Minister for Regional Development Karl Hampton today announced funding for an Alice Springs-based program aimed at boosting local Indigenous employment.

Mr Hampton said the Northern Territory Government had committed $30,000 through the Regional Economic Development Fund to the Chamber of Commerce NT for the Employing Indigenous Territorians program.

“This initiative will assist local businesses in Alice Springs to employ Indigenous staff,” Mr Hampton said.

“The program will be a 12 month pilot facilitated by the local CCNT and is aimed at addressing the shortfall in Indigenous employment opportunities in Alice Springs by assisting local businesses with employing and retaining staff.

“The project will also link with the services of Aboriginal Employment Strategy (AES) who can provide mentoring support for Indigenous employees.”

Mr Hampton said the Employing Indigenous Territorians program was developed by the Alice Springs Economic Development Committee.

“This collaborative project is about growing and developing our own staff and skills right here in Central Australia.

“The Alice Springs Economic Survey indicated that staff recruitment and retention is a major issue for local businesses.

“Supporting efforts to hire and develop people here on the ground will help overcome some of these issues and importantly strengthen our local economy and increase economic opportunities for Territorians.

“I congratulate everyone involved in developing and implementing this project and look forward to hearing from businesses and employees as the program rolls out.”

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