The Northern Territory Government (NTG) has awarded more than $700,000 in grants to increase employment opportunities, retention and career progression for Indigenous Territorians.

The Department of Business Indigenous Workforce Participation Initiatives Program (IWPIP) assists industry and business, including not-for-profits, to plan and establish practices and systems to expand employment opportunities for Indigenous Territorians.

Minister for Business, Dave Tollner, said $716,634 in new grants have been awarded to seven organisations across the Territory (see attachment for further details).

“The Program supports projects that develop workforce strategies, deliver sustainable jobs opportunities and build workforce and mentoring capacity for Indigenous employees or organisations,” Mr Tollner said.

This year’s grants included a special focus category on initiatives to strengthen the capacity of small to medium enterprises (SMEs) as employers of Indigenous Territorians.

These projects will develop, test and cost services and products that support SMEs wishing to employ or expand their Indigenous workforce.

Successful applicants are three Indigenous organisations, two private businesses, one government business and one peak body:

- ANKAAA (Association of Northern Kimberley & Arnhem Aboriginal Artists)
- Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation
- Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation
- Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association Inc
- Alice Springs Desert Park
- Karen Sheldon Catering Pty Ltd
- Mulga Gidgee Pty Ltd.
IWPIP is the $1.1 million annual NTG program that was launched in the 2012-2015 NT Employment Strategy to support Indigenous workforce participation initiatives.

Mr Tollner said the program was another way the Giles Government was delivering on its Framing the Future vision, which identified the need to increase the capacity and capability of Indigenous Territorians and businesses.

“The Government is proud of its record in creating opportunities for Indigenous Territorians,” he said.

“These grants are a substantial financial commitment towards increasing Indigenous employment opportunities.”

Media Contact: Communication Adviser Jon Taylor 0417710687