SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NATIVE TITLE SERVICES

Aboriginal Way

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Colin 'Eyes' off a healthy future

South Australia's Indigenous AFL stars have lent their support to a major new health initiative aimed at preventing eye disease. The campaign, run by Sight For All and the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia, is aimed at South Australia's Aboriginal community. A song, written and performed by talented Aboriginal hip hop artist Colin Darcy is at the centre of the campaign. Read more about it on page 5.

Photo courtesy Michael Errey.

New houses for Koonibba and Yalata

Twenty new houses will be built and 20 homes will be refurbished at Koonibba and Yalata under a new agreement under the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing.

The South Australian communities of Koonibba and Yalata have signed 40 year leases which will allow the work to begin.

Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin said 20 new houses and 20 refurbishments are expected to be delivered in the two communities in 2011–12.

The successful lease negotiations with each of the Koonibba and Yalata communities follows extensive consultation with the community residents, Traditional Owners and landholding body, the Aboriginal Lands Trust.

"Decent housing is essential for protecting children, improving health, education and employment and for re-building positive community norms," Minister Macklin said.

"The Australian Government is working hard with all States and Territories to deliver better housing for Indigenous Australians.

"Getting housing right is critical to closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage."

Land tenure is needed to underpin the Government's investment in housing and infrastructure and to ensure that governments have responsibility for maintenance and are able to implement proper tenancy management.

South Australian Minister for Housing Jennifer Rankine said this agreement would create a number of opportunities for local communities.

"Local Indigenous people will have access to employment and training opportunities as part of the housing construction works and there isa minimum target of 20% local Indigenous employment," she said.

"The Aboriginal Lands Trust has been instrumental in securing these leases and the Australian and South Australian Governments commends the ALT for their contribution towards better outcomes for Indigenous communities."

The National Partnership Agreement is an investment of just more than $290 million over ten years and represents an unprecedented level of investment by any Government in remote Indigenous housing in South Australia.

Ms Rankine said that over the last two years through the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing and other Commonwealth funding some 86 new houses and 171 refurbishments have been delivered in remote South Australian communities by the South Australian Government. This includes 35 refurbishments completed in Yalata and Koonibba.

Work is on track to complete 54 new houses and 39 refurbishments across remote South Australia under the National Partnership this financial year.

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Kokatha Uwankara give green light to minerals exploration

Minerals exploration and development will go ahead on the Carrapeteena prospect, in central South Australia, following the signing of an agreement between the native title holders and the exploration company.

The Kokatha Uwankara Native Title Claimants have entered into a Deed of Acknowledgement and Assumption with mining company OZ Minerals Carrapateena Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of OZ Minerals Limited.

The Deed marks the agreement between the parties to allow for the ongoing exploration and development of the Carrapateena prospect, located in central South Australia, on the eastern margin of the Gawler Craton.

The Deed amends an existing agreement and supersedes and substantially replicates previous agreements, dating back to early 2006, between Teck Australia Pty Ltd, the Kokatha Uwankara Native Title Claimants and formerly overlapping native title claim groups.

The prospect area is now subject to a single claim for native title in the land, following the discontinuance of some former claims. Additionally, as a result of the sale of mining interests in the Carrapateena prospect area, OZ Minerals Carrapateena has assumed the rights and obligations of Teck Australia in relation to the prospect area.

The amended Native Title Mining Agreement imposes reciprocal obligations on OZ Minerals Carrapateena and the Kokatha Uwankara Native Title claimants.

For example OZ Minerals Carrapateena must consult with and obtain authorisation from the Kokatha Uwankara Native Title Claimants before commencing any mining exploration activity in the prospect area. Similarly, the Kokatha Uwankara Native Title Claimants must not interfere with such exploration activities once they have been authorised. It is envisaged that Aboriginal Heritage and native title interests will be protected, but not exclusively at the expense of mining interests.

The agreement demonstrates the Kokatha Uwankara is not opposed to mineral exploration on the area of their registered native title claim, even where the prospect is located close to Lake Torrens.

The news should give comfort to mineral explorers in this area that their exploration program will not be blocked unless there are real and legitimate cultural concerns about the area to be explored.

Indications for OZ Minerals' exploration activities look favourable.

"The Kokatha Uwankara people are not opposed to mineral exploration," native title claimant applicant, Andrew Starkey said.

"We are definitely not out to block mining, it's just that some places are too important culturally and spiritually to allow drilling activities. The OZ Minerals scenario is far away enough from the Lake's surface that Kokatha is prepared to allow some exploration there," he said.

OZ Minerals Manager Director and CEO Terry Burgess said he was looking forward to continuing to work with the Kokatha Uwankara.

"We enjoy good relationships with the Traditional Owners around our mine at Prominent Hill and we hope we can share the benefits of our activities with the Kokatha Uwankara in similar ways," said Mr Burgess.

Since becoming registered claimants to native title in the land on 21 August 2009, Kokatha Uwankara has successfully negotiated a number of mineral exploration agreements with companies such as Holcim (Australia) Pty Ltd, Minotaur Exploration Limited, UXA Resources Limited, Barrick Gold Pty Ltd, Kara Resources Pty Ltd and Athena Mines Pty Ltd. Kokatha Uwankara is also in active negotiations with Archer Exploration Limited, Tasman Resources Limited and Monax Mining Limited.

CEO of South Australian Native Title Services, Parry Agius, said the agreement should be viewed as an example of how South Australian native title groups are willing to negotiate appropriate exploration and development opportunities.

"Aboriginal people are well aware that minerals exploration and development is important and can lead to important employment and education opportunities to local communities," said Mr Agius.

"It's all about balance, balancing the rights and interests of all parties," he said.

Significant agreement for Adnyamathanha

The Adnyamathanha people will have a greater role in running the Flinders Ranges.

An agreement with the South Australian Government includes including being able to limit access for tourists to some sacred areas and unlimited hunting rights.

Minister for Environment and Conservation Paul Caica and the Chairman of the Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association Vince Coulthard, signed two significant agreements that recognise the rights of the traditional owners over the Flinders Ranges National Park.

Mr Caica and Mr Coulthard signed the Indigenous Land Use Agreement and Co-Management Agreement for the Flinders Ranges National Park at a ceremony attended by about 200 members of the Adnyamathanha community, at the "Ikara" Meeting Place site, near the Old Wilpena Homestead.

The ILUA recognises the traditional owners rights' over the park, allows them to carry out activities on the land and offers better protection of Aboriginal heritage, while the CMA provides the framework for ATLA and the State Government to share responsibility in managing the park.

"This is a significant step in reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in South Australia. These agreements will make a significant contribution to Aboriginal self- determination and wellbeing and will increase the number of Aboriginal South Australians in leadership positions," he said.

"On March 30 2009, the Federal Court awarded the Adnyamathanha People non-exclusive rights over 41,000 square kilometres of land in the north of the State, including part of the Flinders Ranges National Park, as part of the State's largest ever native title claim.

The State Government has since negotiated the ILUA and CMA for the Flinders Ranges National Park with the Adnyamathanha.

"I would like to acknowledge the strong relationship between the Adnyamathanha People and the State Government, which made the process of establishing these agreements so much easier."

Mr Caica said the CMA is a unique arrangement in Australia, where the Director of National Parks and Wildlife, who is responsible for the management of parks, formally relinquishes his management responsibilities, which are instead vested with a co-management board.

"It dictates that a Flinders Ranges National Park Co-Management Board be established later this year, consisting of four Adnyamathanha People nominated by ATLA, three officers from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and a member nominated by myself," he said.

"The CMA allows the Adnyamathanha People, through the co-management board, to determine how the park is run to ensure their cultural, economic, social and environmental aspirations are enhanced in a manner consistent with the management objectives for the park.

Mr Caica said the Board will work with the State Government to develop a new management plan for the park, which will seek to protect the cultural significance of the park for the traditional owners, conserve the cultural and natural heritage, create social development and economic opportunities for Adnyamathanha families and communities, and provide memorable experiences for visitors.

Keeping Black Business in the Black

The AEMEE Annual Conference will be held this year in Mackay, Queensland on 27–28 October.

The theme for the Conference will be "Keeping Black Business in the Black" and will be focuss on financing and business models and exploring opportunities around mining, energy and exploration.

More detailed informaiton on the program and registration costs are available via the AEMEE website www.aemee.org.au

The conference will be held at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre and will again follow the Minerals Council of Australia's (MCA's) Sustainable Development Conference.

The Board of AEMEE hope that the 2011 conference will again attract strong interest from Aboriginal businesses around Australia as well as interest from procurement and supply chain staff from the resource sector.

Aboriginal Enterprises in Mining, Exploration and Energy Ltd (AEMEE) is an incorporated not-for-profit company set up to grow Indigenous businesses in Australia and overseas in mining and allied industries.

New business opens employment doors

A business designed to train, employ and open long-term career pathways for Aboriginal Australians has been officially launched.

'Intract' was officially launched on August 29 at McMahon Services headquarters in Dry Creek.

The Federal Minister for Indigenous Employment and Economical Development, Mark Arbib launched the business during a visit to Adelaide.

Official guests included Managing director of McMahon services, David McMahon, the chair of the Aboriginal Foundation of South Australia, Rick Allert, AO, the CEO of the Aboriginal Foundation of South Australia, Grahame Tonkin, and Intract general manager, John Briggs.

Intract was formed through partnership of the Aboriginal Foundation of South Australia and McMahon Services.

Mr McMahon said the launch was a significant occasion because it marked the future of Intract.

"Seeing the recent projects we have delivered is very rewarding, and I am delighted that Intract is now fully operational and ready to take on new projects across the state", he said.

