



Saima Torres Strait Islander Corporation

For Cultural Resources & Economic Development

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The Secretary

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

Dear Sir/Madam

Reply to Inquiry into Indigenous Employment

As the only Torres Strait Islander organisation in the Central Queensland region SAIMA appreciate employment contribution support in the past through ATSIC/ATSI, and the now current Rockhampton Indigenous Coordination Centre. Too through the Rockhampton CDEP program SAIMA have been able to provide basic training to both our adults and young people of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent.

- The CDEP programs have given more encouragement to younger people to have a choice on what direction they want to take in their future employment.
- CDEP Centres should create training programs to utilize qualified Indigenous trades peoples to provide apprenticeship training to young Indigenous school leavers. As soon as they leave school they have a choice on what positive employment direction they want to take.
- Indigenous Coordination Centre and the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy Development should utilize community based organizations by providing financial support or sponsorship base for young Indigenous peoples to improve their skills and confidence to run their own business enterprises.

- The Equal Opportunity Employer for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders scheme should look at being throughout the Public Sector. Some government agencies do not have indigenous officers, that the indigenous people can refer to when in need of help.

SAIMA would encourage that some of the above new initiatives and schemes for Indigenous Employment will be a positive outcome to get a higher percentage of Indigenous Employment to break the Indigenous Unemployment Cycle.

If there any concerns or queries in relation to this, please do not hesitate to contact me on
(07) 4922 9280.

Yours faithfully

David Gela
Administrative Project Officer
SAIMA Torres Strait Islanders Corporation