



National
Native Title
Tribunal



Guide to Sources of Assistance and Funding for Prescribed Bodies Corporate

Updated
July 2009
Research Unit

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Information about this report and requests and inquiries concerning reproduction should be addressed to Manager, Research Unit, National Native Title Tribunal, GPO Box 9973, Perth WA 6484.

Telephone: (08) 9268 7272

Facsimile: (08) 9268 7299

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Introduction

The prescribed body corporate and its functions

When the Federal Court makes a determination that native title exists, native title holders are required by the [Native Title Act 1993 \(Cth\)](#) (the NTA) to establish a body corporate to represent them as a group and manage their native title rights and interests. This body is called a 'prescribed body corporate' (PBC). A PBC is a native title corporation that may hold and/or manage native title for the whole group.

Apart from its native title functions, a PBC is required to fulfil corporate governance obligations imposed on it by the [Corporations \(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander\) Act 2006 \(Cth\)](#) (CATSI Act).¹

Once the corporation is established by the native title holders, and approved by the Court, it is entered onto the [National Native Title Register](#) and becomes a registered native title body corporate.²

When a PBC is registered, it is the legal body used to contact the native title holders and to conduct business between the native title holders and other people with an interest in the determination area, such as pastoralists, miners, governments or developers. Where the native title holders were registered claimants before a determination was made, and were able to participate in the right to negotiate process, the PBC takes on this role. This means that PBCs represent native title holders in any negotiations over future act or Indigenous Land Use Agreement matters in relation to the determined area of land.

At the time the Court makes a determination that native title exists, the Court will request that the native title holders choose what kind of PBC they want. Native title can be either:

- Held in trust by the PBC or
- By the common law holders with the PBC acting as agent.

In both cases, the PBC can only agree to do things that will affect native title if it has consulted with any native title holder who will be affected by that decision and that person has given their consent.

The Guide

In order to perform both its native title and corporate responsibilities effectively, a PBC requires basic administrative infrastructure, eg an office, equipment, staff and access to professional services. Prior to a change of government policy on the provision of funding for PBCs, many were unable to establish or maintain an administrative capability. Since November 2007 however, Native Title Representative Bodies³ and, in exceptional circumstances, PBCs directly, can apply for funding to cover PBCs' administrative costs.

This, in turn, means that a PBC can now attend to both its core responsibilities and make applications to access the range of funding programs and grants available to Indigenous incorporated entities and Indigenous communities.

¹ The CATSI Act, which came into effect on July 2007, makes sure that when a person has a responsibility under the Native Title Act it does not conflict with what they are required to do under the CATSI Act. This means many provisions have been tailored for directors, managers and employees of native title bodies.

² In this Guide, the acronym PBC will refer also to a 'registered native title body corporate'.

³ See below.

Although government assistance is now available to PBCs for administrative purposes, further avenues of assistance may be available to develop, extend and enhance the effectiveness of PBCs.

This Guide provides an outline of some other sources of support and assistance that may be available to PBCs.

The Guide is divided into four parts:

- Sources of direct assistance
- Sources of application-based assistance and funding programs
- Private sector programs
- Further sources of information.

A profile of each application-based program includes an outline of its purpose, general eligibility requirements, the type of assistance provided and where to find further information.

Please note: The Guide is not by any means an exhaustive compilation of all sources of assistance and funding that may be available to PBCs. Further information on sources can be accessed through the links in Part 4.

The majority of the information in this Guide is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, information on the relevant website. No claim is made as to the accuracy, currency or legal integrity of the material used in this Guide.

The attention of the reader is drawn to the Disclaimer at the front of this publication.

1. Sources of direct assistance to Prescribed Bodies Corporate

Native Title Representative Bodies (read to include other Native Title Service Providers (NTSPs)).

What are Native Title Representative Bodies?

Native Title Representative Bodies (NTRBs) are primarily service delivery agencies that are responsible for servicing the needs of persons who hold or may hold native title in their area. The Australian Government, through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), resources NTRBs from an allocation of funds provided for the native title system as a whole.

What do NTRBs do?

NTRBs functions and powers are detailed in the [Native Title Act 1993 \(Cth\)](#). Their functions involve support to native title claimants or holders in making claims and negotiating associated agreements.