So far, nine graduates have commenced work with Intract on various projects around Adelaide and country areas including Milang and Woomera.

The inaugural group includes twin brothers James and Jarrod Clark/ Rantassa and 2008 Young Citizen of the Year, Jessica Parker.

Intract General Manager, John Briggs, said he was very proud of the achievement.

"It's a celebration of the hard work we have put in to reach this point, and the exciting future that lies ahead… it's a very proud day for me", he said.

As a business, Intract provides contracting services to the mining and civil construction industry, such as road building and maintenance, large-scale earthworks, land rehabilitation and plant and equipment hire.

For more information about Intract call 8203 3100 or visit www.intract.com.au

Above: Grahame Tokin (CEO Aboriginal Foundation of SA) and Tom Jenkin (SANTS).

Above: Michael Long (Indigenous Ambassador, McMahon Services) and Jessicca Parker (Intract).

Above: Intract graduates and staff.

Above: Federal Minister for Indigenous Employment and Economic Development, Mark Arbib.

Above: Tom Jenkin (SANTS), Ted Byrt (AFSA Board Member), and Eddie Fry (AFSA Deputy Chair).

National Indigenous Carbon Fund to ensure benefits

Legislation for a Carbon farming Initiative scheme was passed by the Federal Parliament on August 23 and will be operational from the start of December 2011.

As part of the scheme, the government pledged $22 million for an Indigenous Carbon Fund to ensure indigenous land owners, including native title holders and claimants, benefit from carbon farming.

The National Indigenous Climate Change Steering Committee welcomes the new legislation and is pleased with the government's engagement with Indigenous groups on the issue.

"Engagement with the Government on this issue has been positive to date and we want to ensure the principle of Indigenous land equals Indigenous benefit is in the CFI", says Rowan Foley, Chair of the Steering Committee.

The scheme will enable farmers and land holders to receive carbon credits by reducing emissions from livestock, feral animal and savanna fires or increasing the amount of carbon that is stored in soils or trees.

Individuals or companies wanting to cancel out or 'offset' their greenhouse gas emissions can purchase the carbon credits from farmers and landholders.

Methods to reduce emissions from landfills and methane from livestock are currently being developed.

South Australian Native Title Services CEO, Parry Agius, said it is important for the rights of non-exclusive native title holders and native title claimants are recognised in the carbon economy and in the establishment of carbon projects.

"We [SANTS] continue to support the introduction of the CFI to facilitate a carbon economy that includes a platform for indigenous people, including native title holders and claimants, to be strong participants and contributors. To maximise the indigenous opportunity in carbon futures, it is important that the rights and interests in carbon and as a project proponent extend beyond exclusive native title to include non-exclusive native title holders and registered native title applicants. In such circumstances, a framework of negotiation and consent should be established to provide certainty and promote partnerships between native title and other land and carbon interests," he said.

The rights for native title holders and claimants to enter into the carbon market using their exclusive or non-exclusive possession will potentially benefit the relationship between Indigenous and mainstream Australia.

The Steering Committee is currently directing the work on Indigenous Co-benefits that is being undertaken by a research team.

The inclusion of Co-benefits in the CFI regulations has the potential to "bridge the divide between Indigenous Australia and mainstream Australia through providing a mechanism for the purchase of carbon credits with identified social, environmental and cultural co-benefits", Mr Foley said.

"Indigenous co-benefits will for the first time allow mainstream Australia to be directly involved with Indigenous Australia by funding elements of the management of traditional country, which in some cases will lead to the development of relationships and therefore greater cooperation. It will provide an important incentive for indigenous participation in carbon projects both on and off indigenous lands", he said.

A workshop on the proposed co-benefits scheme was recently held by the research team with Native Title representatives, in Adelaide. A paper on the scheme will be released in early October.

In 2009–10 about 6 million Australian carbon credits (worth approximately $150m) were traded.

With the new carbon farming initiative the land will be a main source of voluntary carbon credits.

The National Indigenous Climate Change Steering Committee and the national native title council, along with other stakeholders, are still in negotiation with the government to ensure the CFI provides equal opportunities for all Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders across Australia.

South Australian native title claims update

Adnyamathanha
Flinders Ranges
Part settled through approved determination (March 2009)
Balance of claim in mediation: Federal Court/National Native Title Tribunal.

Adnyamathanha 3

Flinders Ranges (application in relation to s. 47A and s. 47B of the NTA)
In mediation: Federal Court

Adnyamathanha 4
East of Port Augusta extending beyond Quorn and Wilmington
Not in mediation.

Arabunna
Central SA including Lake Eyre
In mediation: Federal Court/ National Native Title Tribunal.

Barngarla
Eyre Peninsula. Not in mediation.

Dieri
Central SA east of Lake Eyre
In mediation: Federal Court.

Dieri 2
Eastern SA north of Lake Frome
In mediation: Federal Court/ National Native Title Tribunal.

De Rose Hill-Ilpalka Aboriginal Corporation Compensation Claim
Far northwest SA and adjacent to APY Lands. Not in mediation.

Eringa
Far north SA including portion Witjira National Park
Area over Witjira National Park settled through approved determination (September 2008)
In mediation: Federal Court.

Eringa 2
Far north SA including portion Witjira National Park
Area over Witjira National Park settled through approved determination (September 2008)
In mediation: Federal Court.

Eringa 3
North of Oodnadatta
In mediation: Federal Court.

Far West Coast
Far West Coast SA
In mediation: Federal Court.

First Peoples of the River Murray & Mallee Region
Riverland and Murray Mallee Region
In mediation: Federal Court.

Gawler Ranges
North of Eyre Peninsula
In mediation: Federal Court/ National Native Title Tribunal.

Kaurna
Fleurieu Peninsula north to Port Broughton. In mediation: National Native Title Tribunal.

Kokatha Uwankara
Lake Torrens Region
Not in mediation.

Nauo
Eyre Peninsula
Not in mediation.

Ngadjuri Nation
Southern Flinders Ranges
In mediation: Federal Court/ National Native Title Tribunal.

Ngarrindjeri
River Murray, Lakes and Coorong Region. In mediation: National Native Title Tribunal.

Nukunu
Spencer Gulf Region
Not in mediation.

Ramindjeri
Southern Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island. In mediation: National Native Title Tribunal.

Tjayiwara/Unmuru

Far northwest SA and adjacent to APY Lands. In mediation: National Native Title Tribunal.

Wangkangurru/Yarluyandi
Simpson Desert Region and extending into QLD
In mediation: Federal Court/ National Native Title Tribunal.

Wirangu 2
Eyre Peninsula and West Coast
In mediation: National Native Title Tribunal.

Yandruwandha/Yawarrawarrka
Innamincka area. Not in mediation.

Information provided by the National Native Title Tribunal – visit www.nntt.gov.au for more about native title.

For information on claim activity (other than mediation) contact South Australian Native Title Services.

Funding to protect heritage sites

South Australian Native Title Services on behalf of De Rose Hill Ilpalka Aboriginal Corporation was successful in their application for funding to protect Aboriginal heritage sites on De Rose Hill Station, in the north of South Australia.

The Indigenous Land Corporation approved funding for the materials and construction of fences to protect 5 cultural sites that are currently under threat of cattle.

It is the first property-based project supported by the Indigenous Land Corporation to go ahead on native title land occupied by non-Aboriginal pastoralists.

South Australian Native Title Services welcome this achievement and consider the project will open up more opportunities for heritage protection on recognised native title lands, and encourage other native title holders to apply for ILC funding to assist them with property-based projects.

De Rose Hill was the first native title determination in South Australia.

Colin 'Eyes' off a healthy future

Talented Aboriginal hip hop artist Colin Darcy and his music are at the centre of a major new health initiative aimed at South Australia's Aboriginal people.

Colin has written a song called Eyes, the lyrics of which have been designed to raise awareness of the major blinding diseases that afflict Aboriginal Australian people.

Sight For All, the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia and the Adelaide Crows Football Club and Port Power planned the eye disease awareness and prevention campaigns.

Colin, who works for South Australian Native Title Services, said he was happy to be part of an important health initiative.

"It was an honour and pleasure to write 'Eyes'. If my song can get through to people and help them understand that some eye diseases are preventable then that will be great," said Colin."Music can have a big impact in people's lives. I hope this song makes a difference," he said.

'Eyes' features Kaliah Alice who also works for SANTS.

A video of the song, which features players from the Adelaide Crows and Port Power, will be played on television in regional areas and the song will be played on radio through Aboriginal programs and networks.

Andrew McLeod is an ambassador and Lowitja O'Donoghue is a patron of Sight For All.

A double page spread placed in the AFL Crows scrapbook is being delivered to 40,000 students in South Australia, including Aboriginal kids, to promote eye health.It promotes the traffic-light healthy eating system and three easy tips to keep eyes healthy: keep glasses safe, clean your face and get your eyes checked.

The song is being played through SANTS radio program, Aboriginal Message which is broadcast throughout Australia.

Blindness rates in Australian Aboriginal adults are over six times the mainstream rate.

Trachoma is a blinding yet preventable fly-borne infection that begins in childhood and is still an endemic problem in the outback communities of Australia.

Dr James Muecke, the Chairman of Sight for All Foundation said that diabetes in the Aboriginal population is caused mostly by poor diet.

"…one of the key messages in the video is to buy better food," said Dr Mueke.

Diabetes is ravaging the eyesight of the adult Aboriginal population.

Diabetes is ten times more common in Aboriginal people than in the mainstream population.

Over one third of indigenous people with diabetes have diabetic eye disease. Many are not been adequately screened or treated for its blinding complications.

