



Aboriginal Business Leadership Initiative

Goldfields-Esperance 2026

Application Form

The Aboriginal Business Leadership Initiative (ABLI) is for Aboriginal business owners and Aboriginal-led organisations, including ACCO's and PBC's in the Goldfields-Esperance Region.

This program recognises that enterprise activity takes many forms, from sole-traders and small businesses through to ACCO's and PBC's establishing and managing community-based enterprises and income-generating initiatives.

The ABLI program is designed to strengthen both business capability and leadership confidence. Built around participant needs, ABLI focuses on practical problem-solving, strategic thinking and skills development that can be directly applied within your business, organisation or community enterprise.

Over four months, you'll take part in 3 x 2-day workshops, regular mentoring sessions, optional counselling support, and a final graduation ceremony.

[Kaala Barna](#) is delivering ABLI and will be visiting Kalgoorlie and Esperance in January and February 2026, so reach out if you want to catch up for a yarn. If you have any questions about the program, please contact us at ABLI@kaalabarna.com.au.

If this sounds like the right opportunity to advance your business leadership journey, please complete the application form. If you are shortlisted, we will reach out to you to have a yarn about your application.

Key Dates

- Mid-January – early February: Our team will be visiting Kalgoorlie and Esperance to meet potential applicants
- 9 March 2026: Applications close
- 16 March 2026: Successful Applicants announced
- 31 March–1 April 2026: Workshop 1*
- 28–29 April 2026: Workshop 2*
- 19–20 May 2026: Workshop 3*
- 12 June 2026: Graduation Ceremony*

**These dates may be subject to change and will be confirmed with successful applicants.*

Privacy and information sharing

We are committed to upholding Aboriginal Data Sovereignty (ADS) and the Australian Privacy Principles, ensuring your information is handled with care, respect and transparency. We will do this by:

- Seeking your free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) to collect, use, or share your personal information.
- Implementing dynamic consent, so you can amend or remove your consent at any time.
- Communicating clearly why we are collecting your personal information and how we are using it.

What type of information will be collected and how will it be used?

Type of information	Personal Information (such as your name and contact details)	Non-Personal Information (such as your business information and survey responses)
Who will collect and hold the information?	Kaala Barna	Kaala Barna
Who will use the information?	Kaala Barna	Kaala Barna

		Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)
How will the information be used?	For program administration, including contacting participants, scheduling workshops and mentoring, and providing program updates.	To understand participant needs and experiences, improve the program, and report on outcomes. Only your business name will be reported on.
Will the information be used for any other purpose?	If you consent, your personal information will also be shared with Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission (GEDC) to keep you informed of other opportunities and provide you support beyond the program.	Your non-personal information will be used by the WA Government for reporting purposes.
When will the information be destroyed?	This information will be handled in line with privacy principles and securely deleted at the conclusion of the program.	This information will be held by DPIRD in accordance with their Record Keeping Plan .

Informed Consent

Providing your personal information is voluntary, and you may withdraw your consent at any time by contacting us. Please tick the boxes below to confirm that you have read and understood this information and consent to your data being used as described.

- I understand what information is being collected and how it is being used.
- My non-personal information can be used for insights about ABLI to understand participant needs and experiences, improve the program and report on outcomes.
- My personal information can be shared with the GEDC so they can contact me about other opportunities to grow my enterprise or for ongoing support beyond the ABLI program.

If you have any questions about privacy and information sharing you can email us at ABLI@kaalabarna.com.au.

Eligibility

Do you identify as an Aboriginal person?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you live in the Goldfields-Esperance region?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Which of the following best describes you? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal individual business owner/sole trader Director, CEO or staff member of an Aboriginal-led organisation (eg. ACCO or PBC) 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are you operating or responsible for an enterprise or income-generating activity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the enterprise established? (i.e. have you established your product, service or income-generating activity been developed and tested in the market or community)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does your business or organisation's enterprise activity operate in the Goldfields-Esperance region? (i.e. are most of your clients and/or customers in the Goldfields-Esperance region?)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Contact details

Name	
Phone Number	
Email	
Address	
How do you prefer to be contacted?	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone call <input type="checkbox"/> Text <input type="checkbox"/> Email

Enterprise details

Enterprise Name	
What sector does your enterprise operate in? (e.g. construction, tourism, consulting, culture, hospitality etc.)	
What are your products and/or services? (e.g. selling original paintings, running cultural tours, providing earthmoving services, offering bookkeeping, delivering catered events, etc.)	
Who are your main customers or clients? (e.g. mining, Government, tourists, locals etc.)	

Website (if applicable)	
Address (if applicable)	

Program Planning

Your business journey

We want to make sure that we respect the time you give in attending this course and make it as relevant and valuable as possible. Please answer the questions below to help us tailor the course content to participant needs.

Where are you in your enterprise journey?	<input type="checkbox"/> I am starting the business now <input type="checkbox"/> I started the business in the last 12 months <input type="checkbox"/> I'm a couple of years into the business <input type="checkbox"/> Other
What are the main challenges in your enterprise? (e.g. Cash flow issues, finding staff, balancing cultural responsibilities, managing paperwork, setting up governance, getting bank loans etc.)	
What content would you find most helpful in this program?	<input type="checkbox"/> Business foundations (e.g. compliance, insurance, contracts, pricing and quotes, invoicing etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Market research (e.g. scaling your business, industry data, community needs, understanding customer experience etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing (e.g. social media, websites, branding & storytelling, unique value proposition etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Procurement (e.g. preparing tenders, Government procurement rules, capability statements etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Finances (e.g. pricing, taxes, financial planning etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Governance (e.g. Cultural governance, corporate structures, roles and responsibilities, policies and processes etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Grant and Funding Strategies (e.g. identifying funding streams, writing competitive applications, diversifying income sources) <input type="checkbox"/> Building sustainable income (e.g. establishing/growing social enterprises within ACCO's and PBC's etc.)
Beyond practical business skills, which leadership or system challenges would you like to explore in this program?	<input type="checkbox"/> Culture as a strength in business and leadership (e.g. rejecting deficit narratives, leading from cultural values etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural governance and relational decision-making (e.g. kinship, accountability, Elders, collective responsibility etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Walking in Two Worlds (e.g. balancing cultural obligations, business realities etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Navigating systems not built for mob (e.g. colonial load, compliance burden, structural pressure etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration, competition and protecting integrity in Aboriginal enterprise (e.g. undercutting, partnership decisions, community accountability etc.)

	<input type="checkbox"/> Leadership resilience, boundaries and social & emotional wellbeing (e.g. invisible load, emotional labour, burnout prevention, long-term sustainability etc.)
Is there anything else we can include in the course content that would be helpful to you?	
Is there anything you want to tell us about why this course would be helpful for you?	
Do you have any food allergies or dietary restrictions? If so, please let us know what they are.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Feedback

How did you hear about the ABLI program?	<input type="checkbox"/> Poster or flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Social media <input type="checkbox"/> Goldfields Aboriginal Business Chamber <input type="checkbox"/> Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission <input type="checkbox"/> Family or friend <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Was this form easy to complete?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is there any other feedback you have for us?	