What type of practical assistance is available?

Apart from support and assistance in relation to the above matters, NTRB funding may also be used to:

- Assist with the establishment, incorporation and registration of PBCs *up to and including the holding of the first general meeting of such bodies.*
- Assist PBCs in consultations, mediations, negotiations and proceedings relating to native title *beyond the first general meeting.*
- Use these funds to perform the statutory functions of a NTRB in relation to a PBC *at any time* eg by assisting PBCs to negotiate future act agreements.

From September 2007 funds have been made available by government to support the administrative infrastructure of PBCs. These funds may be applied for by a NTRB or, under exceptional circumstances, directly by the PBC. Different procedures apply depending on whether an application is made by a NTRB or a PBC. Consult the [Guidelines for Support of Prescribed Bodies Corporate](#) (PBCs) for details of the scheme.

Further information

Contact your local representative body.

Contact details of all NTRBs are available on the [NTRB](#) website.

Source: The text in this section is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the [AIATSIS](#) and NTRB websites.

Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC)

What is the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations?

ORIC is an Australian Government agency set up to assist the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations administer the [Corporations \(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander\) Act 2006](#) (CATSI Act). The CATSI Act guides how Indigenous corporations are run.

What does ORIC do?

ORIC will offer information, support, advice and training to help Indigenous corporations do the best job for their communities. ORIC also provides an avenue for new incorporations, delivering a tailored service that responds to the special needs of Indigenous groups and corporations.

What kind of practical assistance is available?

ORIC offers [training](#) in corporate governance for Indigenous corporations and their directors. Various support materials and publications are available [online](#) or by request.

ORIC holds information sessions for Indigenous groups who want to incorporate. They usually cover:

- What incorporation actually means
- The costs, benefits and legal responsibilities involved
- Whether incorporation is required or necessary for your group
- The key features of incorporation under the CATSI Act
- Other options for incorporating under state or federal law
- How to develop a good corporation rule book.

ORIC produces information brochures, the purpose of which is to promote good corporate governance practices within Indigenous corporations. They are designed to assist corporations to manage their affairs in accordance with the CATSI Act and with their corporation's constitution.

ORIC also offers advice on what is required by law and provides examples of good governance structures. Corporations are encouraged to design constitutions that allow them to conduct their affairs in accordance with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander customs.

Click [here](#) if you are thinking about registering a corporation.

For further information

The Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations

PO Box 2029

WODEN ACT 2606

Freecall: 1800 622 431

Fax: (02) 6281 2739

Email: info@oric.gov.au

Website: www.oratsic.gov.au

Source: The text in this section is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the ORIC website.

National Native Title Tribunal

What is the National Native Title Tribunal?

The National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) is an Australian Government agency set up under the [Native Title Act 1993 \(Cth\)](#). It is part of the Attorney-General's portfolio and mediates native title claims under the direction of the Federal Court of Australia. The Tribunal is an independent source of information and assistance for everyone involved in native title and the wider public.

What does the NNTT do?

The National Native Title Tribunal assists people to facilitate timely and effective native title outcomes. The Tribunal assists parties to resolve native title applications through mediation, and make agreements that recognise everyone's rights and interests in land and waters. It carries out these functions in an impartial and fair way, taking into account the views and concerns of everyone involved.

What kind of practical assistance is available?

The Tribunal can provide assistance and information to all people involved in the native title process. The Tribunal may be able to help with:

- preparing native title claimant applications
- providing details of native title applications
- giving information about native title and the native title process
- providing land tenure information and conducting searches
- providing mapping services
- negotiating agreements, including indigenous land use agreements
- applying for the registration of an indigenous land use agreement
- negotiating the withdrawal of objections to the registration of area or alternative procedure indigenous land use agreements.

The Tribunal may also give research assistance at the request of the parties involved in mediation. This can take the form of reports bringing together publicly, or readily available historical materials on cultural groups and group areas. Additionally, resource documents are offered to the sector interests in mediation, for example, fishing, local government and pastoral.

Please note the Tribunal does not give legal advice and it cannot prepare native title applications for applicants.

