Capacity Building –
*Strengthening Indigenous Communities Award*

**About the category award**

This Award will be given to a project which demonstrates contribution to reconciliation activities, innovation and good practice in developing the capacities of Indigenous individuals, families and communities.

Projects are expected to demonstrate quantitative and qualitative outcomes that have a measurable impact on improving the lives of Indigenous peoples.

**The important role of local government**

In sponsoring this category award, the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) recognises the important contribution local government makes to the quality of life of Indigenous Australians, especially those living in rural and remote areas.

Local government is often the only provider of significant community services, taken for granted in metropolitan communities, and is frequently a major employer in many regional communities. FaHCSIA is keen to recognise councils that clearly demonstrate inclusive and participatory approaches to all members of the community.

**Entry guidelines**

Projects from councils with less than 15 000 ratepayers will be judged separately from councils with more ratepayers.

1. **How to enter**

Entries will open on Monday 28 April 2008 and close Friday 6 June 2008. You will be required to use the entry form, found here:

www.infrastructure.gov.au/local/awards/entry. The entry form will only be available from 28 April to 6 June 2008. If you are unable to access the form, please phone the Awards Team on 1 800 065 113. The form will ask for an Executive Summary, for answers to some general questions about your project and to some specific category questions.

2. **Executive Summary – up to 300 words**

What words would you use to sell your project? We require a brief description of your project for use in the Winners’ Book and other promotional material. Your executive summary should mention the reason for the project, the aim/purpose/objectives of the project and its main features.
3. **Generic Criteria** – address all criteria as appropriate to your project - up to 300 words for each question. If you do not address a criterion, please give a reason (for example, specify if the criterion is not relevant to your project.)

1. **Innovation and/or best practice** – What aspects of the project demonstrate something new or outstanding, over and above core business? (For example, the project may identify new methods of delivery, a better way of doing things, new uses for existing technology, or increase the effectiveness of delivering a service).

2. **Process and Planning** – What processes were used to develop the project and how does the project meet the Council’s objectives? For projects that directly affect the community and other stakeholders (eg those involving changes to services or to service delivery) how were these parties consulted or involved?

3. **Benefits** – What are the benefits of the project? Who benefits and how? Benefits might accrue from the project to the community, local economy and/or Council and may be direct and/or indirect.

4. **Transferability** – What aspects or components of your project could be adapted or adopted for use by other Councils? We are also interested in any lessons learned through your project that may be useful for other Councils to know.

4. **Specific Criteria - address all criteria as appropriate to your project – up to 300 words for each question.** If you do not address a criterion, please give a reason. Entrants may provide supporting material such as (links to websites, photos, DVDs, books etc.), by email or post to support their application. Please note that material provided will not be returned.

To what extent does your project:

1. Demonstrate that Indigenous culture, social values, customary practices and aspirations are recognised and respected, and the impact of past policies acknowledged, when developing, implementing, evaluating and administering policies and programs?

2. Work in active partnerships of shared responsibility and accountability with Indigenous communities (both location and interest), to find local solutions to local problems and build on community assets and strengths?

3. Provide income-generating and capacity building opportunities that are sustainable in the long term, for Indigenous individuals, families and communities to encourage self-reliance and greater economic and social participation?

4. Improve community governance and service delivery arrangements for Indigenous people?

5. Promote practical pathways to reconciliation in your local community?

**Project Examples**
- Contemporary Art Exhibition;
- Developing a set of family history research tools for local library users;
• A display of young Indigenous people’s photos depicting their life (community & experiences);
• Employment & training opportunities for members of a community;
• Indigenous Cultural Heritage Policy;
• Interactive website providing detailed information of history & culture of Indigenous people;
• Employment Expo;
• Bushland Regeneration, or
• Safer Communities initiatives.

About the Sponsor

The Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) recognises that ‘Indigenous business is everyone’s business,’ and strives to integrate this concept into its core business. Through government arrangements for Indigenous programs, FaHCSIA aims to reinforce this commitment and expand its responsibilities in delivering Indigenous services at national and regional level. FaHCSIA has developed a Reconciliation Action Plan that states a strong commitment and actions to progress reconciliation.

FaHCSIA administers a number of Indigenous-programs and also keeps a focus within its mainstream programs on Indigenous services and initiatives that support children, young people, individuals, families and communities. The Department is also undertaking significant research into the links between early childhood experiences and outcomes in later life for Indigenous children through the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children.

General information about FaHCSIA can be found at [www.fahcsia.gov.au](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au).
Indigenous specific information can be found at the following links:


FaHCSIA recognises that ‘Indigenous business is everyone’s business’ and the department strives to integrate this thinking into everything it does.

Through government arrangements for Indigenous programmes, FaHCSIA aims to reinforce this commitment and expand the department’s responsibilities in delivering Indigenous services. This expansion is supported by staff in the regionally-based Indigenous Coordination Centres, which help implement the governments approach in programme and service delivery.

**Want to know more about the Awards?**
Call the Awards Hotline on Freecall 1800 065 113.