Indigenous health statistics released

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released a report detailing statistics and analysis on the state of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

The report, *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework: detailed analyses*, provides over 2,000 pages of comprehensive analysis against 71 health indicators covering health status and outcomes, determinants of health and health systems performance.

Data from this report was used to produce the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2010 report* released earlier this year by the Australian Health Ministers' Conference.

'When it comes to health status and outcomes, some significant health gains have been made towards closing the gap in health disadvantage between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians,' said AIHW spokesperson Dr Fadwa Al-Yaman.

'For example, deaths from avoidable causes among Indigenous Australians declined by 20% between 1997 and 2008 and the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous infant mortality has closed significantly.'

'But, there are many areas where further improvements are needed to close the gap in health disadvantage. For instance, babies of Indigenous mothers are still twice as likely to be of low birthweight as babies born to non-Indigenous mothers, and Indigenous hospitalisation rates for diabetes were 4 times the rate of other Australians in 2007–08.'

The report looks at 5 domains of determinants of health – environmental factors, socioeconomic factors, community capacity, health behaviours and person-related factors.

'Recent improvements in health determinants include: a decline in the proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over who are current smokers (52% to 47%); an increase in Indigenous school retention rates from Year 10 to 12 (46% to 50%) and an increase in the employment rate for Indigenous Australians (44% to 54%),' Dr Al-Yaman said.

'But there are several areas of health determinants where further work is required, for example, Indigenous mothers smoked during pregnancy at around 3 times the rate of non-Indigenous mothers and the rate of Indigenous imprisonment increased by 11% since 2007.'

Analysis of health system performance shows considerable improvements in some areas, for example, the proportion of Indigenous women attending at least one antenatal session in pregnancy has increased to 97%. However, gaps remain in access to services relative to need for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The AIHW is a major national agency set up by the Australian Government to provide reliable, regular and relevant information and statistics on Australia's health and welfare.

The report can be found at www.aihw.gov.au

Room for improvement

- Indigenous children are twice as likely as non-Indigenous children to live in households with daily smokers (65% vs 32% in 2007–08)
- Proportions of Indigenous students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 achieving reading, writing and numeracy benchmarks are lower compared to non-Indigenous children
- In 2008, approximately 49% of Indigenous Australian adults were in the lowest quintile of equivalised gross weekly household income compared with 20% of non-Indigenous Australians. Only 4.9% of Indigenous Australians were in the highest quintile of equivalised gross weekly household income compared with 22% of non-Indigenous Australians
- While Indigenous Australians are less likely than non-Indigenous Australians to consume alcohol, of those who do consume alcohol, around 55% consumed it at long-term risky or high risk levels
- An estimated 23% of Indigenous Australians reported substance use in the last 12months, and 43% reported ever using a substance
- The rate of Indigenous imprisonment has increased by 11% since 2007Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers smoked during pregnancy at around three times the rate of non-Indigenous mothers
- The level of sedentary physical activity for Indigenous Australians has increased between 2001 and 2004–05 from 37% to 47%
- Approximately 5% of Indigenous children did not usually eat fruit and 4% did not usually eat vegetables while a further 33% reported consuming one serve or less of fruit per day and 27% reported having one serve or less of vegetables per day
- Approximately 60% of Indigenous adults were overweight or obese in 2004–05, which is an increase from 1995 and 2001. Indigenous Australians are nearly twice as likely to be obese as non-Indigenous Australians.

Improving Smiles in the APY Lands

A new mobile dental van and equipment will help provide better dental health care to Aboriginal people in the far north west of South Australia.

The van, which is run by Nganampa Health Council, was launched in July by Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon.

"The previous mobile dental service vehicle had reached the end of its life after travelling more than 110,000 kilometres on outback roads since 1993," said Minister Snowdon.

"This mobile dental service vehicle will ensure dental health professionals are able to reach people scattered across the APY Lands so they can get the high quality dental care they need.

"The importance of healthy teeth can not be underestimated, as we know poor dental health is often linked with chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and chronic respiratory problems," he said.

The Australian Government provided $276,650 to buy and fit out the new van and is also providing $144,562 for mobile dental equipment for use in the APY Lands.

"This funding will be used to purchase mobile dental equipment that can be transported by 4WD and set up in aged care facilities or clinics where existing mobile clinics may be impractical or impossible to set up," he said.

"I acknowledge the great work of the Nganampa Health Council and their health staff for their contribution to this great dental service. You do a very important job for your community."

The funding has been provided through round one of the National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program (NRRHIP) and the Indigenous Dental Services in Rural and Regional Areas program.

Health, safety and well-being targeted in new action plan

by Lesley Johns

Children are the priority of a new joint-government plan to improve life on the Anangu Pitjatjantjara Yankunytjatjara Lands.

The initiative resulted after crisis talks were called by the Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin after media publicity over a series of issues regarding South Australian Government service delivery on the Lands.

South Australian Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Grace Portolesi has come under fire in recent weeks over a string of problems, including claims that children living on the Lands were starving.

The crisis talks were held in Adelaide on 28 September.

The Ministers agreed important further actions to deliver on commitments announced in early September to help support families and create safe communities for children.

Among the issues agreed on are:

Family and wellbeing centres

- A new Family and Wellbeing Centre will be constructed in Mimili by the end of 2012.
- Upgrades to the existing facilities will enable a centre to be operational in Amata by mid 2012.
- Discussions are underway regarding a further Centre in Pukatja.
- These centres will provide a hub for services to better support families, women and children in the APY Lands.

Ensuring stores are functioning properly

The South Australian Government is working with the APY Executive to address concerns about the operation of the stores in Mintabie. It is proposed that the new Mintabie lease contain provisions to address these matters, including:

- Regulating the practice of book up to ensure no unscrupulous practices are occurring. This will complement the ongoing South Australian Police investigation.
- Restricting the sale and consumption of alcohol.
- Requiring OPAL fuel to be sold in Mintabie ensuring it is available across the Lands.

This work complements the broader work that the State and Federal Governments are doing with APY Executive to improve store management in on the APY Lands. The APY Executive are also currently investigating a suite of licences, regulations and leasing arrangements for stores to ensure food security for the Lands.

Income management and budgeting

Centrelink teams and money management teams have been working in the APY lands over past weeks to help ensure families receiving welfare payments have access to tools to help them budget properly.

So far more than 30 families have signed up to receive their Centrelink payments weekly rather than fortnightly and Centrelink has assisted 170 people living on the APY Lands in relation to their existing Centrepay arrangements, which ensure people can have regular amounts paid to stores via Centrepay.

Centrelink are rolling out new Centrepay contracts to stores, which will limit the items that Centrepay deductions can be used to pay for, and excludes items such as alcohol and tobacco.

The Ministers also discussed the potential for a broader income management scheme in the APY lands.

Income management is in place in other places in Australia and is helping families manage their budgets. Evaluation of existing approaches to income management is underway.

Ministers today agreed to closely monitor the effect of the work already underway in the APY Lands to help people gain immediate access to tools to better budget and control their money.

The South Australian Government has agreed to ensure that the foundations are in place for a broader scheme of income management if monitoring and work underway with the community shows that this is needed.

These foundations will ensure that child protection and family support services are in place to follow up and address reports of child malnutrition and neglect and fulfil the recommendations of the Mullighan Inquiry.

Income management needs to be under-pinned by family support programs and child protection services to refer families to income management if needed.

Future Directions

The Ministers also discussed long-term plans for improving governance and service delivery on the Lands. The State and Federal Government have agreed to negotiate with the APY Executive to develop a Regional Partnership Agreement for the APY Lands.

This agreement will establish a uniform government investment strategy across the region, to provide a coordinated response to priorities identified for the Lands and eliminate duplication or gaps.

APY food shortage? Not so, say leaders

There's little doubt that years of neglect and inaction by successive governments has resulted in little change on the Lands.

Housing, health, education, food – if you live on the Lands, you will find it difficult to receive even the most basic of services.

In September, the plight of some children on the Lands became the subject of front page news and much political posturing.

It was reported that some children were going hungry and that food parcels were being delivered to the Lands by the Red Cross and Uniting Care Wesley.

Nganampa Health Council's John Singer waded into the debate saying there was no emergency, no crisis.

He told Aboriginal Way that some parents were struggling to provide healthy food for their children but that there was no emergency.

The SA Opposition, predictably slammed the Aboriginal Affairs Minister Grace Portolesi, saying she was ineffectual.

The Liberals released a statement outlining Ms Portolesi's failings.

These included:

- Failed to spend $4.8 million of federal funding intended for Indigenous communities on the APY Lands
- Never visited Fregon – the community at the centre of the food scandal on the Lands
- Failed to release a report into essential services on the Lands despite promising it in June
- Failed to implement recommendations from the 2004 Lowitja O'Donoghue and Tim Costello APY Lands' Report

"In more shameful evidence of a disengaged Labor Government, it has also been revealed that Ms Portolesi has spent more time touring Europe than she has on the APY Lands," said the Liberals statement.

"In fact, Ms Portolesi has not even spent one night on the Lands, preferring fly in, fly out media opportunities.

Leader of the Opposition Isobel Redmond called on incoming Premier Jay Weatherill to to start looking out for the interests of our Aboriginal communities.

"Labor has an appalling record on Aboriginal affairs and there is no sign things will improve under Mr Weatherill's leadership.

16 Indigenous graduates join WA marine transport industry

A group of West Australian Indigenous job seekers has secured work in the marine transport industry, thanks to more than $320 000 in support from the Australian Government.

Minister for Indigenous Employment and Economic Development Mark Arbib and Senator for Western Australia Louise Pratt have congratulated the 16 Indigenous graduates on completing their training at the Port of Geraldton.

