$30 million to build Indigenous workforce in our Shires

The Northern Territory and Australian Governments today announced a $30 million jobs package that will provide sustained employment for up to 530 Indigenous people over the next three years.


Minister McCarthy said in the Northern Territory Budget 2011 the Territory Government is investing $8.4 million per year. The Australian Government is investing $1.6 million per year.

“The Shires Indigenous Workforce Package is a comprehensive plan to help build the capacity of Shires to deliver sustainable Indigenous employment and workforce development,” said Minister McCarthy.

“The Territory Government is providing substantial additional funding to assist councils deliver core services and secure Indigenous employment.

“The 530 Indigenous jobs which will be sustained by this funding are in council core services such as road construction and maintenance, parks and gardens, grass and weed management, waste collection and dump management.

“These jobs are in addition to around 300 jobs provided in housing maintenance and tenancy services, as well as those who support essential services.

“The Territory Government has been working with the Local Government Association of the NT to develop robust workforce development plans for each Shire.

“The Indigenous workforce will be supported by mentors who will be engaged in each of the Territory Growth Towns to help improve retention.

“The package also includes $500,000 for local area traffic management improvements in the Working Futures communities with a particular focus on road safety initiatives.

“We will also allocate at least $3 million per year across the Shires to construct and maintain Territory Government assets such as schools and roads, which will provide guaranteed work and help Shires create sustainable employment.

Senator Arbib said the Indigenous workforce will be supported by mentors who will be engaged in each of the 20 Territory Growth Towns to help improve retention.
“The mentors will work with both the Indigenous employees and the Shire Council to improve the rate of retention,” Senator Arbib said.

“They will provide support to the Indigenous employees as they adjust to full time work while supporting the Shire Councils to provide culturally safe work environments.

“The Gillard Government is committed to closing the gap and this program is an important step in creating more than 100,000 jobs for Indigenous Australians by 2018.”

The Northern Territory Budget 2011 invests in a Working Future through infrastructure, health, education and job creation in the bush to build the future for Indigenous Territorians.

More information on this package is available online at www.workingfuture.com.au

**Minister McCarthy’s Media Contact:** Ursula Raymond  0457 825 507  
**Minister Arbib’s Media contact:** Sean Sammon 0417 137 419/ 02 9364 2600