

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
PO Box 6021, Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

Submission No.....24.....
Date Received.....

5th August 2008

RECEIVED
08 AUG 2008

Dear Secretary,

BY: ATSLA

Re: Inquiry into Developing Indigenous Enterprise.

**Submission by BNAACS in joint venture with BNACorp
Unit 5/9 Bergin St GERRINGONG NSW 2534.**

Boolarng Nangamai Aboriginal Art & Culture Studio (BNAACS) and Boolarng Nangamai Aboriginal Corporation ICN 7004 (BNACorp) would like to submit our joint venture as a potential business model for Aboriginal communities, public & private stakeholders to benefit from.

We would also like to submit an expression of interest as a potential business to pilot for the proposed Australian context US National Minority Supplier Development Council model. As mentioned in the Albany Weekender article written by Joel Gibson on 26/7/08.

Who we are...

We are Boolarng = Together (Biripi language group)

Nangamai = Dreaming (Dharawal / Eora language group).

The artists represented by Boolarng Nangamai Aboriginal Art and Culture Studio (BNAACS) come from the East Coast of Australia, local traditional people as well as inland and coastal saltwater people. The Illawarra South Coast, NSW, is home to the artists and Gerringong is the heart of keeping their Aboriginal Culture alive. Nine Aboriginal founding artists and one non-Aboriginal artist opened the BNAACS in 2005 and formed Boolarng Nangamai Aboriginal Corporation (BNACorp) in 2007; a non-profit organization established to help strengthen all Aboriginal communities through making art and practicing culture.

BNACorp is currently applying to be accepted on the Register of Cultural organizations to obtain DGR status. We have been working with Arts Support and they have sourced philanthropic support for our organization. BN Corp advocates for the arts and is building solid community partners with ANU – Research, Kiama Community College and Museum of Sydney. The board of directors on BNACorp act as a cultural advisory board to BNAACS.

BNAACS is an incubator for creative micro business that assists with resources, training for artists & cultural workers. A place of knowledge, BNAACS brokers employment opportunities to feed to each small business. This team approach makes for a supportive environment for the youth to learn from their qualified elders.

From little things big things grow - we have grown from 9 Founding Artists to now having over 30 Associate Artists / cultural Workers -Together Dreaming. Our art has developed independently from our South Coast oral history passed on from our elders and from our experiences. Recording our history in art in a contemporary way - retracing our memories & experiences in addition to what our elders taught us. We strive to define ourselves. We are creating our own voices with our hands making art. Our culture will remain strong and can be carried on by our people and the broader community who are as passionate as us about ensuring that Aboriginal South Coast mob culture and this beautiful land will be here for many future generations.

What can we offer....

- Produce quality fine art in a diverse selection of media, painting and weaving
- Aboriginal cultural awareness programs
- Deliver hands-on training in weaving, painting, shell work, didgeridoo making, tool making, and wood poker. Able to deliver on site at our studio (on site) or we can come to you (off site)
- Strategies linked directly to your learning program objectives – including “one off” activities or we can put together an integrated program. Focus on youth projects and passing knowledge on from Elders to youth.
- Activity resources for learners during the hands on sessions plus follow up teaching guides and resources for further activities to reinforce learning
- Website resources – Interactive CD Rom.
- Educational workshops and materials designed to all ages, needs and budgets
- Qualified Aboriginal Trainers
- Community Art and Public Art consultants
- Didgeridoo performance
- Boomerang throwing
- Storytelling
- Corporate team building
- Art at Work workshops
- Connecting Communities™ Online Cultural Restaurant – our BN Studio comes live to you.
- Working with innovative technology for artists
- Caring for Country - seed collecting, propagation and bush regeneration team.
- Cultural tours of the local area and our bush foods and medicine garden
- Cultural exchanges Connections with other Aboriginal communities e.g. Yirrkala, Papunya

Who is our audience....

- Schools - all levels of education
- Tourists – local & international
- Local business and local government agencies.
- Art Organizations
- Industry looking for real carbon credits.
- Media

We have personally invested in our business venture and in a short 3-year period are achieving outstanding results. We have created a hub to incubate Aboriginal micro business. We have collaborated with mainstream business and identified areas of Indigenous commercial advantage that we can supply services and products to. We have initiated innovative business projects that have stimulated meaningful self - employment in a safe team environment that is culturally sensitive. BN is built on community terms and shared vision.

Aboriginal youth are now following in the footsteps of their elders who are leading the way as professional examples.

Please refer to attached document "BN Business Structure" whereby our partnerships and networks are highlighted.

We have recently had the support of government with ArtsNSW funding BNACorp for Strategic development. Additionally BNAACS has just been successful in a 2-year contract with DEEWR to deliver the EIEI project assisting as many artists as possible in small business development skills. This support comes at a vital time in our development.

BN Business Projects under development...

- BN Cultural Arts Apprenticeships – where by elders are combining their traditional knowledge with their contemporary skills. Offering on the job training to the youth to build life skills, confidence in setting and realizing goals. With positive role models getting Aboriginal youth work ready through experiencing hands on. We aim to have a network of BN Apprentices in different business organizations both in the public & private sector. Provide a cultural network of support for Aboriginal workers and deliver a Cultural Awareness program that is delivered with a hands on approach to mainstream employers that offers real insight, understanding and experience of Aboriginal way of life. BN plans to build a relationship with the industry partner and invest in their Aboriginal employees. BN serves as a bridge between two worlds.
- BN Connecting Communities – our online cultural restaurant whereby BN Studio can interact via Internet conferencing with the world. The cultural workers become the dishes on an educational experience based menu. We hope to launch in Nov 2008. BN Staff are currently studying a Diploma of Internet Conferencing in preparation for the delivery of our new product. We have DEET, Museum of Sydney and a University in London wanting to purchase sessions. ArtsLaw are currently helping us protect our IP, in this innovative product.

Boolarng Nangamai "Together Dreaming" is a hub for creative micro business in arts & education to prosper. We are dedicated at building a strong NSW Aboriginal Arts & culture community that can prosper from business activity.

We have a unique qualified team that's philosophy is built on bringing back traditions in a modern world. Elders have spent years achieving qualifications in Advanced Diploma of Visual Arts, Training & Assessing, Cultural tourism with the vision of handing these skills onto the youth.

We are striving toward developing a Cultural apprenticeship that can empower Aboriginal people to understand themselves take pride in the knowledge of their own culture & traditions and apply this to a contemporary society. How to hunt & gather in today's world – build business opportunities that enable meaningful employment.

BN has the ability to provide resources & services that are rewarding and ensure the healthy maintenance of culture & identity in our community. BN is working with people and constructing a human sculpture that will lead to a social architecture that can benefit all Australian communities.

Yours sincerely

Kelli Ryan

Kelli Ryan
Director
Boolarng Nangamai Aboriginal Art & Culture Studio

Kelli Ryan
CEO/ Director / Secretary
Boolarng Nanagamai Aboriginal Corporation

www.boolarng-nangamai.com