

Tourism Industry Welcomes \$40 Million Indigenous Tourism Fund to Assist Recovery

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In the Year of Indigenous Tourism, the Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) welcomes the announcement by the federal government for a \$40 million Indigenous Tourism Fund (ITF) to assist the recovery of the industry.

QTIC Chief Executive Daniel Gschwind said this is great news for the industry as tourism operators struggle to stay afloat due to the impacts of COVID-19.

“In 2019, Indigenous tourism accounted for around \$505 million in visitor expenditure in Queensland and supported 2,500 full-time jobs. The *Indigenous Tourism Fund* will continue to drive the engagement, commitment, and genuine progress to make the most of First Nations tourism in Queensland”.

“We are particularly pleased to see that QTIC’s well-respected Indigenous Program Manager, Rhonda Appo, has been appointed as the Queensland representative on the National Indigenous Tourism Advisory Group (NITAG) that will advise the government on future priorities for the sector and provide an Indigenous voice in the implementation of the ITF.”

Rhonda Appo commented, “Through our First Nations Tourism Working Group we have been advocating strongly to both federal and state government to build a better path for Indigenous aspirations in tourism to be made a reality. Queensland has an enormous opportunity to tap into the skills, knowledge and culture of Indigenous Queenslanders.

“With the impacts of COVID-19 there is a real risk of setting back the Indigenous tourism sector in Queensland, so the announcement of the *Indigenous Tourism Fund* is welcomed news”.

The \$40 million Indigenous Tourism Fund will be divided into:

- \$10 million to go towards a National Indigenous Tourism Mentoring program
- Up to \$12 million for Tourism Grants for Indigenous businesses. Applications for the grant will open on 22 February.
- Up to \$17 million for States and Territories to co-invest with the Commonwealth on significant Indigenous tourism projects.
- \$1 million for the establishment of a National Indigenous Tourism Advisory Group to ensure the fund is Indigenous-led.

Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP, said Indigenous tourism businesses have been hard hit by the combined impact of bushfires and COVID-19.

“The tourism sector was one of the first to be impacted by COVID-19 and will be one of the last to recover,” Minister Wyatt said.



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“This fund delivers on our election commitment, and has been designed in consultation with the Indigenous tourism sector who have told us clearly what they need to recover and grow their businesses.”

For more information on the Indigenous Tourism Fund:

[Indigenous Tourism Fund | National Indigenous Australians Agency \(niaa.gov.au\)](#)

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