



**Northern Land Council
Territory Construction
Association
MEDIA RELEASE**



First Aboriginal graduates from major projects training

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The Northern Land Council has welcomed news that Aboriginal graduates from a major projects training program have been offered jobs and apprenticeships with some of the Northern Territory's biggest employers.

NLC Chief Executive Norman Fry said it was "a clear demonstration" of the benefits flowing to Aboriginal job seekers from the burgeoning partnership between the NLC and the Territory Construction Association (TCA).

The training program, which was announced on 6 June by NT Employment, Education and Training Minister Syd Stirling, arose out of an agreement between the NLC, TCA and the NT Government. It provided 30 Indigenous pre-employment training positions in a course custom-designed to meet construction industry needs.

Eleven participants received their graduation certificates this afternoon from Labor MLA and NT Government Whip Delia Lawrie in a ceremony at Industries Services Training. A further 10 participants are due to graduate by mid-October. All graduates receive the industry-accredited Certificate 1 in General Construction, although their training has also included additional units from Certificate 2 and Certificate 3 courses.

Most importantly, the NLC's Employment and Training Unit has already secured 12 apprenticeships and two skilled labouring jobs for the graduates with NT-based firms Building Skills (a subsidiary of Northern Construction) and Sitzler Brothers. Four more jobs will be offered to graduates when construction begins on Darwin's Chinatown development.

"This is the first tangible achievement resulting from the MoU between the TCA and the NLC," TCA Chief Executive Michael Kilgariff said. "We targeted major projects as the most likely sources of training and employment for Aboriginal people in the Top End, and that strategy is working."

"We can expect many similar outcomes like this in the future."

Mr Fry said the likely graduation of 21 Aboriginal trainees – most of them Larrakia – from a total intake of 30 was an above-average outcome for training programs of this type.

"If we are serious about growing the Top End's economy, we need to develop a permanent skilled workforce with strong Aboriginal representation," he said.

"We would anticipate all 21 graduates being placed in employment or apprenticeships within the next month. We have applications in place with major Top End employers and the response so far has exceeded all our expectations."