Further Information

National Native Title Tribunal

1 Victoria Avenue

Perth WA 6000

Freecall: 1800 640 501

Email: enquiries@nntt.gov.au

Website: <http://www.nntt.gov.au/>

Source: The text in this section is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the NNTT website.

Indigenous Land Corporation

Note: Although access to ILC programs is application-based, extensive advice is available during the assessment of an application and thereafter.

What is the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC)?

The Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) is a statutory authority set up under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* to assist Indigenous people to acquire and manage land to achieve economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits.

The ILC was established in recognition of the fact that most Indigenous people will not benefit from the High Court's Mabo (No. 2) decision and the [Native Title Act 1993 \(Cth\)](#) as they were dispossessed of their land and cannot therefore demonstrate the continuous association necessary to prove that native title exists.

The ILC is Indigenous-controlled, with the Chairperson and at least four other members required to be Indigenous.

What does the ILC do?

The ILC was established to assist Indigenous people to achieve benefits through the

- Acquisition of land; and/or
- Management of Indigenous-held land.

See Section 2 for details of ILC programs.

What kind of assistance is available?

During application assessments, a land workshop is held so that the ILC can assist applicants to:

- Identify any risks associated with plans
- Identify capacity requirements, and
- Design appropriate responses and work plans.

The capacity of both applicants and the land are assessed. Support for successful applicants may include assistance with:

- Corporate governance
- Financial management
- Farm and stock management
- Cropping and pasture management, and
- Marketing.

The ILC has established partnerships with a variety of service providers who deliver on-ground support. These partnerships are instrumental in building good communication and the awareness of applicants' needs and requirements.

Further information

Indigenous Land Corporation
63 Pirie Street
Adelaide SA 5000
Freecall: 1800 818 490

Email: ilcinfo@ilc.gov.au

Website: <http://www.ilc.gov.au/>

For a comprehensive description of ILC programs see the [National Indigenous Land Strategy](#) (2007 - 2012).

Source: The text in this section is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the ILC website.

Indigenous Land Management Facilitators

What are Indigenous Land Management Facilitators?

[Indigenous Land Management Facilitators](#) are people who know the grants and programs on offer from the Commonwealth Government, and can help Indigenous people access them.

What function do Indigenous Land Management Facilitators fulfil?

The [Facilitators](#) provide a practical two-way link between Indigenous land managers and other individuals and agencies involved in sustainable land management and nature conservation activities.

What kind of assistance is available?

The Facilitators provide information to Indigenous communities about the types of support and technical advice which is available to assist them with the land management issues on their lands. The Facilitators also provide feedback to Commonwealth Government policy makers on land management issues that are of concern to Indigenous communities, and help to raise awareness within government agencies and the non-Indigenous communities of Indigenous values, aspirations and capacity in land management.

The Government supports a national [network](#) of Indigenous Land Management Facilitators, with at least one Facilitator in each State and Territory.

Further information

Caring for Our Country Facilitators
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Phone: 1800 065 823 or
(02) 6274 1111

Fax: (02) 6274 2735.

Email: ciu@environment.gov.au

Website: <http://www.nrm.gov.au/do/facilitator.html>

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the DEWHA website.

Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs)

ICCs are Indigenous people's way to talk to government. Working with local people, ICC staff can broker innovative and flexible whole-of-government solutions to local and regional needs using both Indigenous-specific and mainstream funding.

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs manages the network of 30 Indigenous Coordination Centres across Australia. ICCs are multi-agency units that administer most of the Australian Government's Indigenous programs at the local and regional level, including managing the [common application process](#). ICC locations may be accessed through the following links:

- [New South Wales](#)
- [Northern Territory](#)
- [Queensland](#)
- [South Australia](#)
- [Tasmania](#)
- [Victoria](#)
- [Western Australia](#)

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the FaHCSIA website.

2. Sources of application-based assistance and funding programs

Indigenous Communications Program

Agency: The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

Purpose

The objective of the [Indigenous Communications Program](#) is to improve essential telecommunications services, basic public internet access facilities and computer training for remote Indigenous communities. The Indigenous Communications Program will build upon existing programs to ensure remote Indigenous communities receive greater access to enhanced and more flexible solutions to address their telecommunications needs.