Senator Arbib said 12 of the 16 graduates would take up employment with Offshore Marine Services Alliance (OMSA), while the remaining four are expected to find jobs in the marine sector.

"OMSA is a company whose operations include marine support for Chevron's giant Gorgon liquefied natural gas project on Barrow Island in the Pilbara," Senator Arbib said.

"This has been a challenging training course for these graduates, some of whom have had to overcome sea sickness and a fear of heights to get through."

Senator Pratt said the 10-week course, provided by Geraldton's Durack Institute of Technology, included training on land and at sea in boat handling, deckhand duties, marine safety, dogging, rigging and working at heights and in confined spaces.

"Many of the graduates have had to move away from their families, friends and communities to take up this training and have now positioned themselves in a great place to gain long-term, sustainable employment in the maritime industry," Senator Pratt said.

"The Australian Government, through the Indigenous Employment Program, committed $323 000 to support the program."

Senator Arbib said it was critical that Indigenous Australians had the support and training they needed to take up jobs.

"Indigenous employment is not a short-term issue. Over the next four years the Australian Government has committed almost $650 million to the Indigenous Employment Program and $50 million to the Indigenous Youth Careers Pathway Program," Senator Arbib said.

"This is part of the Australian Government's target to create more than 100 000 jobs for Indigenous Australians by 2018."

‘Tita Yangadlitya’ – retail jobs for the future

An innovative program which aims to create job opportunities for 250 Aboriginal people over the next three years has been launched in Adelaide by the Minister Assisting the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education, Tom Kenyon.

“The program, ‘Tita Yangadlitya’ - which best translates to ‘Retail for the Future’ – assists Aboriginal people experiencing barriers to employment to work towards gaining job opportunities and a career path in the retail sector,” Mr Keynon said.

“This includes providing opportunities as checkout operators and pathways to becoming butchers, bakers and fishmongers, shop assistants, store workers, customer service operators, night fillers and reserve stock hand operators.

“There’ll also be 100 training opportunities provided each year over the next three years for people to improve their skills through Certificate II or Certificate III Retail courses.

“The initiative is part of the wider Retail Indigenous Employment Program and will contribute towards the SA Strategic Plan target of halving the employment gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people by 2018.

“520 Aboriginal people will need to gain and sustain employment each year if we are to achieve this target,” Mr Kenyon said.

“The retail initiative builds on the successful ‘Connecting Aboriginal People to Mining’ program where up to150 Aboriginal job seekers have the opportunity to undertake training leading to job opportunities in the mining sector at regional sites across the State.

“The retail program has been developed through a partnership between Service Skills SA and the Aboriginal Employment Retail Industry Cluster with the State and Federal Governments.

“The Aboriginal Employment Retail Industry Cluster is one of the seven formed by the Aboriginal Employment Industry Champions Network in 2010.

“The network comprises large South Australian employers supporting Commonwealth and State training and employment targets for Aboriginal people. The Clusters act on a commitment to Aboriginal employment from their employer members and sponsor projects aimed at preparing Aboriginal people for employment.

“Participating employers include Coles, Woolworths, Drake Supermarkets, IGA-D, IKEA, The Pharmacy Guild SA, Harris Scarfe, KFC, Baker’s Delight, Target, K-Mart, Chapleys Foodland and Big W,” Mr Kenyon said.

Indigenous Australians to play key workforce role

Indigenous Australians will play an increasingly important role in the Australian workforce according to the Special Minister of State, Gary Gray.

With employers being more aware of the value to their business of employing Indigenous Australians and implementing strategies to attract and retain Indigenous employees, Mr Gray urged all employers to follow suit.

“It is critical that Indigenous Australians have the support and training they need to take up their share of the jobs being created over the coming decades,” Mr Gray said.

“About 56 per cent of the Indigenous population is under 25, so it is important that employers and public sector agencies provide training opportunities now and ensure there is a strong transition from school to work so that we see the benefits in the coming years.”

In Adelaide to address the national Australian Public Service Indigenous Employees Conference, which is supported by 40 Federal Government agencies, Mr Gray called on all employers to review their employment practices with a view to providing more Indigenous work opportunities.

He said a solid foundation had been laid in recent years.

The Pathways Program has delivered over 660 jobs for trainees, cadets and graduates since 2005, with further outcomes currently being finalised. In 2010 the Indigenous Australian Government Diploma Program provided employment to a further 71 Indigenous APS employees. “You can see some real progress, but we know to close the employment gap an extra 100,000 indigenous Australians need to be in employment by 2018.

“The Australian Public Service has a significant role to play in helping us reach this target.

“The Government knows that we can’t ask employers to create opportunities for Indigenous people unless we are doing it ourselves.”

Mr Gray said there were more than 80,300 placements into employment of Indigenous Australians through Job Services Australia in the two years up to June 2011.

The Indigenous Employment Program had exceeded its 2010-11 target by 14 per cent, with 31,000 commencements in jobs and training.

ACCC allows collective bargaining for remote community stores

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission will allow a collective bargaining arrangement between a group of community stores in the remote Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands in the far northwest of South Australia.

The Mai Wiru Stores Group will collectively negotiate terms and conditions with suppliers of essential grocery and supermarket items.

“The ACCC considers the arrangements will help facilitate the reliable supply of essential groceries, which will have a positive effect upon the health and wellbeing of the members of remote indigenous communities in the APY Lands,” ACCC chairman Rod Sims said.

Collective bargaining refers to two or more competitors, typically small businesses, collectively negotiating terms and conditions with a supplier or customer.

The ACCC may approve a collective bargaining notification when it is satisfied that the public benefits outweigh the public detriments. However, the ACCC may review this notification at any time.

The protection started on 21 September 2011 and expires in three years.

Support Workers

Casual – Multiple Positions

$24.63 per hour plus penalty rates*

Aboriginal Family Support Services (AFSS) provides a range of services to the Aboriginal community throughout South Australia and is a Gazetted Aboriginal Organisation for the purposes of the *Children’s Protection Act*.

AFSS is seeking casual staff for the position of Support Worker in our Crisis Accommodation facilities in Metropolitan Adelaide.

As part of a small team, Support Workers provide a range of services to the Aboriginal community to ensure safe alternative care options for Aboriginal children and young people. Casual Support Workers may be required to undertake day, afternoon, and night shifts as well as weekend work. Key responsibilities include domestic duties, care support plans, administrative tasks and intervention services, as part of a 24-hour supported accommodation facility.

Driver's licence, a current Senior First Aid Certificate, a satisfactory National Criminal History Record Check, and a current Child Safe Environments certifcate are essential for these positions.

Working for a not for profit organisation, you will have the opportunity to salary sacrifice to increase your take home pay.

People of Aboriginal descent are encouraged to apply

Please send your resume and a summary of no more than two pages that addresses the Job & Person Specification available from the Positions Vacant section at www.afss.com.au

(* Penalty rates apply to some shifts.)

Telephone enquiries to Carlton Lang on 0408 488 544
Applications should be forwarded to
humanresources@afss.com.au
not later than COB Friday 4 November 2011

"Together with Aboriginal Communities strengthen families to ensure safe and culturally strong futures for our children and young people"

Aboriginal Family Support Services Inc (AFSS)

Supported by

Government of South Australia

Wirranendi Interpretive Trail launched in west park lands

The Wirranendi Interpretive Trail has been launched in Adelaide's west park lands.

Located in Wirranendi Park (Park 23), the Wirranendi Interpretive Trail is a joint initiative of the Adelaide City Council and the Department of Planning and Local Government.

Using an unsealed section of the Park Lands path, the trail provides a fun place for children, tourists and the local community to explore, discover and reconnect with nature.

The trail is marked with a series of beautiful, uniquely handcrafted stones and sculptures that leads visitors through the Park Lands – and is a wonderful example of education and art intertwining with nature.

One of the aims for the trail is to celebrate and recognise the achievements of the South Australian community through the significant revegetation work in restoring the park's indigenous vegetation. As such Indigenous Artists were invited to create some of the artwork.

Above: Left to right: John Nelson, Sally Wickes, Councillor Sue Clearihan, Martin Corbin, Sylvio Apponyi, Shereen Rankine.

Funding to assist job seekers get into mining

Up to 150 Aboriginal job seekers will have the opportunity to undertake training leading to job opportunities in the mining sector through a $1million State/ Federal Government program.

Minister Assisting the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education, Tom Kenyon said applications were now open for businesses to partner with Registered Training Organisations to apply for funding in the second 'Connecting Aboriginal People to Mining' program.

"There was a strong response from industry to the inaugural program which ran earlier this year with training undertaken in Mount Willoughby, Port Augusta, Prominent Hill and Iluka mines," Mr Kenyon said.

"Mining companies including BHP Billiton, Oz Minerals and Iluka have partnered with providers, such as Access Working Careers, Trainway, Career Employment Group, Port Augusta TAFE and Xceptional Recruitment to make this happen.

"Geology, laboratory work and administration positions are just some of the job opportunities for participants who've completed their training in Certificate II in Surface Extraction Operations.

"The State Government provided $500,000 for this first program in 2010–11 where Aboriginal job seekers undertook accredited and non accredited training in vocations related to the mining and supporting sectors that led to employment," Mr Kenyon said.

Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Minister, Grace Portolesi said that in response to the success of that program, the Commonwealth had partnered with the State Government in 2011-12, each providing $500,000, to deliver this second program.

"Applicants' projects need to demonstrate how Aboriginal people are assisted to undertake industry specific skills or training leading to employment at the completion of the training program," Ms Portolesi said.

"The State Government is working with the Commonwealth, Aboriginal communities and industry to halve the gap in employment outcomes in the community between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people by 2018.

"The aim of this target is to provide jobs for a further 520 Aboriginal people during that period.

