

Market Briefing Wrap-Up:

Aboriginal economic development

28 August 2018
Wagga Wagga

The following provides a summary of the questions asked at the session, and the answers provided.

There are many projects targeting Aboriginal cohorts in Government which are working to achieve the same outcome but are operating in silos. How do we ensure government initiatives are talking to one another?

The NSW Government has a plethora of initiatives and commitments to enhance Aboriginal economic prosperity. At agency level, NSW Treasury and Aboriginal Affairs (AA) are currently working on a draft Aboriginal Economic Prosperity Outcomes Framework to provide a way to understand and measure the extent to which services are making positive differences to people's lives and facilitate evaluation and monitoring of program effectiveness over time. This will assist in better understanding the initiatives contributing to Aboriginal economic prosperity and will be a way to inform future economic policy development and investments.

How can the government assist in providing culturally sensitive business services for Aboriginal-led start-ups?

The Office of Social Impact Investment (OSII) is working with organisations to identify alternate pathways for proposals that are unsuccessful in the Aboriginal economic development social impact investment and SII Evolve, which will include Aboriginal organisations and services that provide business support. Broadly speaking, there are a number of avenues for Aboriginal organisations to access services, including through [Training Services NSW](#) and Department of Industry (<https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/business-and-industry-in-nsw> and <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/invest-in-nsw/contact-our-invest-team>), which manage a range of programs that focus on creating employment and business opportunities that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can access, and the Social innovation Council that works to make it easier for NGOs and government to do business together.

There are a number of barriers for the Aboriginal community to access funding for their services and businesses. How will this initiative differ?

Social impact investment is different as it is not grant funding. It is a new approach where government makes payments based on an organisation achieving agreed social outcomes rather than on inputs or activities, with returns paid to investors determined by the performance of the SII. This has its benefits as investors are more willing to take on risk and invest in services that potentially would not have had access to traditional funding.

Can different proposals be joined and co-designed together? Is this a role that OSII will play?

There is an important distinction between co-design and co-development. OSII will be working collaboratively with successful proponents to co-develop final proposals, rather than co-designing the services themselves with communities. It will be however, possible to bring together partnerships with other organisations.

Is there a role for the Aboriginal Regional Alliances in this process?

OSII and AA has been briefing widely on this opportunity. Among others, this includes the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Regional Alliances (NCARA), some members of whom have been consulted, as well as the NSW Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) and the Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) network, and we are considering how to include them in the evaluation of cultural capability.



Office of
Social Impact Investment