\$30 million will be provided to the program over four years.

Assistance

The Indigenous Communications Program will deliver:

- A fixed or mobile community telephone to around 300 remote Indigenous communities that do not currently have access to a public telephone
- Ongoing monitoring and maintenance of these 300 new phones and 250 existing phones, and
- In collaboration with state and territory governments, the installation of public internet access facilities and delivery of computer training in up to 120 remote Indigenous communities that have limited or no public access internet facilities.

Eligibility

Telephone services element

Remote Indigenous communities with a population of less than 50 that do not have access to a public phone may be eligible for a community phone. Eligible remote Indigenous communities will be nominated by relevant Australian Government, state or territory agencies, or appointed community liaison officers.

Internet access and training element

Public internet access and training services will be provided to eligible communities that are nominated by state and territory governments. The public internet access and training element will target remote Indigenous hub communities, typically with a population of 100 or more, that have limited or no public internet access facilities.

Further information

Indigenous Communications Program team

Indigenous Communications Branch

The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

GPO Box 2154

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Freecall 1800 355 014

Fax: 02 6271 1435

Email: bia@dbcde.gov.au

Please visit the Department's web site at <http://www.dbcde.gov.au/>

Information on the program is also available from [Indigenous Coordination Centres](#).

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the DBCDE website.

Indigenous Protected Area Program

Agency: Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA)

Purpose

An [Indigenous Protected Area](#) (IPA) is an area of Indigenous-owned land or sea where traditional Indigenous owners have entered into an agreement with the Australian Government to promote biodiversity and cultural resource conservation. The IPA program supports Indigenous communities to manage their land as IPAs, contributing to the [National Reserve System](#). There are currently (July 2009) [28](#) IPAs, and other Indigenous communities are in the process of developing their land as an IPA.

General eligibility

The following bodies can apply for IPA funding:

- Incorporated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, including:
- Land councils
- Community councils
- Land management agencies
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land trusts or representative bodies.

Indigenous groups seeking funding to develop an IPA on Indigenous-owned lands should:

- Have secure tenure (e.g. freehold, deed-of-grant, leasehold) over the land where they wish to establish the IPA
- Have land which features high natural and cultural heritage values
- Have a clear intention to manage the land long-term for the conservation of its natural and cultural features
- Not intend to use the IPA for any land use that will degrade the natural or cultural heritage values
- Be able to manage and protect the IPA by legal or other effective means, for example:
 - Traditional management practices can be effective means of management
 - Customary law is recognised as a form of management which satisfies World Conservation Union guidelines
 - Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation can protect IPAs, through agreements with appropriate government agencies.

Assistance

Funding for Indigenous Protected Areas has been boosted to \$50 million over five years (2008-09 to 2012-13) through the Caring for our Country initiative. The first instalment - more than \$24 million - has already been announced.

Funding proposals can be submitted at any time for:

- Establishing IPAs on [Indigenous-owned lands](#); or
- Establishing cooperative management arrangements over existing [State and Territory government-managed protected areas](#).

Closing Date

The Indigenous Land Management Section will accept IPA project applications at any time during the year. The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts encourages potential applicants to contact the Indigenous Land Management Section of Parks Australia to discuss their application.

If you have any general enquires please contact the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts Community Information Unit on 1800 065 823.

Further information

Director

Indigenous Land Management Section

Parks Australia

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

GPO Box 787

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Phone: 1800 065 823 or
(0)2 6274 1111

Fax: (02) 6274 2349

Website: <http://www.environment.gov.au/indigenous/ipa/index.html>

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the DEWHA website.

Working on Country Program

(An element of the [Caring for our Country Program](#))

Agency: Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA)

Purpose

[Working on Country](#) will:

- Support Indigenous aspirations in caring for country
- Protect and manage Australia's environmental and heritage values by providing paid employment for Indigenous people to undertake environmental work on country, and
- Provide nationally accredited training and career pathways for Indigenous people in land and sea management, in partnership with industry and others.

