Peter Styles
Deputy Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Minister for Business

Business Minister highlights small business support at estimates hearing

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The Minister for Business Peter Styles has highlighted the long list of achievements by the Northern Territory Government in support of small businesses as part of today’s estimates hearing at Parliament House.

Minister Styles said through the Department of Business, the NT Government was delivering a comprehensive suite of initiatives supporting local, small to medium enterprises (SMEs) to start, run and grow.

“The business sector is a key contributor, not only to our economy, but also to our community,” Mr Styles said.

“Business creates jobs and opportunities for individuals; it provides goods and services to the public and other business; and supports various community, cultural and sporting activities.

“Our local small businesses are mostly run by Territorians and employ Territorians, we know they are the backbone of our economy and it is vital they are supported, particularly during these challenging economic times.”

He said the list of programs, initiatives and achievements of the Department of Business over the current financial year was too large to list but some of the highlights included;

- Introduced a comprehensive suite of procurement changes and the most progressive reforms to date, through the Buy Local Plan.
- The Business Growth Program has provided 135 businesses with more than $800,000 in grants, with a further $748,000 committed to another 124 businesses.
- $337,711 in grants has been provided to 30 businesses as part of the Smarter Business Solutions program.
- Provided $454,600 in grants to employers through the Employer Support Scheme and $410,400 to apprentices and trainees under the Workwear/Workgear Scheme.
- 41 small to medium Aboriginal enterprises have shared in $748,386 under the Indigenous Business Development initiative and a further 18 entities have been committed to receive support to the value of $108,309.
• An additional five Business Development Officers have been added to the Territory-wide network bringing the total to 24 BDO’s active in all regions of the Territory from bases in Darwin, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Nhulunbuy.

• The opening of pop-up Territory Business Centres on the Tiwi Island, and in Borroloola and Maningrida in 2015, providing business-focused services and delivering ‘Boosting Business in the Bush’ workshops across 14 Champion Communities.

• Assisting 35 businesses and organisations to grow their workforce, placing 262 Aboriginal Territorians in jobs and supporting 93 to enhance their careers.

• A further 34 businesses have benefited from labour coordination projects to help them access a local Aboriginal workforce.

• The record-breaking October Business Month delivered 183 business events across the Territory which attracted more than 9,300 participants.

• The inaugural Open Territory program of events was a huge success, delivering 154 events.

• Continued to reduce stifling red tape to make it easier to do business in the Territory.

• Introduced the Small Business Safety Advisors pilot program to support Territory SMEs to manage their work health and safety processes.

• Administered 28,256 licences, registrations and approvals to support new and existing business operations.

• Expanded the NT’s presence in Asia through the recruitment of representatives in Indonesia and Singapore to support the interests of government, business and the wider community and promote the Northern Territory’s political, economic and cultural relationships in our region.

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