Session topics

**Balancing cultural values, employment markets and sustainable social impact**
Harmonizing deeply embedded cultural values and newly developing employment opportunities is a delicate balancing act for many Indigenous people. Reflecting these values is the emergence of diverse employment markets - from mining to environment/cultural markets. Wayne Bergmann, CEO Kimberley Regional Economic Development Cooperation, will define the concept of ‘social business and entrepreneurship’ and explore how this evolution in enterprise models for social impact is being translated in Indigenous business practices to create sustainable value based employment in diverse markets.

**The delicate art of procurement: enabling indigenous entrepreneurs to create a vibrant and engaging enterprise sector**
Recent reforms to Indigenous contracting and procurement policies and practices by government and corporates have given rise to a new platform for engagement which contributes to the local enterprise sector. This opportunity has given rise to a growing number of Indigenous business enterprises and creates a competitive and commercial environment for integration of Indigenous business into the supply chain. During this session Natalie Walker, CEO Australian Indigenous Minority Supplier Council, will focus on unraveling the myths surrounding Indigenous business procurement whilst outlining the opportunities for growth and partnership in creating a vibrant indigenous enterprise sector.

**Leveraging commercial investments to support Indigenous enterprises**
It is hard to set up a small and medium enterprise in a non-Indigenous, urban environment. So imagine how hard it is to set up an enterprise in a primarily Indigenous, regional or remote environment where markets are small, welfare is dominant and educational achievement is low. Ian Trust, Director Wunan, will provide an example of how an Indigenous enterprise can leverage the business support and finance available through Indigenous Business Australia and land-purchasing capacity of Indigenous Land Corporation to generate commercial investments that fund or subsidise activities that produce both economic and social returns. Ian will outline how this model works and could be rolled out elsewhere.

**Growing Sustainable Aboriginal Community Housing Businesses and Projects**
Ashley Taylor, CEO Murchison Regional Development Aboriginal Corporation, will lead a panel discussion around the role of Indigenous Corporations in forging new opportunities in the Indigenous housing sector. Panel members will discuss how recent developments will allow for economic growth to build sustainable Aboriginal community housing projects and corporations. Panel members Shane Hamilton from Community Housing Limited, Jeanice Krakouer, CEO Southern Aboriginal Corporation and Julia Shadlow-Bath from Goldfields Indigenous Housing Organisation will also contributing to the discussion.

**Leveraging Native Title Agreements for Indigenous Economic and Social Growth**
Native Title Agreements present a unique opportunity to transform the economic status of indigenous communities. Simon Hawkins, CEO Yamatji Marpla will lead a panel examining ways in which Indigenous Corporations are leveraging off Native Title Agreements to achieve improved economic and social outcomes for individuals and communities. Each panel member will provide a different perspective to how Indigenous business and entrepreneurs can utilize the opportunities presented whilst the Agreements are in place to create an energetic and profitable community.
Innovative partnerships: Aboriginal Corporates, government and private developers
To facilitate economic growth through housing, Aboriginal Corporates, government and private developers all have their unique role to play. What is the result when they begin to work with each to encourage enterprise growth through sustainable housing solutions? Greg Dodd, Director Ngarluma Aboriginal Sustainable Housing and Victor Hunter, Foundation for Indigenous Sustainable Housing will cross examine these issues and present their thoughts and ideas on how these partnerships may work.

Closing the Gap: examining the roles of indigenous employers, self employment and government in promoting Aboriginal entrepreneurship and business development
The Closing the Gap national agenda aims to reduce the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous outcomes in the areas of health, employment and wellbeing. Much focus has been around education, health and employment but there has been little emphasis on Indigenous business and entrepreneurship and the role it can play to reduce indigenous disadvantage. Two sessions will explore these issues.

Dr Boyd Hunter, Australia National University will focus on the potential role/scope for indigenous self employment to halve the gap in employment outcomes within a decade.

Duncan Ord, Depart of Indigenous Affairs will examine the role of government in promoting entrepreneurship and business development that benefits both individuals and the broader Aboriginal community.

Micro-financing – small loans for big impact
Micro-financing has become an important and innovative approach to small business development. In Australia, micro-financing is revolutionising bank product offerings and enabling communities to provide greater financial stability; increase household income and assets; market locally produced goods and services; build sustainable local communities and reduce welfare dependence.

This session will investigate the key strategies that enable micro-finance to successfully operate and create sustainable opportunities to entrepreneurs whilst exploring the perspectives of the lenders and intermediaries.

