

New chamber to promote enterprise

PROVIDING Aboriginal people with job opportunities and getting them involved in the wider business community is the aim of the NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce, launched yesterday.

Federal Indigenous Employment and Economic Development Minister Mark Arbib attended the opening of the chamber at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Lovedale.

Senator Arbib said the role of the chamber was to work with indigenous leaders, entrepreneurs and indigenous organisations and advocate on behalf of the Aboriginal business sector.

Newcastle's Debbie Barwick is chamber chairwoman and Mandurah Hunter Indigenous Business Chamber chief executive officer and chairwoman.

"The objective of the NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce is to provide Aboriginal people relief from unemployment through business enterprise and economic development," Ms Barwick said.

"It showcases success stories in indigenous business and promotes our unique position in the Australian business landscape."



Neil Goffet OPPORTUNITY: From left, Debbie Barwick, Mark Arbib and Wanaruah elder artist Les Elvin yesterday. – Picture by Phil Heame