"The 'Connecting Aboriginal People to Mining' program contributes significantly to this target and leverages opportunities arising in the mining and resources sector," Ms Portolesi said.

Applications for the second program close on Friday, September, 30.

For further information on the Connecting Aboriginal People to Mining program, please visit www.sa.gov.au/CAPM

Progress on Indigenous Carbon Farming Negotiations

The National Indigenous Climate Change group has welcomed the establishment of the Australian Government's $22 million Indigenous Carbon Farming Fund.

This outcome formed part of the second Indigenous leaders roundtable held with the Hon. Mark Dreyfus, the Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.

The roundtable, held in Melbourne on 4 August 2011, was part of on-going negotiations on the Carbon Farming Initiative between Government and Indigenous groups.

The Government has indicated it wants to work with Indigenous communities to identify Carbon Farming Initiative projects, in order to enable access to the domestic and international carbon economy.

"Engagement with the Government on this issue has been positive to date and we want to ensure the principle of Indigenous land = Indigenous benefit is in the CFI," says Rowan Foley, Chair of the National Indigenous Climate Change Steering Committee.

"We agree that there is potential for positive outcomes for Indigenous communities from the establishment of the Indigenous Carbon Farming Fund.

But there are some issues requiring clarification before we can be confident that the CFI will have positive outcomes. For example, the native title protections in the CFI legislation have been improved but there is still a gap in the protection the legislation provides, when compared with non-Indigenous land," he said.

"Any activities that might happen on Indigenous land must have an Indigenous benefit," said Mr Foley. "And not only do they need to have a benefit, we need some consistency across all Commonwealth, State and Territory jurisdictions to ensure opportunities exist for all Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders equally across the nation when dealing with existing Indigenous land management agreements, native title and other forms of Indigenous land tenure."

"It is vital that there is increased Indigenous involvement in the decision-making around the Indigenous Carbon Farming Fund as well as the Biodiversity Fund. In our opinion, this requires on-going engagement with Indigenous people, coordinated research and project development as well as leveraging of opportunities from Corporate Australia for additional investment."

"With the third negotiation roundtable coming up, we look forward to continuing to work constructively with the Government to ensure our issues are addressed and that the best outcomes for Indigenous people can be achieved," said Mr Foley.

NAIDOC 2011
Change: the next step is ours

The theme of NAIDOC 2011 was Change: the next step is ours. The week also celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Aboriginal Flag Raising ceremony.

Lord Mayor Stephen Yarwood and Uncle Lewis O'Brien raised the flag at the ceremony and Kaurna Elder Mr Frank Wanganeen addressed the large crowd.

The Aboriginal flag was first raised in Victoria Square/Tarndanyangga in 1971 in support of land rights for Aboriginal people. It was designed by Harold Thomas, a Luritja man who currently lives in the Northern Territory.

"The Aboriginal flag has come to be a powerful symbol for reconciliation and hope for many Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people throughout Australia," said the Lord Mayor.

The ceremony followed on from the South Australian 2011 NAIDOC Awards presentation and the morning tea at the Adelaide Town Hall where Lord Mayor Stephen Yarwood addressed the audience and tried out his Kaurna language.

Over 400 people attended the presentation with descriptions of the day including "fantastic", "thoroughly enjoyable" and a "great event".

Master of Ceremony was the dual Chairperson of Adelaide City Council's Reconciliation Committee, Yvonne Agius.

The recipients of the 2011 NAIDOC Awards were:

Person of the Year (joint award)

Mr Chris Koolmatrie who is employed by the South Australian Murray Darling Natural Resource (NRM) Management Board as the Aboriginal NRM Project Officer. Chris has established training programs for unemployed Aboriginal people and is an exceptional mentor to Aboriginal Trainees.

Person of the Year (joint award)

Paul Tanner is a proud Arabunna man. Paul is employed by the Courts Administration Authority in Port Augusta. Over 10 year ago, Paul and others established 'Males in Black'(MiB), an Aboriginal men's support group.

Young Female of the Year

Naomi Parrott lives and works in Mimili, a community on the APY Lands. Naomi is employed by Services and works at the PYKu centre in Mimili.

Young Male of the Year

Delahay Miller is a year 12 student at Rostrevor College and member of the Rostrevor College Indigenous Sports Academy. As a Prefect, he has inspired his peers and represented Rostrevor College at a number of significant events.

Female Elder of the Year

Christine Wilson is employed by Disability SA and is a fierce advocate of Aboriginal people with disabilities who may not be able to speak for themselves.

Male Elder of the Year

Murray George has been involved in giving leadership in Pitjantjatjara cultural awareness, management of ancestral lands and been an inspiring organiser of cultural activity for Pitjantjatjara people from South Australia, Northern Territory and Western Australia.

Scholar of the Year

Kudnarto Joy Watson has been a medical student at the University of Adelaide for the past six years. She has been an active member of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student group.

Trainee of the Year

Tarita Chester is employed by UnitingCare Wesley Port Adelaide Employment Access. Tarita contributed to the UnitingCare Wesley Port Adelaide Employment Program DVD.

Sports Person of the Year

Ajay Nguyen is seven years old with Aboriginal, Vietnamese and English heritage. He has won many gold medals in Taekwondo at a State and interstate level.

Event of the Year

South East Aboriginal Focus Group (SEAFG) is a cultural knowledge recording project. The group has been involved in the recording knowledge about the making of traditional Yuki (bark Canoe) event and the DVD Moggy's Yuki. Mr Major (Moggy) Sumner received the Award on behalf of the SEAFG.

Clockwise from top left: AWARD RECIPIENTS: Left to right: Delahay Miller, Murray George, Tarita Chester, Ajay Nguyen, Paul Tanner. YOUNG MALE OF THE YEAR: Delahay Miller is a year 12 student at Rostrevor College and member of the Rostrevor College Indigenous Sports Academy. As a Prefect, he has inspired his peers and represented Rostrevor College at a number of significant events. He is pictured with Dr Roger Thomas. SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR: Ajay Nguyen is 7 years' old with Aboriginal, Vietnamese and English heritage. He has won many gold medals in Taekwondo at a State and interstate level. He is pictured with Dr Alice Rigney. PERSON OF THE YEAR (JOINT AWARD): Paul Tanner is a proud Arabunna man. Paul is employed by the Courts Administration Authority in Port Augusta. Over 10 year ago, Paul and others established "Males in Black" (MiB), an Aboriginal men's support group. He is pictured with Dr Alice Rigney.

Wanganeen quits top Aboriginal post

Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement, Klynton Wanganeen has resigned from his post citing a lack of resources and interest from government ministers.

Mr Wanganeen is reported to have said that Indigenous leaders in remote communities were weighed down with excessive red-tape.

He is also reported to have said that the portfolio of Aboriginal Affairs should rest with the Premier to give it higher priority.

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Grace Portolesi said Commissioner Wanganeen had advisedher that he did not wish to be reappointed to the position after his latest contract expired.

"Commissioner Thomas continues in her role and arrangements have been made to fill Commissioner Wanganeen's position. The details will be announced shortly," said Minister Portolesi.

"I have found Commissioner Wanganeen to be an excellent advocate for Aboriginal people over the time that we have worked together and we have had a productive and professional working relationship," she said.

Commissioner Wanganeen was first appointed in January 2008. A Narungga-Ngarrindjeri man, is he a former ATSIC SA Zone Commissioner and has a long history as an advocate for Aboriginal Affairs.

Above: Commissioners Khatija Thomas (left) and Klynton Wanganeen.

Captains' Forum focuses on making sport accessible

The Federal Minister for Sport, Mark Arbib has welcomed members of the 2011 Captains' Forum to the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence in Redfern, Sydney as they discuss issues facing Australian sport.

Captains and leading players from more than 30 sports gathered to consider their role as leaders and highlight how leadership on and off the field can be a key factor in making sport inclusive for all Australians, in particular Indigenous Australians.

"It is fantastic to see so many of our sporting captains and leaders take part in the forum," Senator Arbib said.

"All the leaders at the forum have experienced different journeys to success and today provided an opportunity for them to share their stories and learn from others.

"The Captains' Forum will focus on initiatives that support safe, fair and inclusive sporting environments as well as the importance of making sport accessible to everyone, especially young Indigenous children.

"The forum is a partnership between the Sport Australia Hall of Fame, the Australian Government and national sporting organisations and is the initiative of John Eales and John Bertrand AM who believe in the importance of sporting leaders coming together to discuss issues facing Australian sport."

Senator Arbib said a particular focus of the forum was discussion of the Learn. Earn. Legend! program which uses sporting role models to encourage Indigenous children to stay in school and work hard so they can go on to good jobs or further study.

"Many sports represented today already work with the Government with their own Learn. Earn. Legend! programs," Senator Arbib said.

"The significance of sport for young Indigenous Australians is extremely important and it is fantastic the all the sports represented here today recognise this."

NCIE CEO Jason Glanville said he was looking forward to hosting Captains' Forum with the Australian Government.

"We look forward to working with the captains and National Sporting Organisations to ensure they continue to grow their engagement with young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians," Mr Glanville said.

The Captains' Forum initiative builds on the Australian Government's additional investment of $44 million over four years to boost participation in sport.

Further information can be obtained by calling 1300 363 079.

Excessive Incarceration subject of Conference

A national conference will be held in Adelaide in December on the "Excessive Incarceration of Aboriginal People".

The conference is being hosted by Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement.

ALRM has advocated long and hard for the early intervention and prevention, justice reinvestment and restorative programs for Aboriginal people in South Australia.

The United Nations Human Rights Committee and other UN Agencies continue to express concern about Australia and its continued mistreatment of Aboriginal people, and in particular the continuing denial of access to justice and excessive incarceration rates of Aboriginal people throughout the country.