General eligibility

- An Indigenous group or organisation wishing to do work on country; and/or
- An Indigenous organisation that is legally incorporated that can manage the contract; or
- A not-for-profit body that is legally incorporated in Australia that can act as a contract manager for an Indigenous group or organisation; or
- A local government authority or natural resource management body that can act as a contract manager (works that are considered part of the local government's normal responsibility are not eligible).

However, the area where the project will be carried out must have a current environmental management plan. This plan must be at an appropriate scale for the work that you want to do. Generally, this will be at a local property scale, rather than a regional scale. It needs to be detailed enough to provide a framework for the activities that you want to undertake.

Assistance

Funding for Working on Country is available from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2013, with \$90 million to be invested over the next five years. Funding can be spent on wages and administrative costs. Some funding is available for training and travel costs, for vehicle lease, and for buying equipment and materials like traps, chemicals, safety equipment and tools.

Closing date

Contact the Indigenous Policy Branch.

Further information

Indigenous Policy Branch
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

Phone 1800 552 008 (free call)
(02) 6274 2939 (we can call you back)

Email workingoncountry@environment.gov.au

[Working on Country](#) website

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the DEWHA website.

Indigenous Heritage Programme

Agency: Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA)

Purpose

The [Indigenous Heritage Programme](#) is an Australian Government initiative that aims to support the identification, conservation, and promotion (where appropriate) of the Indigenous heritage values of places important to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The programme may also assist in the identification of places likely to have outstanding Indigenous heritage value to Australia; that is, places of national heritage significance suitable for inclusion on the National Heritage List.

General eligibility

To be eligible you must, at the closing date for applications, be:

- A legally incorporated Indigenous organisation; or
- A not-for-profit body that is legally incorporated in Australia; or
- A Traditional Owner of the subject Indigenous heritage place; or
- An individual (who is an Australian citizen), acting on behalf of the Traditional Owners; or
- With the approval and support of the Traditional Owners; or
- A local government authority (works that would be considered part of the local government's normal responsibility, e.g. maintenance of Council buildings, access roads etc will be considered ineligible).

As the Australian Government wishes to assist Indigenous community groups through the programme, preference will be given to these groups. Applications from state or territory departments, agencies or authorities (including educational institutions) will only be considered where a written request has been received by the relevant Indigenous community to undertake the project on their behalf.

Assistance

The Indigenous Heritage Programme will provide grants for projects which:

- Conserve Indigenous heritage places
- Identify Indigenous heritage places
- Undertake planning for Indigenous heritage places
- Interpret or explain a Indigenous heritage place; or
- Construct keeping places to house remains and/or objects that require restricted access.

Individual project funding for organisations will in general be available up to a maximum of \$100,000 (GST Inclusive). Individual applicants will generally be eligible for funding up to \$5000. Applications for more than these amounts may be considered where the applicant demonstrates special circumstances or a genuine requirement for additional funds.

The Indigenous Heritage Programme [Guide](#) will help you develop your project. If you need help to fill in your application form, contact an [Indigenous Coordination Centre](#), or call (toll free) 1800 079 098 (which will link to the ICC in your state or territory.)

Closing date

Contact the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts for information on the next round of grants.

Further information

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

Phone: 1800 653 004

(02) 6274 1111

Fax: (02) 6274 1666

Email: heritagegrants@environment.gov.au

Call 1800 982 280 to check eligibility.

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the DEWHA website.

Education for Sustainability Grants Program

Agency: Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA)

Purpose

The Education for Sustainability Grants Program aims to support projects that facilitate changes in community attitudes and behaviours in support of sustainable development in Australia.

General eligibility

Eligible groups may include but are not necessarily limited to:

- Community groups and associations
- Industry associations
- Rural organisations
- Local governments
- Universities and further education institutions
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander corporations, councils or incorporated associations; and
- Environmental and education groups.

Assistance

The Education for Sustainability Grants Program has limited funds and competition for these resources is high. The Program is generally only able to fund a small number of strategic projects each year. Funding of up to \$100,000 per project will be considered. If you would like to discuss the suitability of a project for future funding, you should contact the Sustainability Education Section by either phone, mail or e-mail [see below].

Closing date

Contact the Sustainability Education Section.

