



# Federal Budget 2004-05

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## ***Fact sheet — Indigenous Community Volunteers***

An additional \$20 million will be provided to expand the activities of Indigenous Community Volunteers. The funding of \$20 million announced in the Budget will provide ICV with a substantial resource base to strengthen the engagement of the corporate and philanthropic sector to help build the capacity of Indigenous communities and organisations. The funds will also enable longer term placements (up to two years) which will help consolidate skill and knowledge transfer.

Indigenous Community Volunteers (ICV) links skilled volunteers with Indigenous communities and organisations that have asked for expert assistance in areas such as financial management and corporate governance, IT, horticulture, art, tourism, business planning and marketing. In addition to meeting the needs of Indigenous Australian communities and organisations, ICV encourages skills transfer and the development of longer-term strategic relationships between the community and the private sector.

ICV operates as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee under contract to the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations under the umbrella of the Government's Indigenous Employment Policy (IEP).

### **ICV achievements**

Since August 2001 when it commenced operations, ICV has placed almost 200 volunteers in the field to work within Indigenous communities. Examples of projects include the following:

### *Horticulture project leads to accredited training jobs*

A qualified horticulturalist worked in Ltyentye Apurte, NT, to develop an extensive orchard and market garden. This led to a number of locals in the project to undertake accredited training. Two now have jobs in horticulture. The project has also contributed to improved health outcomes through access to fresh produce.

### *Pottery project generates income*

A skilled volunteer assisted with skills development and provided mentoring support to Indigenous women in Walginnam, New South Wales. The project has helped increase sales revenue because of the higher quality items being produced and has had a positive impact on the self esteem of the women involved.

### *Community benefits from sport and recreation project*

A number of Indigenous youth in Bidadanga, Western Australia, are being assisted by a volunteer to organise and run sport and recreation activities in their community. The project is contributing to the health and social well being of the community.

### **Reason for ICV expansion**

In Australia over four million people are involved in volunteering activities in the general community. However, volunteering in Indigenous communities is a relatively new concept and there is considerable scope to realise significant economic and social outcomes for Indigenous Australians.