The NT Government has reached a significant milestone in its efforts to increase the number of Indigenous employees in the NT Public Sector, with more than 1000 now employed.

Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling said this represented a 40% increase since the *NTPS Indigenous Employment and Career Development Strategy* was launched in November 2002 – from 724 to over 1000 Indigenous NTPS workers.

“This is an excellent achievement and Government agencies are to be congratulated on their work in reaching this milestone in Indigenous employment,” Mr Stirling said.

“The many initiatives to better recruit and retain Indigenous employees introduced across agencies, including the development of culturally appropriate education, training and employment systems, are clearly making a difference.

“However, 1000 Indigenous employees still only equates to 6% of the total NTPS workforce.

“There is still a long way to go to ensure better representation of Indigenous people within the Territory’s public sector, but these latest figures show we are on the right track.”

Improving Indigenous recruitment and career development in the Northern Territory will be the main discussion point at a forum being held in Darwin on Monday and Tuesday (13 and 14 December).

The forum is a joint initiative of the Institute of Public Administration Australia and the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment.

“Participants have been invited from Indigenous community groups and organizations, private business and industry sectors, local, Territory and Federal government agencies, and interested individuals.

Keynote speakers include Peter Holt from the Fred Hollows Foundation, Craig Bonney from Alcan Gove, Reagan Garner from Coles Myer, Sandra Triulzi from Qantas, and Paul Rousham from the NT Chamber of Commerce.

Mr Stirling will officially open the forum on Monday morning at 9.15 am in the Stranger’s Lounge, Fourth Floor, Parliament House.