

**We welcome you to the latest edition of the NCIS Newsletter, and provide the following for your information.**

In Issue 11 of our last newsletter we highlighted the changes the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations would be introducing to the Indigenous Employment Program (IEP) commencing in July 2009. In Issue 11 we also advised of our appointment to the panel of providers under the Indigenous Employment Program Economic Development and Business Support Panel. As a result of this panel appointment we are able to discuss with any Indigenous organisation any ideas they may have relating to economic development.

In this edition we highlight the increasing reporting requirements Government Agencies are placing of Indigenous organisations whether these are through:

- Funding agreements;
- Statutory reporting requirements from the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983;
- Statutory reporting requirements from the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ) Act 2006 (CATSI Act); and or
- A combination of both funding agreements and statutory reporting requirements.

The increase in reporting requirements can have a dramatic effect on the capacity of the individuals of an Organisation to adhere to the increasing pressure of compliance reporting as well as managing its day to day business operations.

Whilst reporting and compliance forums and workshops can be beneficial to CEO's and Managers, in undertaking reporting, planning and monitoring requirements, the real benefit in improving employees skills in these areas is where the employee can sit with an experienced person and learn first hand.

The benefits of learning in this manner are:

- Individual assistance would be provided with understanding of and completion of reports;
- Individual assistance would be provided with establishing monitoring templates, reporting action plans and timeframes that will assist meeting compliance requirements;
- Employees are able to learn more efficiently by feeling more comfortable in an individual learning environment; and
- Feedback can be provided during the learning process which aids a faster learning process.

Our experience in assisting Organisations with reporting requirements, compliance management and monitoring over the past twelve (12) months is demonstrated through the undertaking of the following projects;

- Financial program / program management and governance evaluations;
- Risk and crisis assessment, planning and management of programs;
- Mentoring in compliance reporting;
- Developed reporting templates and action plans with timetables to assist with meeting reporting deadlines; and
- Developing operating procedures to assist with improving operational efficiencies and capacity of staff.

Our experience in assisting Organisations source Government funding over the past twelve (12) months is demonstrated through the following submissions to various funding bodies such as:

- FaHCSIA to deliver the Community Support Service Program;
- FaHCSIA for Cultural and Heritage funding;
- Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) Universal Employment Services Innovation Fund Program as a Panel member;
- Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) Indigenous Employment Program (IEP) as a Panel member;
- Catchment Management Authority and the Environment Trust for environmental funding;
- Heritage Trust for Keeping Place funding;
- NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs for Language Study Funding; and
- National Library for artefacts funding.

Our staff has extensive regional and remote experience working with indigenous organisations as well as individuals. Our projects have taken us to the Kimberley and Central Desert regions of Western Australia, Northern Territory, the North Coast, Far West and Central West of New South Wales and areas along the NSW / Victorian border.

For a negotiated fee our staff at RSM Bird Cameron National Centre for Indigenous Services based in Wagga Wagga New South Wales can provide the "hands-on", individual support and assistance staff may need to improve their skills in reporting, compliance management and sourcing Government funding.

**For more information on the services we can provide, please contact Andrew Bowcher, Michael Thorn or Sylvia Schuster on (02) 6921 9055**

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