriting investment on Indigenous land.</p> <p>38. Continue to work with the Federal Court, state and territory governments, native title representative bodies to help resolve outstanding native title claims quickly and efficiently.</p> <p>39. Clarify the tax treatment of native title payments to improve certainty for investors and Traditional Owners</p> <p>40. Reform welfare payments to provide incentives for training, part-time work and to improve financial literacy.</p> <p>41. Implement the Indigenous Australian Art Code of Conduct (\$0.544 million over three years).</p> <p>42. Provide support for arts centre infrastructure (\$8 million).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOFD • Treasury • FaHCSIA • DEEWR • DIISR • AGD • DEWHA • Indigenous leaders • Financial sector • Native Title Representative Bodies • ILC • Indigenous asset owners • IBA

