
“My first order of business upon becoming Minister for Indigenous Affairs was to announce the setting of an Aboriginal employment target of 16 per cent for the public service. We are now taking that policy to the next level with a strategy setting out how we plan to achieve this improvement,” Mr Giles said.

“We’ve allocated $2.5 million over five years to help roll out the strategy, including $0.5 million in 2015-16.

“As the largest employer in the Territory, the NT Government is perfectly positioned to expand the employment options available to Aboriginal Territorians and set an example for the private sector.

“The Country Liberals Government is committed to increasing Aboriginal employment across all levels on the NT Public Sector to 16 per cent, with a 10 per cent target for Indigenous participation in the senior management and executive levels of the public service.

“Around 30 per cent of the Territory population is Aboriginal and it’s unacceptable that under Labor, just 8 per cent of our public service was of Indigenous heritage.

“This policy is about giving Aboriginal people an opportunity to have a real job in government and a chance to contribute to breaking the cycle of welfare dependency that has crippled our communities for too long. This is all about empowerment.”

The Indigenous Employment and Career Development Strategy brings together a range of new and existing initiatives and focuses on four key themes:
targets for Indigenous employment and participation
- engagement and support
- attraction and retention of Indigenous people
- whole of career development to build capacity and careers

Minister for Public Employment Willem Westra van Holthe said the unique skills and knowledge of Indigenous Territorians can add significant value to the public sector.

“It’s vital the Northern Territory Government maintains relevant and effective services for Indigenous Territorians and what better way to do that than to employ people from local Indigenous communities,” Minister Westra van Holthe said.

“The NT public service employs almost 20,000 people across 31 agencies. The Office of the Commissioner for Public Service (OCPE) will work with all government departments to implement the initiatives of the Indigenous Employment and Career Development Strategy.”

An Indigenous Employment and Career Development Unit has been established in the OCPE to support the implementation of the strategy.

More information can be found at www.indigenousemployment.nt.gov.au

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N.B- Chief Minister's full speech attached.

Related files

IECDS Launch - Chief Minister's Speech.docx (docx 26.8 kb)