

## 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: 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.



## 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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