

Survive, Stabilise, Thrive: through and beyond COVID-19

At a time of global uncertainty and unprecedented economic challenge, our work to build a new economy led by First Australians has never been more important.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the systemic gaps and barriers that exist for First Australians in accessing the capital and support they need to create successful businesses.

The pandemic has placed significant strain on Indigenous businesses, communities, families and individuals as they come to terms with the impact of loss of income, employment, social isolation as well as a new set of challenges to our health and mental well-being.



First Australians Capital accelerates Indigenous led businesses by providing access to funds for growth or transformation, and through provision of wrap-around support and services to build capability and ensure the business is sustainable.

First Australians Capital: supporting Indigenous businesses through turbulent times

Our COVID-19 Recovery and Relief Program has supported 285 Indigenous businesses – each managing to survive through the pandemic. Throughout COVID-19, the recovery program supported businesses across three key cycles: Survive, Stabilise, Thrive.

Survive

Focusing on the immediate need to keep businesses afloat in the face of rapidly changing conditions by sharing information and networks, knowledge, experience or capital support.

Stabilise

Secure, stabilise or transform the business base taking newly understood and accepted conditions into account in a plan for the future.

Thrive

Positioning Indigenous businesses to thrive into the future, with new skills and comprehensive business plans.

How did FAC help?

First Australians Capitals' Business Relationship Manager's are a dedicated resource, working together with Indigenous businesses providing the wrap-around support they need to build capability and secure sustainability. So how do we do it?



Mental Health Check – supporting well-being through connection and community



Sense Check – highlighting and disseminating relevant information



Financial Snapshot – developing financial literacy and strengthening financial goals and plans



Mentorship – accessing industry expertise



Action – developing a plan of action that can be measured and tracked



Ongoing Support – continued updates using digital platforms to stay connected

Outcomes

4,275 hours
working with **285**
Indigenous businesses

80% of businesses
have a business plan and
accountability partner

50 companies
received marketing
support from
Yellow Balloon, First
Australians Capital's
marketing partner

Provided small grants to
85 Indigenous
enterprises

200 companies
referred to our pro
bono legal services
partner

40 companies
developed financial
literacy, building
capability and
strengthening financial
planning through working
with Collective Works,
First Australians Capital
financial services partner

Small businesses are the backbone of the Australian economy, and the key to driving sustainable prosperity into the future through employment opportunities, creativity, innovation and agility.

99% of the participating businesses have an
annual turnover of less than \$1m and less than 50
employees

80% of Indigenous businesses reported improved
confidence in their ability to manage their business

Partner with Us

Over the coming months, we will conduct a formal evaluation of the COVID-19 Recovery and Relief Program to identify, assess and address gaps and opportunities.

Our aim is to develop a framework that provides a deeper understanding of the impact of our interventions. Adding impact indicators to the business planning process and reporting framework for Indigenous businesses will enable more consistent measurement over time.



"FAC have been amazing at a time of uncertainty in the market they were able to support my business with much needed video equipment to offer more flexibility in my photography services, plus the mentoring in both finance, legal and branding has helped me focus on a fresh outlook in 2021 and beyond."

– Michael Jalaru Torres, Jalaru Photography

To investors and partners

We invite you to get in touch to discuss how we can work together to drive long term, sustainable benefits for all Australians.

To Indigenous businesses and entrepreneurs

Get in touch to have a yarn, tell us about your business and how we can help you.

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