Among the speakers at the conference are Klynton Wanganeen, Gracelyn Smallwood and Robyn Layton.

The conference is being held at the Hilton Hotel on 14–15 December 2011.

$1m bequest to benefit kids in South Australia

Aboriginal Children and young people in South Australia are set to benefit from a $1 million bequest to one of Australia's largest not-for-profit community services providers.

Life Without Barriers, the largest non-government provider of out of home care services in the country, established the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Fund to support programs and activities of direct benefit to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and young people across Australia, in line with the wishes of the donor.

In early October, seven young Aboriginal people participated in a cultural camp that brought them together with Aboriginal elders, and allowed them to learn about Aboriginal culture and heritage and participate in a number of cultural activities.

"When Aboriginal children and young people come into care, their connections to culture, family, language, knowledge, traditions and customs can all be impacted. For many young people, separation from culture fundamentally impacts their wellbeing, and results in profound negative consequences throughout their lives," said Malcolm Gollan, Life Without Barriers Spokesperson.

"As part of the camp, these kids will get the opportunity to experience and learn about Aboriginal cultures whilst living in an Aboriginal community setting in the Flinders Ranges. The kids will learn about art and cultural practices of the area, visit traditional Aboriginal sites, learn about local plants, wildlife and traditional bush food, local language and the Aboriginal history of the area.

"The wellbeing of Aboriginal children and young people is intrinsically linked to knowing, valuing and taking pride in their culture. Promoting connections to culture, land and history helps these young people to maintain a strong sense of who they are, having a positive impact on their lives."

Above: Left to right: Life Without Barriers employees Vickey Charles – Co-Chair of the SA RAP Implementation Committee, Kerri Clarke – National Reconciliation Program Manager, Malcolm Gollan – South Australia Manager for Aboriginal Policies and Programs, Sarah Jaekel – Co-Chair of the SA RAP Implementation Committee and Jane Longbottom – SA State Director.

The Aboriginal Soccer Tribe

Sports lovers will find this story, The Aboriginal Soccer Tribe, quite interesting.

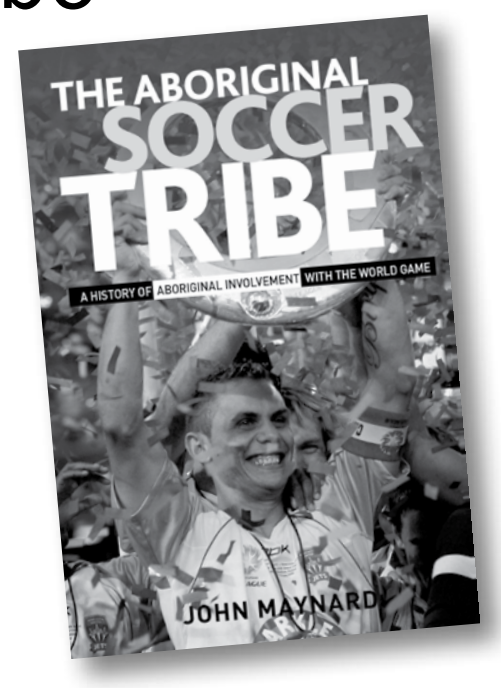
The Aboriginal Soccer Tribe is the largely untold story of Aboriginal involvement in the 'world game'.

The acceptance that Aboriginal players found within the post-World War II migrant communities had a pround impact on their lives. The multicultural environment of Australian soccer provided them with a haven from the prejudice and racism of wider Australian society.

Interweaving personal stories and extensive research with links to the broader Indigenous world community, Maynard's book is a celebration of the extraordinary journey taken by Aboriginal sportsmen and women to forge the way ahead for the present crop of talented players.

John Maynard is a Worimi man from the Port Stephens region of NSW. He is Professor of Indigenous Studies and Director of the Wollotuka Institute of Aboriginal Studies at the University of Newcastle. He is Deputy Chairperson of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS).

The book is available in bookshops and online from www.magabala.com

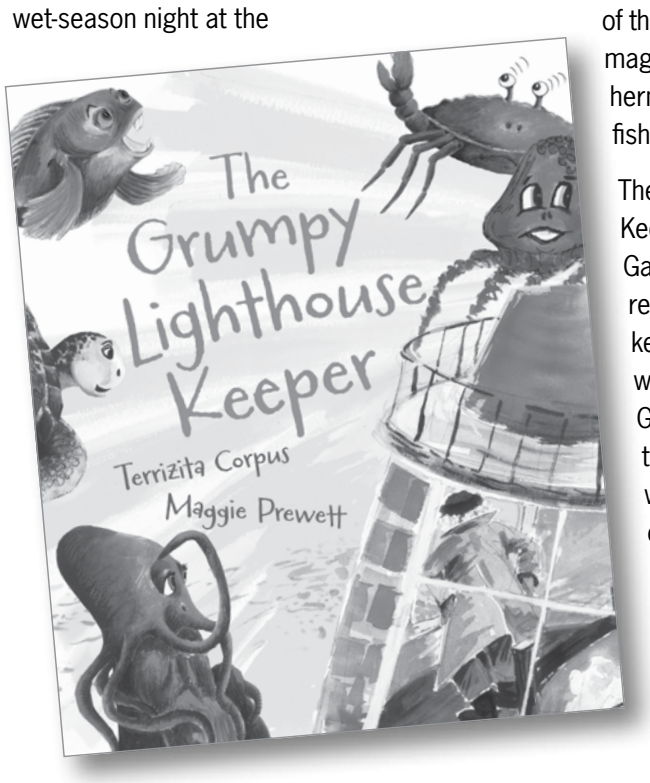


The Grumpy Lighthouse Keeper

A delightful new book for children has been released by Magabala books.

Called the Grumpy Lighthouse Keeper, the story takes place on a stormy wet-season night at the Gantheaume Point Lighthouse, in Broome, in Western Australia.

Beautiful illustrations bring to life the excitement of the storm and details some of the sea creatures that live in this magical part of the world – the hermit crab, jellyfish, bluebone fish, octopus and turtle.



The Grumpy Lighthouse Keeper is inspired by the iconic Gantheaume Point and the remains of the old lighthouse keeper's house on the edge of world-renowned Cable Beach. Gantheaume Point attracts thousands of tourists each year with its ancient rock formations, dinosaur footprints and historical references.

The author, Terrizita Corpus is an enthusiastic storyteller descended from the local Yawuru people of Broome. She has drawn her inspiration from Broome's local history and landscape.

Having worked as an Aboriginal Teaching Assistant for many years, Terrizita took a great interest in literature and educational tools for children.

Now employed to facilitate an early childhood literacy programme in Broome, Terrizita decided to write and create a book that could be used in schools.

The illustrator, Maggie Prewett is a descendent of the Ngarluma people of the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

She is a well-known Broome artist having lived in the town since the mid-1970s.

Maggie illustrated her first book, The Old Frangipani Tree at Flying Fish Point in 2008.

The Grumpy Lighthouse Keeper is available in bookshops or online at www.magabala.com

Jandamarra and the Bunuba Resistance

Jandamarra is a legend, forever etched into the history of the Australian landscape. This book, tells the story of the great Aboriginal resistance fighter, Jandamarra.

Set in the Kimberley outback during the late nineteenth century, the last stage of Australia's invasion is about to be played out in the lands of the Bunuba people.

Leases are marked across Aboriginal country covering huge areas and vast herds of cattle and sheep. Amidst the chaos and turmoil that develops, extraordinary and sometimes contradictory relationships develop.

Public interest in the Jandamarra story is growing. A docu-drama screened on the ABC in May, 2011 and the Jandamarra stage play was a sell-out at the 2008 Perth International Arts Festival.

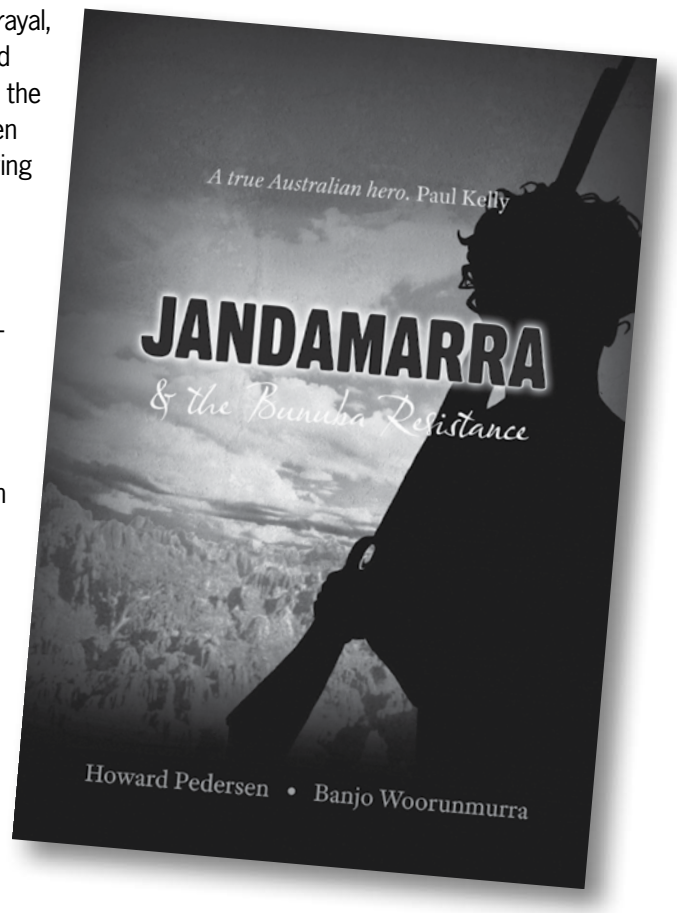
Jandamarra died on his own soil defending his country. A true Australian hero.