Further information

Sustainability Education Section

[Education for Sustainability Grants Program](#)

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

GPO Box 787

Canberra ACT 2601

Tel: (02) 6274 1523

Email: ee@erin.gov.au

See also [Guide](#) for Applicants.

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the DEWHA website.

Land Acquisition: Cultural and Environmental Heritage Protection program

Agency: Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC)

Purpose

This [program](#) assists Indigenous corporations to achieve long-term sustainable benefits, particularly in protection, maintenance and revitalisation of cultural and environmental heritage, through the purchase and subsequent granting of a property.

General eligibility

The applicant must:

1. Be an Indigenous controlled organisation that is:
 - Incorporated (or in the process of becoming incorporated)
 - Able to legally enter into a lease arrangement and hold title to land; and
 - Effectively governed and compliant with regulatory responsibilities.
2. Include in its membership Traditional Owners or people with traditional links to the land.
3. Demonstrate that there are no disputes about peoples' connection to the land.
4. Demonstrate commitment and capacity to own and manage land, and undertake the proposed land use.
5. Demonstrate how it will be actively involved in managing the property and the land use.

Assistance

The ILC will assist with:

- Cost of the property
- Settlement costs associated with the acquisition
- Where required, a facilitator to assist with development of a property plan
- Immediate costs to bring the property into suitable condition, such as:
 - Essential maintenance and repairs to address health and safety issues;
 - Limited capital development or property improvement; and / or
 - Purchase of plant and equipment.

Closing date

Contact ILC.

Further information

[Indigenous Land Corporation](#)

Freecall: 1800 818 490

Email: ilcinfo@ilc.gov.au

For a comprehensive description of ILC programs see the [National Indigenous Land Strategy](#) (2007 - 2012).

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the ILC website.

Land Acquisition: Socio-Economic Development program

Agency: Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC)

Purpose

The [Socio-Economic Development program](#) assists Indigenous corporations to achieve long-term sustainable benefits, particularly in training and employment participation, through the purchase and subsequent granting of a property.

General eligibility

1. Application must be made by an Indigenous controlled organisation that is:
 - a) Incorporated (or in the process of becoming incorporated);
 - b) Able to legally enter into a lease arrangement and hold title to land; and
 - c) Effectively governed and compliant with regulatory responsibilities.
2. That can demonstrate commitment and capacity to own and manage land, and undertake the proposed land use.
3. That can demonstrate a need for land ownership that cannot be met through the functions of other agencies or use of other Indigenous-held land in the region.
4. That can demonstrate how it will be actively involved in managing the property and the land use.

Assistance

The ILC can assist with:

- Cost of the property
- Settlement costs associated with the acquisition
- Immediate start-up costs to bring the property into suitable condition, such as:
 - Essential maintenance and repairs to address health and safety issues;
 - Limited capital development or property improvement; and / or
 - Purchase of plant and equipment.

Closing date

Contact ILC.

Further information

[Indigenous Land Corporation](#)

Tel: 1800 818 490 (freecall)

Email: ilcinfo@ilc.gov.au

For a comprehensive description of ILC programs see the [National Indigenous Land Strategy](#) (2007 - 2012).

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the ILC website.

Indigenous Business Australia - Enterprises Programme

Agency: Indigenous Business Australia (IBA)

Purpose

The [IBA Enterprises Programme](#) aims to provide Indigenous people with skill development services and alternate funding products to achieve greater independence from Government and improve business management capabilities.

The programme provides eligible Indigenous applicants with a range of funding products for the acquisition, establishment and/or development of commercially viable small to medium sized enterprises that have demonstrated, or have the potential, to achieve long-term commercial viability.

General eligibility

Applicants must fulfil the following requirements:

- Confirmation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent
- Commercial viability – applicants must demonstrate how the business will repay the loan in accordance with the agreed terms
- Security – borrowers must provide adequate assets of sufficient real value that can be sold to recover the loan funds in case of default
- Satisfactory credit report
- Management skills.

Assistance

Based on the viability of an application, IBA can offer financial assistance with the:

- Acquisition
- Establishment or
- Expansion of the enterprise proposal.

IBA Enterprises will also provide assistance to:

- Develop your enterprise idea
- Plan your enterprise
- Facilitate training in how to manage and operate your enterprise
- Develop a marketing strategy and products
- Grow an existing enterprise.

