

## Media Release No. 522

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### **PARTNERSHIP OFFERS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE TORRES STRAIT**

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) has entered into a partnership with Indigenous Business Australia to deliver Into Business Workshops in the Torres Strait for the first time.

The workshops are designed to assist Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people fully investigate and research their business ideas before taking the leap into business ownership.

The three one-day self-paced workshops are spaced over the course of several weeks.

The TSRA Chairman, Mr Joseph Elu said the TSRA is committed to fostering economic development in the region.

“It is crucial for us to support those people who aspire to own and operate a commercially viable small business.

“We live and work in a challenging environment for business, with our remoteness having an impact on the commercial viability of businesses.

“These workshops will assist participants to develop strategies and provide some of the tools to build successful businesses despite the challenges.”

Mr Elu said feedback from the pilot workshop conducted in September had been very positive.

“People were saying the workshop helped them understand how business works and what was needed to be successful.

“People also liked the approach of the facilitator who used stories and real life experience to explain business in a way that they understood.”

A second workshop for new participants will be held on Thursday Island on the 15 October and continuing participants from the first course will take part in a two day workshop on the 16 and 17 October. Future workshops will be conducted in the region based on Island cluster groups.

The workshops form part of a suite of services offered by the TSRA to aspiring and current Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal business owner operators.

Other services offered by the TSRA include the Islander Entrepreneur Program, which offers loans up to \$20,000 and is delivered in partnership with the National Australia Bank, and concessional business loans through the Business Funding Scheme.

Grants are administered through twice yearly common funding rounds through the Community Economic Initiative Scheme and business support services including business mentors and other business training are also available.

For information on the Into Business Workshops, please contact the TSRA's Economic Development Team on 4069 0700.



Caption: Participants in the first workshop last month have provided positive feed-back.

ENDS

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