His story has it all – blood, betrayal, sex, war, family, mateship and magic; history that speaks to the present day. Howard Pedersen tells it beautifully, deftly weaving the many threads.

Jandamarra and the Bunuba Resistance is a powerful collaboration between a non-Indigenous historian and the Indigenous custodian of the Jandamarra story.

The editor, Howard Pedersen was a university student when he first sourced material for his thesis on Jandamarra. He has since worked with a range of Aboriginal organisations and government departments.

Jandamarra can be bought online at www.magabala.com



in review

Our column in review features reviews and stories on Aboriginal writers, artists and musicians. We welcome your feedback and suggestions. So if you know of a new work about to published or an artist or musician please contact us on (08) 8110 2800.

Aboriginal Heritage News

To recognise the importance of Heritage and Native Title being considered together, the Aboriginal Heritage Branch (AHB) of the Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division (AARD) will have a small section in this newspaper to address what we are doing about important issues.

The State Aboriginal Heritage Committee (SAHC) and the AHB are working closely with the Congress Heritage Sub-Committee and the South Australia Native Title Services (SANTS).

Government of South Australia

From the Chairperson

I thank you for taking the time to read my discussions concerning Aboriginal heritage and the activities of the State Aboriginal Heritage Committee (SAHC).

Firstly, I pay my respects to the families and loved ones of our people that have recently passed. We share your grief and sense of loss. It is particularly important that we mourn their loss but continue to carry out the work of our great people.

There is so much sadness within our communities that we have to remind ourselves to be proud of what we have achieved and for our very survival. Let's honour them and recognise the positive contributions made by our fallen warriors.

We have seen a great deal of activity in the area of Aboriginal cultural heritage protection in recent times although at times it seems that not much is happening. The SAHC continues to advance the cause of our people in trying to protect our cultural heritage in South Australia amid an environment of frustration at times.

Above: Syd Sparrow, Chairperson.

Syd Sparrow
Chairperson
State Aboriginal Heritage Committee

Register of Aboriginal sites and objects

It is really important for communities to understand the importance of having site information on the Register of Aboriginal sites and objects.

In the Heritage Information Team we receive and respond to development, mining and exploration applications. Once received we are able to compare the applicant's project area with the Site Register to determine if there are any heritage sites within the project area. The response can fall into 2 categories:

- Yes, there are heritage sites. We then prepare a response letter advising the applicant that there are sites within their project area. This response includes a mud map that shows the *approximate* location and the type of site: Archeological, Anthropological, Historical or Traditional. This is the only site information contained in the letter. We also include Traditional Owner (TO) information for the applicant to contact for further information. The TO details are sourced directly from the site card or Heritage Committee contact list.
- No, there are no heritage sites listed on the Register located in the project area. There may still be sites present and these sites are still protected under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*.

This reiterates how vital it is that we have heritage sites recorded on the Register. If we are sending out 'no sites on the Register' letters, when in fact there are sites on country, there is a higher potential for applicants and pastoralists to unknowingly damage or disturb these sites.

I would like to extend an open invitation to all communities to come and visit our office, meet the staff and check the information that we contain is up to date.

Please contact the Heritage Information Team by telephoning 8226 8900 to make an arrangement.

This section sponsored by the State Government of South Australia

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Indigenous Scholarships 2011

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, with the Australian Institute of Company Directors, is pleased to offer scholarships for Indigenous Australians and Indigenous organisations working in the Agriculture, Fisheries or Forestry industries.

Three Individual Scholarships will be awarded to three Indigenous Australians involved in agriculture, fisheries or forestry industries, to undertake the highly regarded Company Directors Course. The scholarships include full course fees for either a residential course over 5 days, or any of the public courses scheduled in various capital cities. A full course description and schedule is available at www.companydirectors.com.au/CDC

Three Organisational Scholarships will be awarded to three Indigenous organisations involved in agriculture, fisheries or forestry industries to undertake an In Boardroom course from Company Directors. The Program will allow the whole board and/or senior executive team to undertake tailored corporate governance professional development.

The Community Networks and Capacity Building (CNCB), a component of Australia's Farming Future, aims to build the leadership and representative capacity of Indigenous Australians to strengthen community resilience and the productivity of primary industries to climate change.

Applications for the Scholarships close 30 September 2011

Company Directors Course for Indigenous Australians
The Company Directors Course is a comprehensive program focused on the role, duties and responsibilities of directors. This highly focused and interactive five-day course creates a greater understanding of the role and responsibilities of a director, as well as the opportunity to network with peers from across Australia.

In Boardroom Course Delivery for Indigenous Organisations
The Australian Institute of Company Directors offers a range of tailored solutions for entire boards or senior executive teams. Delivered at a venue, time and location of the selected Indigenous organisation's choice, the focus, format, content and length of the program is determined through consultation.

The Australian Institute of Company Directors
We have over 30 years' experience in developing director programs and is a world leader in director and board development – for directors by directors.

For further information visit www.companydirectors.com.au For more information or to request a scholarship application package contact Phil Butler, State Manager ACT telephone: (02) 6248 5954 or email: pbutler@companydirectors.com.au

This project is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry under Australia's Farming Future.

Heritage Information Team Projects

Staff from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division (DPC-AARD) Aboriginal Heritage Branch (AHB) Heritage Information Team have been out of the office on occasion over the last few months helping to record and verify Aboriginal heritage sites using Global Positioning System (GPS) and digital Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. It is important that even our technical staff have time on country, as when they return to an office environment, they have a better understanding of the significance of these sites to Aboriginal communities.

Justin Wearne, Senior Heritage Information Officer of the Heritage Information Team helped conduct a workshop with the Gawler Ranges mob and staff from South Australian Native Title Services (SANTS). The purpose of the workshop was to engage with community on a project to record rock water holes, which are important heritage sites to the Gawler ranges Aboriginal people.

Tim Rogers, Registrar of the Heritage Information Team and Peter Birt, Heritage Officer of the Heritage Information Team in conjunction with staff from the Adelaide Mount Loft Ranges (AMLR) Natural Resources Management Board (NRM) conducted a series of two-day workshops involving

a presentation on the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*, background information on the Central Archive and the geographic database of Aboriginal heritage sites, as well a information about when and how to search the Register of Aboriginal heritage sites. These presentations were aimed at NRM and Council staff who work on landscape restoration projects on coastal sites throughout South Australia. Day two includes a visit to archaeological sites south of Adelaide accompanied by Kaurna representative Mr Paul Dixon.

Perry Langeberg and Peter Birt also had the opportunity of participating in a field survey with the Wirangu Native Title group. Based at Streaky Bay, AHB staff along with Wirangu community members worked long days out on country to capture, verify and record heritage sites. During this survey various existing sites were visited and accurate GPS coordinates were taken for a more precise record of Wirangu heritage to be added to the Central Archive. During this work on country an amazing example of a Wirangu fish trap was located and recorded.

Archaeologists, anthropologists, consultants, cultural heritage employees and the Government all utilise maps, GPS and GIS to help them record and look after heritage sites throughout the state. This technology is also taught at AHB field schools, to encourage communities to map their own sites.

If you are interested in learning more about GIS technology, you are welcome to come into our office in Adelaide and staff will be more than willing to show you the basics of GIS and how we use maps to display data about Aboriginal Heritage.

For more information please contact the Heritage Information Management Team by telephoning 8226 8900.

Aboriginal Heritage Branch

If you have a question about heritage or want to be on our mailing list you can contact us via the people listed below.

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This section sponsored by the State Government of South Australia

in memory

Passing of Aboriginal Elder Matthew Rigney

Aboriginal elder and chair of the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority Inc, Matthew Rigney passed away on August 18 in Meningie.

After completing a Degree in Social Sciences from the South Australian Institute of Technology and a Management Certificate at the Australian Institute of Management, Mr Rigney had a varied professional career.

He worked in Aboriginal Community Welfare, Education, Youth Affairs, Sport, Employment and Training, Natural Resource Management, Community Development and Native Title. For over a decade he worked at Camp Coorong: Race Relations and Cultural Education Centre as a cultural and political educator.

Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement, Klynton Wanganeen said the passing of Mr Rigney was a huge loss to the Aboriginal community.

"Mr Rigney took up every opportunity to fight for the rights of Aboriginal people. He was a true leader and was heavily involved in numerous advocacy groups," said Mr Wanganeen.

His passion for politics and the rights of the Aboriginal community saw him Chair the Patpa Warra Yunti Regional Council of the Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Commission. He was also a member of the Ngarrindjeri nation leadership group who meet directly with State and Federal Ministers to advocate for rights, justice, fairness and equality for Ngarrindjeri and Aboriginal people in general.

"He will be greatly missed for his membership on numerous committees and his enormous contribution to Indigenous affairs locally, nationally and internationally," said Mr Wanganeen.

He was Chairman of Ngarrindjeri Native Title Management Committee, Member of the Tendi – Ngarrindjeri Governing Body and Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations Representative on The Living Murray's Community Reference Group.

In recent years he has been a tireless advocate for Indigenous rights to water.

Commissioner Khatija Thomas said Mr Rigney also had artistic flair.

"He designed the famous Ngarrindjeri Flag, which was flown for the first time on Kumarangk (Hindmarsh Island) in 1999," said Ms Thomas.

"His charismatic leadership style, sense of humour and unwavering commitment to the rights of our people made him an inspiration and role model to myself and many generations," said Ms Thomas.

Mr Rigney also coached Raukkan to a number of championships in the Aboriginal football carnivals during the 80s and 90s.

