18 October 2018

# Forums launched to Re-Shape the future of business

* EOI kicked off with applications closing 16 November 2018
* Exciting new initiative for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people between the age of 18 to 30 across Australia to re-shape the future of business
* 3-day intensive workshop to be held in 5 regional locations from March to July 2019.

Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) launched expressions of interest to be part of a series of national forums that will drive the future direction for young Indigenous people in Australia.

According to recent data, the average age of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia is 23, in comparison to non-Indigenous population where the average is 35.

‘This presents an opportunity to engage and connect with a collective group of young people from across the country and create something unique,’ said IBA Chair Eddie Fry.

‘This series of Future Forums will re-engage the voice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in re-shaping the future of business in this country.

Held in five key locations across the country in 2019, the forums will bring together more than 100 Indigenous people aged between 18 to 30 that have experience in owning or operating a business, have knowledge of the commercial sector, and/or developing business models around community led projects.

The forums are made possible by IBA, in collaboration with key organisations to deliver the initiative including, Relative Creative, Indigenous Marathon Foundation, Melbourne Business School and Murra Indigenous Business Masterclass, and Blaklash Projects.

‘We’re asking young people to be part of designing collectively a unique Indigenous Business Model that takes into consideration commercial realities as well as place and community.

‘Our teams asked a group of young people from across the nation what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture looks like in the future and how that connects with business. The sample identified the intersect between cultural knowledge, the business sector and shaping the future as important talking points to form critical discussions that have not been had before.

‘The Futures Forum is future thinking, design led and a conversation that needs to happen. We are excited to have Bruce Pascoe, award winning writer and author as a key presenter at the forums, with more exciting presenters to be announced soon.

Expressions of interests open from Thursday 18 October till Friday 16 November 2018. IBA will cover the costs of air travel, accommodation, transfers, and meals within the conference program for successful applicants.

Find out more at [futuresforum.com.au](http://www.futuresforum.com.au).

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**About IBA**IBA is a commercially focused organisation. Economic independence for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is at the heart of what we do. Our programs assist Indigenous Australians to buy their own homes, be successful in business, and invest in commercial ventures that provide strong financial returns. IBA is established under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* (ATSI Act) and is a corporate Commonwealth entity for the purposes of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act). IBA resides in the portfolio of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and is accountable to the Australian Parliament through the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon. Nigel Scullion.