



Ministers' Media Centre

For the Department of Jobs and Small Business

Launch of landmark Aboriginal employment strategy

Wednesday 11 November 2015 Media Release

Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash [[link:/cash](#)]

- Minister for Employment
- Minister for Women
- Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service

Senator the Hon. Nigel Scullion

- Minister for Indigenous Affairs

The Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, and the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion today launched the Commonwealth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy.

The Government is committed to achieving better results for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in three key priorities—getting children to school, adults into work and building safe communities.

If the Commonwealth is to respond capably to the needs of the community, the representation of Indigenous Australians in the public sector must increase.

The Government's goal is to increase the representation of Indigenous employees across the Commonwealth public sector to three per cent by 2018.

Senator Cash said the Commonwealth had an important role to play in modelling better practice in recruitment and retention to the broader workforce and strengthening community capacity.

“For the first time, the Government has set agency-level targets for Indigenous representation,” Minister Cash said.

“These take account of agencies' current representation and regional presence, so that each agency has a robust, achievable target.”

Minister Scullion said that it was hard to overstate the importance of this strategy in promoting the employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to help close the gap.

“We need to find an extra 188,000 jobs just to reach parity with non-Indigenous Australians - and the Government is leading by example by committing to the Indigenous employment target

across the Commonwealth,” Minister Scullion said.

Progress towards the targets will be reported annually by agency from next year on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet’s website. Current representation rates are available now on the same site.

The Strategy sets out a road map to help agencies meet their targets and embraces four action areas:

- Expanding the range of Indigenous employment opportunities
- Investing in developing the capability of Indigenous employees
- Increasing the representation of Indigenous employees in senior roles
- Improving the awareness pf Indigenous culture in the workplace.

The Strategy is supported by an implementation guide for agencies available on the Australian Public Service Commission’s website <http://www.apsc.gov.au/publications-and-media/current-publications/ies-implementation-guide> [[link:http://www.apsc.gov.au/publications-and-media/current-publications/ies-implementation-guide](http://www.apsc.gov.au/publications-and-media/current-publications/ies-implementation-guide)].

This dynamic guide will be regularly updated.

Additionally, the Commission has developed the Indigenous Careers Portal, <http://indigenouscareers.gov.au/> [[link:http://indigenouscareers.gov.au/](http://indigenouscareers.gov.au/)] to help Indigenous job seekers find jobs in the Commonwealth more easily. This portal automatically lists all vacancies from APSJobs website which have been restricted as open to Indigenous Australians only.

For more information about the Commonwealth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy please visit:

<http://www.apsc.gov.au/publications-and-media/current-publications/commonwealth-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-employment-strategy> [[link:http://www.apsc.gov.au/publications-and-media/current-publications/commonwealth-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-employment-strategy](http://www.apsc.gov.au/publications-and-media/current-publications/commonwealth-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-employment-strategy)]

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