Aboriginal Territorians gaining career opportunities in public sector

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More than 220 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Territorians have gained employment within the Northern Territory public sector as a result of a new push to ensure greater opportunities within the NT Public Service (NTPS).

Minister for Public employment Peter Styles said the NTPS Indigenous Employment and Career Development Strategy 2015-2020 (IECDS) was achieving excellent results since being launched in April last year.

“The Country Liberals Government is committed to supporting Aboriginal Territorians to engage in meaningful employment,” Mr Styles said.

“We want to ensure individuals have the chance to capitalise on opportunities within the NTPS as well as make sure we have a workforce that more closely reflects the community it serves.

“Aboriginal employment in the NTPS has increased to 9.9 per cent currently, from 8.7 per cent in February 2015 which equates to an additional 224 Aboriginal employees so far.

“Our target is to achieve 10.5 per cent by the end of this month.

“Ultimately, the strategy is aimed at achieving a global target of 16 per cent Indigenous employment within the NTPS by 2020, including a target of 10 per cent ATSI representation at the senior and executive levels.”

The Country Liberals Government has allocated $500,000 per year from 2015-16 to implementing the strategy which resulted in the establishment of an Indigenous Employment and Career Development Division of the NTPS.

An additional allocation of $1.35 million in budget 2016 was committed to design and implement key programs and initiatives to support the strategy.

A comprehensive evaluation of the strategy will be conducted in 2019 to assess the outcomes and determine the future functions and directions of the IECD Division.

As at March 2016, there were 2,124 ATSI public service employees including 1,434 female and 690 male.

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