

## **SURVIVAL DAY MESSAGE: END LONG TERM UNEMPLOYMENT**

### **For Immediate Release**

Habitat's Australia Day/Survival Day message is: Australia cannot afford the current rate of long term unemployment.

"Alan Tudge (Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister) is on the ball when he says it is positive that there are more Aboriginal people in real jobs than in 2008. However there is too much focus on quick wins around the easy to place employees, the latest figures also reveal some significant failures in what has been done in the past", Habitat Managing Director Mr. Gerry Moore said today.

"The worrying issue is, that while money and effort has been thrown into placing short term unemployed people into jobs (so-called stream 1 & 2 unemployed people), the long term unemployed and highly disadvantaged people (those in the so-called Stream 3+4 unemployment areas) have more than doubled from 65,900 in 2008 to 145,400 in 2013 " Mr Moore said. "If this trend continues then even conservative estimates would suggest there will be quarter of a million Australians who are long term unemployed in 2018. " (See Graph Two)

"This is where we need urgent work to be done. We at Habitat are beginning now to develop a whole of life plan that is owned by five generations of Yuin/Ngunawal people on the South Coast of NSW and in the ACT. In other words we want our people – from the very young to the very old – to be a part of, and embrace our ideas, that is the only way we can make headway." Mr Moore said. "But we also want the whole community to work with us and we would welcome discussion with partners, employers and all levels of Government." Mr Moore stated.

In the last twelve months Habitat achieved high outcomes of placing long term unemployed Indigenous people into jobs for more than twelve months in the ACT and on the NSW South Coast. (See Graph attached) Habitat recognises that much more needs to be done. That is why it is now putting its energy into the development of a long term plan.

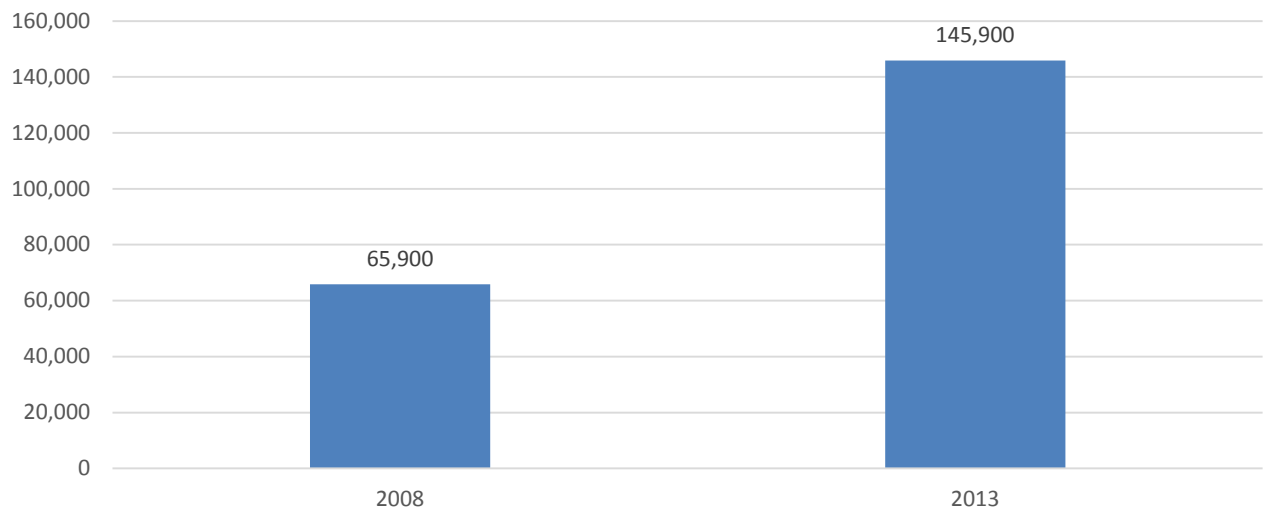
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4pm

Graph 1  
Australian Long Term Unemployment  
2008-2013





Graph 2  
Habitat and Job Services Australia  
Comparative Data: Job Placement and Retention  
Long Term Unemployed and Disadvantaged Job Seekers  
% in Employment  
Week 13, Week 26, Week 52

