

**Senator the Hon Mark Arbib**

**Minister for Employment Participation**

**Acting Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations**

4 September, 2009

## **Media release**

### **\$32 m to help close the gap in education, training and employment**

The Acting Minister for Education, Senator Mark Arbib, today announced \$32 million in funding to improve access to education and training for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians living in remote or rural regions.

Through the Indigenous Youth Mobility Program (IYMP), participants aged 16 to 24 relocate to take advantage of post secondary education and training opportunities including Australian Apprenticeships, TAFE or university courses particularly those leading to qualifications in nursing, teaching, business administration and accounting.

The IYMP has previously operated from 10 locations: Cairns, Townsville, Toowoomba, Newcastle, Dubbo, Canberra, Shepparton, Adelaide, Perth and Darwin.

There are now an additional seven host locations: Rockhampton, Coffs Harbour, Port Hedland, Broome, Hobart, Port Augusta/Whyalla and Alice Springs.

The number of places available has also grown from 200 to more than 320.

The program will receive \$32 million in Government funding over the next three years and offers participants accommodation and other support including career planning, mentoring, monitoring and encouragement to fulfil their potential.

The IYMP has been improved through an increased focus on participants striving to complete their qualifications and a stronger focus on community engagement.

Six organisations will deliver the IYMP:

- Career Employment Australia in Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton and Toowoomba;
- TAFE NSW in Newcastle;
- Auswide Projects in Canberra;
- Goulburn Ovens TAFE in Shepparton;
- Nyaarla Projects in Perth, Port Hedland and Broome; and
- Aboriginal Hostels in Darwin, Alice Springs, Port Augusta, Adelaide, Hobart, Dubbo and Coffs Harbour.

The IYMP is contributing to the Australian Government's commitment to closing the gap by improving access to education and training opportunities for Indigenous Australians that lead to qualifications and sustainable employment.

More information about the IYMP and providers is available at [www.deewr.gov.au/iymp](http://www.deewr.gov.au/iymp).

Media Contact:

[media@deewr.gov.au](mailto:media@deewr.gov.au)

Non-media queries: 1300 363 079