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STRONG RESPONSE TO TORRES STRAIT BUSINESS TRAINING INITIATIVE

Eight participants have completed the Into Business Workshops run jointly for the first time in the Torres Strait by the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) and Indigenous Business Australia.

The potential business owners have demonstrated a commitment to their future by attending the three workshops and completing their research work and assignments between workshops.

Participants Keri Akiba, John Morris, Markie Kabai and Mariana Babia travelled to Thursday Island from Saibai and Masig to take part in the workshops.

The TSRA Chairman, Mr Joseph Elu, congratulated the participants and said the workshops presented a great opportunity Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people to fully investigate and research their business ideas before taking the leap into ownership.

“The self-paced workshops also attracted local business people, Patricia Akee, Mary Loban, Rita Gutchen and Barry Williams who were keen to boost their skills in planning, finance and marketing.

“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 commercial viability.”

Mr Elu said the response to the workshops had been very positive with feedback indicating they were very informative and more workshops were needed so as many potential business owners as possible could benefit.

“We are keen to celebrate the participants’ enthusiasm and hard work in completing this important stage of their transition into business.

“Participants indicated the workshops had exceeded their expectations and one participant said the workshops had mapped out a complete change to the way one business had been initially planned.

“We are particularly pleased with the response from people from outer island communities attending the courses and we are now considering taking the workshops to outer islands next year,” Mr Elu said.

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.

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



Caption: Into Business Workshop individual participants celebrate the presentation of their completion certificates. From left: Indigenous Business Australia Facilitator, Keith Murray, Patricia Akee, Mary Loban, TSRA Chairman , Mr Joseph Elu, Rita Gutchen, Barry Williams.



Caption: Saibai Community Development Corporation and Kailag Enterprises (Masig) participants display their completion certificates. From left: Keri Akiba, John Morris, Markie Akiba, Mariana Babia and TSRA Chairman, Mr Joseph Elu.

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TSRA Media Contact – Ken Orr (07) 4069 0700 or 0448 005207