June 28, 2011

Indigenous Mine Training Program Launched

An innovative program aimed at providing training for Indigenous mine workers was officially launched today by Resources Minister Kon Vatskalis.

The pre-employment program run by the Minerals Council of Australia has already seen the first intake of 23 trainees complete the program, with most now working in the mining sector.

“The Territory’s mining sector contributes to over a quarter of our economy, providing opportunities for those living in regional and remote areas of the Territory to gain training and employment opportunities,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“I'd like to congratulate the Minerals Council of Australia for this important initiative, as an increase in the level of Indigenous participation is one of the continuing key outcomes the NT Government is looking to see from the mining sector.”

Mr Vatskalis said the NT and Federal Government funded initiative had already led to the employment of trainees in the mining sector.

“Along with the successful trainees themselves, it is important to also congratulate those companies associated with the initiative and other companies actively committed to building up the Territory’s Indigenous workforce participation in the mining sector,” he said.

The Territory’s mining exploration sector continues to go from strength to strength with the latest mineral exploration expenditure figures revealing a huge increase for the same time last year.

Contact: Maria Billias 0401 119 746