Mentors assist Indigenous tourism operators to achieve accreditation

The Territory Government will spend $60,000 to assist Indigenous tourism operators achieve industry accreditation.

Minister for Tourism, Kon Vatskalis, today announced the funding for the new mentoring program that will assist Indigenous businesses in establishing the business systems and plans that are required for accreditation.

“Indigenous tourism operators are important to the development and growth of tourism in the NT and this Government is working to support those in the industry,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“Amuwarngka Tours based at Groote Eylandt, Nitmiluk Tours from Katherine and RT Tours Australia from Alice Springs will be the first three operators to benefit from this new program.

“This Government is committed to improving Indigenous economic development and employment through Closing the Gap. Supporting Indigenous tourism is a great way to generate economic activity and jobs.”

The Northern Territory Government has plans to extend the program and is currently exploring options to enable the mentoring support to be delivered to up to 12 additional Indigenous operators over the next two years.

“This new mentoring program supports the broader strategic direction of Tourism NT to improve the standards of tourism experiences within the Northern Territory and position the NT as the premier destination for cultural tourism,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“Accreditation programs provide operators the opportunity to have their business processes and service delivery measured against industry standards. This mentoring program will enable businesses to improve their standards to achieve accreditation, which will also improve the overall visitor experience in the NT.”

Recent studies show that 91% of our visitors expect to meet and interact with Indigenous people and 77% consider this interaction an important part of their NT holiday.

There are more than 80 indigenous tourism businesses already operating in the NT and the Government and Land Councils are currently working with over 40 Aboriginal communities and outstations to develop new and innovative tourism products.

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