The assistance IBA Enterprises offers does not need to be linked to a loan application nor do you need to be an existing client.

Closing dates

Not applicable.

Further information

If you wish to discuss a business proposal or require further information to assist with developing a proposal please contact:

IBA Enterprises Programme
Freecall: 1800 804 754 or

Email: enterprises@iba.gov.au or

Website: <http://www.iba.gov.au/> or at
[IBA offices](#) nationwide.

Information is also available from [Indigenous Coordination Centres](#).
Click on your State/Territory, using map or text links to find the contact details for your local ICC.

Freecall: **1800 079 098** to be connected to the nearest ICC, except in
Nhulunbuy area – call 1800 089 148
Kalgoorlie area – call 1800 193 357
Kununurra area – call 1800 193 348

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the IBA website.

Indigenous Business Australia - Investments Programme

Agency: Indigenous Business Australia (IBA)

Purpose

The [IBA Investments Programme](#) has a central role in working with the private sector and local Indigenous people to encourage and foster Indigenous economic independence. The Programme invests directly in business opportunities, often through joint venture arrangements with expert industry partners and Indigenous organisations, communities and/or individuals. The objective is to participate in businesses that provide for profit distribution, employment opportunities and asset growth.

General eligibility

The primary criterion in assessing a new proposal is clear evidence of long term commercial viability.

To determine the project's commercial viability, the Business Development Unit will carry out an evaluation of the business plan, historical financials, and cash flow projections. The viability of any joint venture partner(s) and their management experience will also be evaluated, including an assessment of assets.

As well as assessing commercial viability, the Business Development Unit will also examine potential Indigenous employment and training outcomes, as well as opportunities for Indigenous people to participate in the management and decision making processes for the business.

Assistance

If, after the initial assessment, the proposal is deemed to have merit, IBA may contract an expert consultant to perform a full analysis and appraisal of the venture (due diligence) to determine viability. A full due diligence may require additional information (e.g. legal and related matters, summary of tax position, and customer and market information).

Should the submission meet all criteria, the proposal will be presented to IBA's Board of Directors for their final decision.

The [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005 \(Cth\)](#) s 148(2)(d) specifically requires that IBA have regard to the desirability of making specialist expertise available to Aboriginal persons and Torres Strait Islanders engaged in commercial activities.

Closing date

Not applicable.

Further information

IBA Investments Programme
Freecall: 1300 662 746 or
Email: investments@iba.gov.au or

Website: <http://www.iba.gov.au/> or at
[IBA offices](#) nationwide.

Information is also available from [Indigenous Coordination Centres](#).
Click on your State/Territory, using map or text links to find the contact details for your local ICC.

Freecall: **1800 079 098** to be connected to the nearest ICC, except in
Nhulunbuy area – call 1800 089 148
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3. Private sector programs

Indigenous Capital Assistance Scheme (ICAS)

Westpac in partnership with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)

Purpose

The Indigenous Capital Assistance Scheme (ICAS) increases employment opportunities for Indigenous Australians by giving Indigenous businesses access to culturally appropriate commercial finance and professional and mentoring support services through a participating financial institution.

General eligibility

To apply for the scheme, you must:

- Have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- Be at least 51% Indigenous Australian owned (for companies this refers to shareholders), or for a partnership of two people, have at least one partner who is an Indigenous Australian
- Have at least 50% Indigenous Australian employees
- Utilise funds for the establishment of a new business, expansion or acquisition of an existing business that will lead to an increase in Indigenous employment
- Conduct a lawful business that does not involve the sex industry, or the production and distribution of pornography, and that is not culturally or socially inappropriate in the relevant local community
- Not be insolvent or in undischarged bankruptcy
- Have total business debt liabilities (including ICAS finance) that do not exceed \$500 000 at any one time.

Assistance

Financial support for loans ranging from \$50 000 to \$500 000 is available over a three year period in conjunction with professional and mentoring support services. Financial support includes:

- An interest rate subsidy declining each 12 months to a market rate at the end of three years to ease the cost of financing new Indigenous businesses
- A subsidy of a portion of the bank's application/establishment fee(s) refunded to the applicant, whether successful or not, to encourage new lending applications (at time of writing up to \$820)
- A professional and mentoring support services subsidy.