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Hon Grace Portolesi MP, said that Mr Rigney was an important leader in the Ngarrindjeri community who held strong values about Aboriginal culture and heritage.

"He worked tirelessly towards protecting the Coorong in particular, and sharing cultural knowledge with others to help improve land management practices in this fragile eco-environment. Mr Rigney will be sadly missed," said the Minister.

Passing of Aboriginal Elder Malcolm Anderson

Aboriginal communities in the South East of South Australia, today farewelled much loved Nukunu Elder, Malcolm Anderson.

Commissioners for Aboriginal Engagement, Klynton Wanganeen and Khatija Thomas said his passing is a huge loss to the South East community.

"He was committed to helping the South East community in so many ways and for the past 20 years he has been a highly respected, positive role model for the Aboriginal youth in the region," said Mr Wanganeen.

He was past Chairperson and a regular visitor of Pangula Mannamurna, an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation in Mount Gambier. Chief Executive Officer, Ms Karen Glover, said Mr Anderson had a sense of humour, was loved by all and will be sadly missed.

Mr Anderson was also past Chairperson of the South East Nungas Club and taught and worked with the Aboriginal Dance Group.

He would regularly visit local schools and do storytelling and was Chairperson of the South Australian Aboriginal Education Consultative Board, Department of Education and Children's Services.

"Mr Anderson believed that everyone deserved a second chance and he worked with young offenders and prisoners and was well known by the local council and government agencies in South East ", said Ms Thomas.

He was a political activist and had concerns about the quality of life for Aboriginal people and just before his death he was planning a visit to meet with the Prime Minister to discuss Closing the Gap.

Affectionately known in the South East as "Wombat", it was his role as a radio announcer and DJ on 5GRT Radio, 'Deadly Sound', Mount Gambier, that gave him his nickname. "He even had his own fan club", said Mr Wanganeen.

Mr Anderson was a man of many talents. He was a football umpire and coach, he was in a three piece band and he would often entertain aged care groups and people with disabilities.

He was actively involved in Reconciliation and has received numerous awards in recognition to his contribution in Aboriginal Affairs.

Former judge Ted Mullighan dies

Former South Australian judge Ted Mullighan, QC, a champion of Aboriginal rights and reconciliation has died.

Justice Mullighan was widely respected, especially for his sensitive handling of stories of alleged abuse during the Children in State Care Commission and the abuse of children on the APY Lands.

He was dedicated to rehabilitating criminals, protecting the vulnerable and reconciliation.

Premier Mike Rann said Mr Mullighan was a man of great humanity, patience and commitment.

"…Ted was an early supporter of innovation in the sentencing of Aboriginal defendants and was a prominent promoter of Aboriginal reconciliation," said Premier Rann.

He is survived by his wife, Jan and five sons. He was 72.

paper tracker

The Anangu Lands Paper Tracker is an online project of Uniting Care Wesley, Adelaide.

The website tracks government commitments to Anangu (Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara people). It publishes accurate, up-to-date information on projects and services that are important to Anangu.

The Paper Tracker aims to make it easier for Anangu to work with governments as equal partners. It helps Anangu make sure governments are following through on commitments.

Aboriginal Way will assist Paper Tracker by highlighting some of the issues it is following.

If you want more information on any of these items log on to www.papertracker.com.au

State Plan: Anangu public sector numbers

posted 16 September 2011

South Australia's Strategic Plan has been updated. As part of this process, a target to increase the number of Aboriginal people employed within the State's public service has been amended. Specifically, the Government has extended the timeframe for achieving this target until 2014. Last year, the Paper Tracker asked the State Government for an update on the number of Anangu who are employed as public servants. Despite numerous follow-up requests, this information has not been provided.

APY Lands: 'Substandard' family centres

posted 15 September 2011

In mid 2008, the Mullighan Inquiry into child sexual abuse on the APY Lands highlighted the critical importance of community-based family centres. Recently, the Federal and State Governments acknowledged that these centres are "substandard" and "in extremely poor condition."

Mullighan Inquiry: Court facilities on the APY Lands (Recommendation 45)

posted 15 September 2011

More than three years ago, the South Australian Government received almost $5 million to build a court and administrative complex on the APY Lands. The planned complex was never built. Earlier this week, the Australian and South Australian Governments announced that the unspent funding would now be used to establish Family Wellbeing Centres in three APY communities.

Aboriginal wellbeing: prices in Anangu stores

posted 8 September 2011

High store prices in remote communities are continuing to undermine efforts to improve the wellbeing of Anangu families. Last week, a packet of disposable nappies that sells for under $14 in Adelaide cost more than $30 on the APY Lands.

Mullighan Inquiry: child protection workers (Recommendation 34)

posted 8 September 2011

In early 2009, as a response to the Mullighan Inquiry, the State Government appointed two child protection officers to work on the APY Lands. In July 2010, one of the positions became vacant. More than a year later, this position has not been filled.

APY Lands: State Government Reports

posted 26 August 2011

The South Australian Government has not updated its Progress on the APY Lands report for almost three years. Earlier today, the Government advised the Paper Tracker that the report is "currently being reviewed and updated". The Government expects to release the updated report in November 2011 and thereafter publish a new edition every six months.

Pukatja: Access to the internet

posted 7 August 2011

In mid 2009, both the State and Federal Governments agreed to work on improving public access to the internet in remote Aboriginal communities. Two years later, neither level of government appears to know when public internet access will become available in Pukatja, South Australia's largest Aboriginal community.

APY Lands: Substance misuse facility

posted 12 July 2011

The substance misuse facility in Amata has rarely been used for its intended purpose. Last week, the Australian Senate passed a resolution calling on the Federal Government to assess the possibility of converting the facility into a community-based haemodialysis facility. The Senate also asked that this assessment be completed by the end of the year.

APY Lands: Solar power station

posted 4 July 2011

Three years ago, the State and Federal Governments spent $1.2 million upgrading the Umuwa solar power station. Last week, the State Government confirmed that the facility – which has not worked for well over a year – will be "mothballed."

The matters listed above are just a sample of the types of issues being followed by Paper Tracker.

If you'd like to know more you can contact them on (08) 202 5867 or subscribe to their newsletter by at www.papertracker.com.au

Getting job seekers ready for work in remote communities

The Australian Government is continuing to support Indigenous people in remote communities to get training and find work, providing $47 million for Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) across the country.

Fifty-eight CDEP providers will share in the funding to deliver training and mentoring, as well as funding local community projects that provide work experience for Indigenous job seekers and benefit the wider community.

The Minister for Families and Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin, announced the additional funding on a visit to the CDEP project, Bamaga Farm, in Cape York.

"A job provides much more than just a pay packet. It gives people purpose and pride. It also provides stability in people's lives. That's why I want to see people getting the support they need to get training and work experience to get a job," Ms Macklin said.

"This investment will continue the good work of CDEP providers across Australia.

Across Australia Indigenous job seekers living in remote communities have access to a range of training opportunities through CDEP in areas such as horticulture, youth training, hospitality, mining, building and construction, conservation and land management and mechanics.

By giving job seekers marketable skills required for jobs in their region, these projects help people get ready to take up employment when it becomes available.

In South Australia, the CDEP Providers are the Bungala Aboriginal Corporation, the Bungala Aboriginal Cosporation – APY Lands, Oak Valley (Maralinga) Inc, Scotdesco In, Tjutjunaka Work Tjuta Inc and Yalata Community Incorporated.

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The Editor has the final decision on all stories and advertising that appear in this publication.

Native Title National Report Card

The Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth) (NTA) provides for the filing of various native title-related applications. As at 30 June 2011 there were 471 current applications comprising:

- 443 native title claimant applications
- 19 native title non-claimant applications
- eight native title compensation applications and
- one revised native title determination application.

Fifteen new claimant applications were filed between 1 January and 30 June 2011. This compares with 45 claimant applications filed during the period 1 July – 30 December 2010.

During the period 1 January – 30 June 2011, 30 claimant applications were determined, discontinued or dismissed as follows:

- five applications were resolved following determinations of native title
- 19 applications were discontinued
- four applications were dismissed (none under section 190F(6) NTA) and
- two applications were combined to form a new application.

Another 12 determinations that native title exists were made in that period but are not included in the above figures because they are awaiting the determination of prescribed bodies corporate.

This above data represents a significant increase in the disposition rate when compared with the period 1 July – 31 December 2010, during which 17 claims were also determined, dismissed or otherwise disposed of by the Federal Court (Court).

Disposition of native title applications since 1994

Native title determinations
Between 1 January 1994 (when the NTA came into effect) and 30 June 2011, 160 determinations of native title were registered under the NTA. Those determinations were in respect of a total of 187 applications (153 claimant applications, 33 non-claimant applications and one compensation application).

Of the 160 determinations:

- 119 were determinations that native title exists over the whole or part of the determination area
- 41 were determinations that native title does not exist.

During the NTA's operation, determinations that native title exists have been made in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria, the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

A total of 108 determinations have been made by consent of the parties.

Most of the determinations that native title does not exist have been made in New South Wales in non-claimant proceedings.

At 30 June 2011, registered determinations of native title covered some 1,228,373 sq km or approximately 16 per cent of the land mass of Australia. A further three conditional determinations, all that native title exists, are also in the system. They will increase the area to about 1,253,161 sq km or 16.3 per cent.

There were 497 registered indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs) covering 1,234,129 sq km or approximately 16 per cent of the land mass of Australia and 5,435 sq km over sea (below the high water mark).

Maps showing the locations of native title determinations and ILUAs may be found on the Tribunal's website: www.nntt.gov.au

*This information was supplied by the National Native Title Tribunal.

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