



5 December 2011

Indigenous Tourism Employment Roundtable

Tourism Minister Malarndirri McCarthy will today address a roundtable on Indigenous tourism employment in Canberra.

Minister McCarthy will join select industry leaders, business representatives and tourism organisations engaged in the Indigenous tourism sector who have been invited by the Federal Tourism Minister Martin Ferguson.

Minister McCarthy said the meeting will focus on ways Indigenous tourism employment can be accelerated, particularly through skills and career development.

“Government policy initiatives and program delivery must be tailored to recognise the different and unique needs of progressing Indigenous employment in both mainstream tourism and ‘on-country’ situations,” she said.

“The Roundtable will focus on developing skills and career paths; brokering location based industry-led partnerships that support the participation of small to medium enterprises; and demonstrating the value-add to business of Indigenous participation and presence.

“The Indigenous Tourism Working Group (ITWG) chaired by the Northern Territory has been considering this as part of its work within the national long term tourism strategy.”

Minister McCarthy highlighted Karen Sheldon Training as an example of a federally funded program that is achieving outcomes in this regard by conducting pre-employment courses for Indigenous job seekers in the retail and hospitality sectors in the NT.

“Ninety per cent of Indigenous people employed at the IHG’s Crowne Plaza in Alice Springs have been recruited via Karen’s ‘Future Stars’ program,” said Ms McCarthy.

“The challenge remains, however, to roll out this type of initiative beyond working with large corporations and beyond mainstream tourism into regional and remote areas.”

Media Contact: Ursula Raymond 0457 825 507