Closing date

Not applicable.

Further information

DEEWR [website](#)

Indigenous Employment hotline: 1802 102.

[Westpac](#): 132 772

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the Westpac and DEEWR websites.

Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program

Organisation: Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal. (FRRR)

Purpose

The Foundation supports the development of regional community foundations, and uses seed funding and challenge grants to move regional development project funding into a more dynamic context. Click [here](#) for details of FRRR's main aims.

General eligibility

From a long list of Grant Assessment Criteria the following are mandatory. The project must:

- Offer a clear public benefit for some or all of the community living in rural, regional and/or remote Australia
- Contribute to rural and regional renewal, regeneration and development in Australia in social, economic, environmental, health, education or cultural areas.

Click [here](#) for full details of FRRR's grant criteria.

Click [here](#) for details on Indigenous-specific funded projects.

Assistance

Not-for-profit organisations can apply for projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for communities living in small rural and remote locations in Australia, contributing to their development in social and community welfare, economic, environmental, health, education or cultural areas. Applications from communities with a population of 10 000 or less will receive priority. Grants will be made in amounts up to \$5000.

Closing date

There are two rounds of Small Grants per year. Contact FRRR for details.

Further information

[Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal](#)

Tel: 1800 170 020 or (03) 5443 7300

Fax: (03) 5443 8900

Email: info@frrr.org.au

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the FRRR website.

Indigenous Community Volunteers (ICV)

Agency: Indigenous Community Volunteers (ICV) is primarily funded by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)

Purpose

Indigenous Community Volunteers is a not-for-profit organisation set up to assist Indigenous communities to become self sustaining through creating effective partnerships between Indigenous people, corporations and the wider Australian community. It seeks to bring within reach the skills, knowledge and advice that will make a difference to Indigenous communities' short and long-term development goals. It is the only organisation that offers this wide support to Indigenous communities.

ICV aims to work with sponsors to develop and nurture active partnerships built on ongoing commitment, mutual understanding and respect. ICV's work will make a difference in Indigenous communities by supporting projects designed to fill a skills gap, and not replace other community support programs.

General eligibility

Indigenous Community Volunteers (ICV) will consider all skills requests from communities.

Assistance

ICV works closely with each supporting corporation, trust or philanthropic organisation to develop a sponsorship proposal and agreement which fits with the donor organisation's sponsorship principles and criteria. The agreement will clearly set out sponsors' expectations.

ICV recruits volunteers with the necessary skills to work in communities for periods from two weeks to 6 months and also to transfer their skills to communities to ensure lasting benefit. It ensures volunteers are well prepared by arranging for them to attend a cultural awareness program before arriving in a community and that they receive support in the community through a mentor system. It also monitors progress throughout the life of the project.

Travel, training and living costs are paid by ICV, and the community provides accommodation and a cultural mentor to advise the volunteer. ICV monitors each project and its outcomes; and supports the community and volunteer during the project.

ICV is an approved Deductible Gift Recipient and all donations to it over \$2 (including trading stock) are tax deductible.

Closing date

Not applicable.

Further information

[Indigenous Community Volunteers](#)

GPO Box 2213, Canberra ACT 2601

Tel: 1800 819 542 (toll free)

Email: info@volindigenous.org.au

[Regional offices](#)

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the ICV website.

4. Links to further sources of information

Note: The following links will lead to most, but perhaps not all, Federal Government funding programs for Indigenous Australians. There is therefore a fair degree of overlap. Please note that some of the links within these websites may be defunct or lead to out of date information.

[Indigenous Portal](#) - resources, contacts, information, and government programs and services for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders.

[GrantsLINK](#) – Will help you find funding that is available under a variety of grant programs for individuals, businesses and communities to help them to develop solutions to local and national problems, fund ideas and initiatives or provide assistance in times of hardship.

[Commonwealth Parliamentary Library](#) – probably the best source of information on Indigenous Australians; includes links to the full spread of funding programs.

State and Territory governments are also a source of assistance, funding and grants programs.