



Unity Through Enterprise
The Arnhem Land Progress
Aboriginal Corporation



Owned by the Yolngu residents of Minjilang,
Milingimbi, Ramingining, Galiwin'ku, and
Gapuwiyak Communities, NT

ICN:7137

Media Release: 1 September 2016

ALPA celebrates national milestone

An Arnhem Land co-operative of remote community stores has grown into Australia's largest Aboriginal Corporation employing more than 1000 Indigenous people and investing \$16 million back into the communities where it operates.

The Registrar of Indigenous Corporations Anthony Beven today (September 1) announced the Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA) had become the largest Aboriginal Corporation in Australia.

ALPA Chairman Rev. Dr Djiniyini Gondarra said ALPA's fully Indigenous board was very proud of the milestone in their mission to improve the health, quality of life and economic development of ALPA's members.

"As a fully Indigenous owned and financially independent corporation operating remote retail stores since 1972, ALPA's total group turnover now exceeds \$80 million per annum," he said.

"Indigenous employment and training is our corporate cornerstone and in recent years ALPA has expanded our successful commercial model through diversification beyond retail into other sectors including accommodation, construction, employment services, mechanical repair shops and small scale manufacturing.

"In the past 12 months we have reinvested profits into building a second store at Galiwinku on Elcho Island (550km northeast of Darwin) enabling our workforce across the group to grow to 1187 employees of which more than 85 per cent are Indigenous.

"Our investment in 25 remote area communities across the Top End has earned ALPA a 2016 Australian Charity Award Outstanding Achievement, 2015 Environmental Innovation Award and 2015 NT Training Awards Employer of the Year.

"ALPA's success is built on 43 years of solid work and the continuing development of Aboriginal people within the context of their own organisation giving primacy to their cultural heritage, dignity and desire for opportunity and equality with their fellow Australians.

"It is a rare privilege to be part of the process of a vision becoming a reality and as ALPA's Chairman for the past 23 years I am greatly enthused with the discipline, growth, purpose and focus that ALPA has maintained."



ALPA operates 14 company stores across the Northern Territory and Far North Queensland as well as operating 13 other retail businesses on behalf of their owners in remote Aboriginal communities.

In the 1980s ALPA started Benevolent Programs using surplus funds generated from operations to benefit its member communities by providing financial assistance for traditional ceremonies, education, medical escorts and community events.

ALPA also fosters and supports business development through mentoring and partnerships with local families, with Rulku Enterprises in Milingimbi and Dinybulu Regional Services Ltd in Ramingining.

Key achievements of ALPA over the past 12 months include:

- 2015 NT Training Awards Employer of the Year.
- 2015 Keep Australia Beautiful Environmental Innovation Award.
- 2016 Outstanding Achievement Award - Australian Charity Awards.
- 1187 employees of whom approximately 85% are Indigenous.
- 50% female representation at Board level.
- 51% female employees across the group.
- 46% female representation in senior management.
- Opening a \$3.5 million self-funded store at Galiwinku, Elcho Island.
- \$16 million contributed to the five member communities of Gapuwiyak, Milingimbi, Minjilang, Ramingining and Galiwinku as wages, benevolent programs and capital infrastructure upgrades.
- A \$1.5 million self-funded Regional Economic Development Centre built in Darwin.

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