

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Primary Industry and Resources

Fishing Industry Research and Development Trust Fund

Please advise if there is a Fishing Industry Research and Development Trust Fund, how much is held in this fund, and are funds available for Aboriginal fishing businesses?

A Fishing Industry Research and Development Trust Fund is established for the purpose of supporting the development of the fishing industry or research into fish, aquatic life, fishing, fisheries, the fishing environment and other related matters.

Revenue for the fund comes from commercial fishery licence fees and vessel registration and transfer receipts, along with management levies from quota managed fisheries. Please note that annual expenditure from this fund generally matches the income received each year.

The Trust Fund does not provide funding for individual fishing businesses.

However, there may be other funding opportunities (across government) available for development of Aboriginal fishing enterprises. .

The Department of Trade, Business and Investment (DTBI) can provide support to help pay for expert business advice and support. As an example the Business Growth Program offers information, funding and development services to improve the performance, profitability, employment levels and market penetration of Territory businesses, not-for-profit organisations and Aboriginal enterprises.

The Aboriginal Business Development Program (ABDP) is available to businesses through the DTBI. The ABDP assists Aboriginal people to start or expand their business with grants between \$1,000 and \$30,000. Grant recipients also get one-on-one support from a small business champion.

Another assistance program administered by DTBI is the Aboriginal Workforce Grants (AWG). This program supports initiatives or projects that result in more Aboriginal Territorians entering employment and developing careers within the workplace.