The Territory Government’s banking contract will be used to secure more employment for indigenous people under a $3 million, six year contract with NAB and Traditional Credit Union.

“This is evidence the Territory Government’s tender procurement policies is gaining real achievements in employment for indigenous Territorians,” Minister Knight said.

“We have a strong commitment to securing jobs for indigenous Territorians and are putting our tendering weight behind contracts that secure employment opportunities for indigenous Territorians.

“It was an extremely competitive tender process - NAB is partnered with the Traditional Credit Union (TCU) which currently provides banking services in 11 communities across the Northern Territory and has a strong track record in providing employment for indigenous Australians.

“TCU is Australia’s only Aboriginal-owned banking institution and more than 85% of their workforces are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

“On top of this In fact, NAB has committed to employ an additional 20 Indigenous trainees in the Northern Territory over the next three years.

“Last year, NAB helped TCU to expand its branch network, established an Indigenous Money Mentors program, and the Indigenous Employment Program, which recruited more than 72 Indigenous employees across Australia since its beginning in 2008.”

The TCU together with partner NAB currently provides banking services in 11 communities across the Northern Territory, including:

- Gunbalanya
- Numbulwar
- Milingimbi
- Gapuwiyak
- Galiwinku
- Maningrida
- Minyerri
- Ngukurr
- Ramingining
- Wadeye
- Warruwi

Other regions are able to access Australia Post processing.
Minister Knight said the Territory Government is investing $32 million over three years to support business and Indigenous employment.

“Under our Jobs NT strategy we’ve set a target of 3000 Indigenous commencement in employment across the public and private sectors by 2012,” Minister Knight said.

“Under our NT Public Sector Entry Level Indigenous Employment Program we’re providing Indigenous people with skills training and a job in the public service, and our Indigenous Business Development Program is helping start up more Indigenous owned businesses.

“The Territory Government has also set up the Indigenous Training for Employment Program with the Australian Government to support initiatives that strengthen private sector and local government employment in regional and remote communities.”

As part of the contract a Government Business banking team will be established by NAB in Darwin to ensure a seamless, effective and efficient transfer of banking services. There is no loss of jobs expected as a result of this decision.

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