

## Media Release **No. 518**

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### **REMOTE JOBS AND COMMUNITIES PROGRAM IN THE TORRES STRAIT**

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu has welcomed reforms to employment and community development services in remote Australia.

The Australian Government has introduced reforms to employment participation and community development services in remote Australia, including the Torres Strait Islands Region from 1 July 2013.

The Remote Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP) will replace Job Services Australia, Disability Employment Services and the Indigenous Employment Program administered by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

RJCP also replaced the Community Development and Employment Projects (CDEP) program administered by the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA).

Mr Elu said the TSRA, DEEWR and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) have been negotiating the role of the TSRA in the RJCP over recent months.

The TSRA and the Commonwealth have agreed that in the Torres Strait Islands Region the TSRA will act as the agreement manager for the RJCP from 1 September 2013, with My Pathway as the service provider.

“The Commonwealth recognised that the involvement of the TSRA will support My Pathway to deliver more locally tailored and relevant services to job seekers and communities.”

“The TSRA has a key role in economic development and fostering sustainable industries to contribute to regional, community and individual economic improvement.

Mr Elu said the TSRA is looking forward to working in partnership with all stakeholders, including the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, Torres Shire Council, Prescribed Bodies Corporate, employers and community members to get the best out of RJCP for the people of the Torres Strait.

**ENDS**