Creative engagement: pathways and partnerships in the resource economy
Through creative business policies and practices, corporate Australia has advanced the mining and energy market as a sustainable and viable option for Indigenous entrepreneurs. These two sessions will draw expertise from a diverse range of corporate supporters of Indigenous business (Rio Tinto, Worley Parson, GLH Contracting, Wesfamers) and Indigenous business entrepreneurs (Anthony Martin ALM contracting, Tony Connors PL WA Group, Neville Stewart GHL contracting). Discussions will highlight this new approach to using collaboration, procurement and business acumen for social benefit.

Building thriving communities through indigenous enterprises
Deep embedded into aboriginal culture is the sense of community which means the sharing of knowledge and wealth throughout the community. What is the role of indigenous enterprise to facilitate and build a more connected and thriving community? Does the community at large have a responsibility to ensure the success of social enterprises and how do these enterprises create employment and training opportunities? Dr Nancy Rees, CEO Pindan College will lead a panel discussion to examine these issues.
Indigenous Community and Social Enterprises
Projects from across the nation will be presented in a showcase of enterprising ideas and activities creating real change for Indigenous communities:

Tjungu: Learning Country was a winner in The Australian Centre for Social Innovation’s Bold Ideas, Better Lives challenge. This session will present this successful initiative as a case study for learning and replication in other parts of Australia.

Tjungu: Learning Country is an innovative project building community capacity and social entrepreneurship with indigenous communities across the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) lands in central Australia. It involves building a social enterprise hub and microfinance enterprise fund to support social enterprise on the lands.

Communities on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) lands in northern South Australia have been leading participatory action research trials of a range of local social enterprises including a homelands hand-made soaps and body creams venture, a car parts recycling initiative, a community based second-hand clothing store and homeland cultural tourism enterprises.

Enterprise Learning Projects (ELP)
Enterprise Learning Projects was a recipient of the Western Australian Social Innovation Grants program in 2011. Based in the Pilbara, ELP works in partnership with remote Aboriginal communities to create opportunities for people to achieve their aspirations for economic participation.

The organisation specialises in the design and facilitation of microenterprise projects. Through enterprise projects, ELP cultivates individual capacity to participate in further enterprise creation and development.

In this case study, Laura Egan, Director, will draw on examples of ELP’s work supporting enterprise development in Yarralin community in the Northern Territory. She will touch upon how enterprise projects are creating opportunities for the younger generation to participate in the economic and social development of their communities whilst how their grounded approach seems to be generating results.

Developing Social Enterprise in the Fitzroy Valley – bringing jobs home
This presentation seeks to stimulate a critical discussion on why the current local economic structures in the Fitzroy Valley need re-imagining and developing. An unsustainable over-emphasis on service sector jobs fails to match local entrepreneurial skills and abilities, and excludes many people unnecessarily from economic engagement.

Opportunities in the public service and/or resource sectors only serve to perpetuate the brain drain and further asset-stripping of local communities of the leaders they so badly need.

Prolonged exposure to intergenerational trauma has resulted in many people struggling to find their niche in mainstream jobs, while their abilities go unrecognised. All this perpetuates intergenerational cycles of chronic poverty.

Social Enterprise offers opportunities for community to build an economy that is capable of meeting local needs and ways of doing things and engaging with wider markets.
Partners in social enterprise: innovative solutions in the Northern Territory

Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation (LNAC) is the peak representative body of the Larrikia people. It has a grassroots approach and has built up a social enterprise through a service delivery model.

Recently they were approached by international catering business, Sodexo, to partner with them to create and deliver meaningful social enterprise solutions to the local community.

Through this partnership Sodexo has built capacity within Larrakia Nation whilst providing the resources and business skills to develop and foster vibrant social enterprises within the Northern Territory.

Ilana Elridge, CEO LNAC and Gary Bradford, Sodexo, will give their own perspective on why this innovative collaboration works for their individual organisations whilst delivering a tangible benefit to the wider community.


Bambatu depicts in her work the ceremonial journeys of her ancestral women. Her “Kungka Tjukurrpa” paintings depict the journey paths travelled from Wirrulunga, east of Kirwirkurra, from Kantore to Mount Leibig and the Papunya regions. At each location, the women would stop, dance and sing the cycle of each sacred site. In Bambatu’s paintings, the concentric circles represent waterholes, and the parallel dotted lines represent the path travelled.

To register

Visit business.uwa.edu.au/research/conferences/forum and complete the registration forms.

Cost: $990 (inc GST) standard; $660 (inc GST) not-for-profit organisations, Indigenous businesses and Indigenous corporations