

MEDIA RELEASE

25 June 2015

Queensland casino operator supports Indigenous tourism jobs initiative



Echo Entertainment Group Managing Director, Queensland Geoff Hogg and QTIC CEO Daniel Gschwind

Echo Entertainment Group has announced a \$300,000 partnership with a Queensland tourism and hospitality initiative to promote job and career opportunities for Indigenous people.

As part of its 'creating jobs for Queenslanders' focus, Echo Entertainment will provide funding to the Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) to help it maintain and expand its work to create and promote Indigenous employment opportunities.

Their support will guarantee that work will continue through to June 2016, and will also help launch Australia's first support network for Indigenous employees in the tourism industry.

"We want to support the very important work of QTIC that is helping tourism employers engage and increase the number of their Indigenous employees," said Geoff Hogg, Managing Director Queensland of Echo Entertainment Group.

"The QTIC Tourism Indigenous Employment Champions Network, supported by Echo Entertainment, is a voluntary body that is supported by 26 Queensland companies focused on increasing employment pathways for Indigenous Australians.

"We are delighted to know our funding will help grow this initiative. By joining the network, Echo Entertainment will also benefit from sharing experiences of Indigenous employment relations with other members and working with industry colleagues to develop best practices for tourism sector employers."

Mr Hogg said Echo Entertainment was committed to improving sustainable employment for Indigenous Australians in the tourism industry, and would use its membership to actively promote the network to others in Queensland's growing tourism sector.

In Queensland, Echo Entertainment Group employs more than 3,500 people and operates the Treasury Casino & Hotel, the Jupiters Hotel & Casino, and the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre.

QTIC Chief Executive Officer Daniel Gschwind said the network aims to increase operators' awareness of how to encourage and maintain increased participation of Indigenous Australians within the mainstream tourism industry.

"It does this by enabling members to share experiences and identify areas of opportunity and collaboration. As well as producing resources and industry case studies, we also bring together stakeholders from around the state for an annual forum on Indigenous tourism challenges and opportunities," Mr Gschwind said.

Mr Gschwind said Echo Entertainment's support would enable the voluntary employer group to set up Australia's first support network for Indigenous employees in the tourism sector.

The casino operator has joined a working party which is currently developing the terms of reference for the new group.

"We want to thank Echo Entertainment for its generous financial support, which builds on the very significant in-kind support from other volunteer companies in the network," Mr Gschwind said.

About QTIC:

[QTIC](#) is the peak industry body for tourism in Queensland, acting as "The Voice of Tourism". QTIC is a private sector, membership-based organisation representing the interests of the tourism and hospitality industry across Queensland. Queensland's tourism industry generates 241,000 jobs and delivers \$23 billion in Gross State Product for the state.

About Echo Entertainment Group:

The [Echo Entertainment Group](#), which includes Treasury Casino & Hotel in Brisbane and Jupiters Hotel & Casino on the Gold Coast, is one of Queensland's largest private sector employees with a workforce of more than 3,500. Echo Entertainment is proud to support a range of community groups, charities and sponsorships including Surf Life Saving Queensland (supported since 1994), Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland (supported since 2002) and Ronald McDonald House South East Queensland. More than \$100 million has been contributed to the Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund (now the Gambling Community Benefit Fund) since 1987 for grants to community groups across Southern Queensland. In 2015 Jupiters and Treasury announced a three year deal with the Queensland Rugby League to become an official partner of the QRL, and the home of the XXXX Queensland Maroons.

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