More than 150 Aboriginal Territorians will be supported into jobs thanks to the Northern Territory Government’s Aboriginal Employment Initiatives (AEI).

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Business Peter Styles today announced the successful applicants to share in $867,560 funding.

“Aboriginal Employment Initiatives are aimed at increasing Aboriginal workforce participation across the Territory,” Mr Styles said.

“After a competitive grant application process an assessment panel has selected seven Territory businesses to receive grants of up to $247,500 to go directly towards projects that support sustainable jobs and encourage labour coordination and mobility.

“153 Aboriginal Territorians will gain employment thanks to these initiatives which is a fantastic result.”

Minister Styles made the announcement while visiting successful applicant IE Project NT at the new NT Open Education Centre (NTOEC) being constructed at Darwin High School, where it partners with Probuild to provide workers for its construction projects.

IE Project NT Director Wendy Moulds said after developing a successful model in Darwin, the new grant of $247,500 will now allow her team to train and place local people into jobs on local construction projects across regional and remote areas of the Territory.

“We received a grant last year through the Department of Business Indigenous Workforce Participation Initiatives Program (IWPIP) to develop a mobile Indigenous workforce in the Darwin area and that’s been very successful,” she said.

“Working closely with employers and Indigenous communities we have facilitated 164 jobs for Aboriginal Territorians since July 2015 and this new grant will allow us to extend our services to regional and remote areas where we aim to generate at least 50 more jobs.

“We have already started working in Katherine and our aim is to align with some of the Boosting our Economy stimulus projects to assist in driving Indigenous employment.”
Other successful applicants include:

- **Crest NT Pty Ltd**: To establish a ‘whole of industry’ approach to increasing Aboriginal employment with disability service providers (project outcome - 40 jobs in disability services).

- **ECB Training Services Pty Ltd**: Mentors to provide a structured ‘wrap-around’ labour coordination and workforce mobility service for the construction industry (project outcome - 20 jobs).

- **Govechem Pty Ltd**: To assist Gove Pharmacy in employing local Aboriginal people. (project outcome - 1 Traineeship).

- **Northern Territory Project Group Pty Ltd**: A pre-apprenticeship project to facilitate employment pathways for Aboriginal Territorians wishing to enter the construction industry. (project outcome - 36 jobs).

- **Tennant Creek Transport Inc.**: To increase employment opportunities in the passenger transport sector, and also assist a small transport service to become more sustainable (project outcome - 2 jobs).

- **Maintain Ya Plumbing**: To assist Aboriginal people to work in the plumbing industry through direct employment, training and mentoring (project outcome - 4 jobs).

“The Department of Business supports businesses, Aboriginal organisations, industry bodies and not-for-profit organisations to improve employment outcomes through a number of programs,” Mr Styles said.

“The Country Liberals Government’s Aboriginal Workforce Participation programs have delivered 676 job outcomes and supported a further 262 people to retain jobs and develop their careers since August 2012.

“It is part of our *Framing the Future* plan to ensure a prosperous economy, strong society and confident culture for the benefit of all Territorians.”

Construction is nearing completion of the new $12.9 million, purpose-built facility for the NTOEC on the grounds of Darwin High School.

The INPEX-led Ichthys LNG project has provided a significant capital contribution of $3 million to construct the NTOEC as part of its ongoing commitment to delivering benefits to the local community. A further $300,000 from the Ichthys project will support skills training delivered by the NTOEC in remote communities.

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