

Media Release

The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC

Minister for Employment

Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy

Minister for Small Business



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BIG BOOST FOR ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Aboriginal Victorian businesses and entrepreneurs will have the chance to collaborate and network in a central location, with the new Kinaway business hub opening this week.

Located in Richmond, the hub provides office space for up to 16 Aboriginal entrepreneurs and businesses – creating an opportunity for innovation and networking in an accessible and culturally appropriate location.

The hub will be operated by the Kinaway Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce and features modern and accessible offices and networking spaces.

The opening of the new hub builds on the Andrews Labor Government's recent investment of \$2.5 million in Kinaway projects, to support key economic and employment initiatives which will be delivered over the next two years.

The recent funding opened the door for the recruitment of statewide Aboriginal economic and business development brokers, an extension of the *Aboriginal Women in Business Program*, a new initiative with the *Aboriginal Employment Broker Program* and support for the Kinaway business hub.

Work is also underway with Kinaway on a two-year procurement partnership, which will help the Government meet its procurement target for goods and services from Victorian Aboriginal businesses.

Kinaway has been vital in delivering programs and support to the Victorian Aboriginal business community through the coronavirus pandemic, providing valued assistance with the *First Peoples Business Support Fund* and other targeted programs.

Kinaway has grown its membership from 102 members in 2019 to more than 380 in 2021, helping build the capacity of the Aboriginal business sector and boosting Aboriginal economic prosperity.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Employment Jaala Pulford

"This new hub will give Aboriginal Victorian businesses access to the support they need to succeed and build their workforces."

"Building strong Aboriginal businesses is vital to boosting economic prosperity among the Victorian Aboriginal community, and we're proud to be working so closely with Kinaway to do that."

Quote attributable to Acting Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Luke Donnellan

"These investments will make it easier for Aboriginal businesses to expand and thrive, which is a key step on the path towards self-determination."