Indigenous Tourism Hubs Planned For Darwin and Alice Springs

Emerging Indigenous tourism operators in Darwin and Alice Springs will be able to receive new support in running their operations as part of a new Territory Government initiative announced today.

Minister for Tourism, Kon Vatskalis, said the Government has successfully secured a Federal Government commitment of up to $1.2 million towards establishing two Indigenous Tourism Hubs in Alice Springs and Darwin.

“Over the next three years the new hubs will provide practical support to emerging businesses to improve their administration and marketing activities,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“The hubs will also facilitate access to business and financial administration training and capacity building to develop Indigenous tourism operations into self-sustaining, viable businesses.

“The delivery of these services in our urban areas will help affirm the position of the Northern Territory as the premiere destination for cultural experiences.

“This initiative supports the establishment of authentic and sustainable Indigenous tourism enterprises, which is a key strategy within our Five Year Tourism Strategic Plan, released last month.”

The first Indigenous Tourism Hub was established in East Arnhem Land in July 2007 and has already seen business support provided to six indigenous tourism businesses including accommodation providers, cultural day tours, extended cultural tours and cruise charters.

Indigenous tourism in the Northern Territory continues to grow with more than 80 indigenous tourism businesses already operating in the NT offering everything from basic bush camping to luxury safari style accommodation, charter tour operators and fishing tours.

Tourism NT, with the support of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEaWR), are now seeking proposals from private industry to deliver the new Darwin and Alice Springs hubs.

For more information on the program or to place an expression of interest please contact: Richard Austin, General Manager Destination Development on 8999 3828.

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