

Submission No. 44
Date Received 6-5-05

2nd May 2005

The Secretary
Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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06 MAY 2005
BY: ATSI/A

Dear Ms Scarlett

Inquiry into Indigenous Employment

In reference to your letter dated 23rd March 2005, wherein you make reference to interest in initiatives that have been successful with Blacktown City Council in providing employment opportunities to the indigenous community.

Council has in the past participated in the Local Government Aboriginal Employment Strategy under which the following range of positions were filled by indigenous people:-

- 3 x Recreation Officers;
- 1 x Painter;
- 2 x Apprentice Mechanics;
- 1 x Apprentice Gardner.

The position of Apprentice Gardner is an identified Indigenous position within Council.

A more recent initiative has been a partnership program with the AFL wherein five (5) trainees are employed of which three (3) are indigenous young persons. The objectives of these traineeships are:

- To provide local young people with access to employment opportunities with both Council and the AFL;
- To provide training opportunities for young people in the area of Sport and Recreation;
- To raise the profile of both Council and the AFL in the local community.

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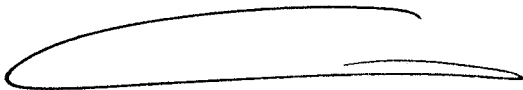
This program appears to be having success in that one of the Indigenous trainees has successfully completed their traineeship and furthering their education by pursuing University studies whilst working casually in the recreation field with Council.

The Indigenous trainees come under the supervision of Council's Indigenous Community Development Officer where the young people are able to work on projects that directly impact on the well-being of the Indigenous Community.

This AFL/BCC Indigenous Traineeship has also improved Council's relationship with the Indigenous people of the area as it is seen to be a genuine investment from Council the Indigenous Community.

Trusting this information is of benefit to yourself in your inquiry.

Yours faithfully,



IAN REYNOLDS
GENERAL MANAGER