



MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Meeting Number: 57/2015

Held: 8 – 10 December 2015, Cobar NSW

Welcome

Chairperson Sam Jeffries opened and welcomed the members to the 57th Regional Assembly Meeting.

FACs Integrated Service Delivery Model

Gargi Ganguly from Department of Family and Community Services provided an overview on the Integrated Service Delivery Model. FACs consulted with community seeking input to establish a co-created service system. The objectives of implementing a Integrated Service Delivery Model is to improve agency responsiveness to client's needs, ensure no client "falls between the gaps", allows clients to have an accessible and navigable service system, clearly articulated service pathways for clients, clients have a single comprehensive cross agency plan, effective and support cross agency Collaboration and streamlined processes and seamless delivery of services. Prime Minister and Cabinet

Indigenous Business Australia

Alex Noble from Indigenous Business Australia delivered an information session on the Remote Indigenous Home Loan (RIHL) which provides access to financial assistance for Indigenous home buyers in nominated remote locations.

Key features of the Remote Indigenous Home Loan includes:

- Low deposit requirements - \$1500 for RIHL approved customers or \$3000 for approved home loan not under the RIHL scheme.
- Low interest's rates (4%)
- There are also two grants available subject to approval, the first one is the Establishment Cost Grant – for approved ROHL applicants will receive a grant up to \$13,000 to assist in meeting establishment costs with purchasing a home. The second grant is the Remote Indigenous Home Buyer Grant – some properties may require repairs or maintenance. Subject to approval and eligibility, a grant of \$20,000 for repairs and maintenance.

For further information, please visit <http://www.iba.gov.au/RIHL> or call 1800 107 107.

Department of Premier and Cabinet

Alison Morgan from the Department of Premier and Cabinet presented the third Accord progress report to the members. Alison stated that the second meeting of the Murdi Paaki Accord Task Group meet on Monday, 23 November 2015 to finalise the latest progress report. Representation of the meeting included the following agencies: Department of Premier and Cabinet, Aboriginal Affairs, Public Works, TAFE, Department of Family and Community Services, the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Alison provided a snapshot of the progress of the Accord Priority Objectives:

Affordable and Appropriate Housing

Indigenous Business Australia have held workshops in Bourke, Coonamble, Walgett, Brewarrina and Lightning Ridge and will be attending the Assembly Meeting in December.

FACs are on track in conducting a research project on the 'Rent to Buy' Scheme.

The AHO is continuing to work with ACHPs to develop and sign service level agreements to utilise pathways.

The LAHC maintenance contracts are expected to be announced mid-December 2015 with the expectation to “go live” of the contracts in April 2016. Once identified, the successful contractors will be invited to meet with the local Community Working Party.

A review of the current tenancy management arrangements are due to be completed by the end of December 2015.

The Assembly have formally requested to re-open Accord negotiations to explore the development of a joint State Government-MPRA regional housing strategy. This requested was triggered by the current NPARIH consultations between State and Federal Government. Aboriginal Affairs are coordinating the re-convening of negotiations.

Economic Development

The Far West Aboriginal Mining Committee has been established and is meeting as required. Work to scope the viability of a system for recording and tracking the pipeline of NSW and Commonwealth Government has commenced and a paper will be completed by March 2016.

Department of Premier and Cabinet are reviewing the Regional Tourism Strategy and are working on a Project Plan that will be completed by February 2016.

Aboriginal Affairs are developing a detailed schedule of planned visits with communities by February 2016 to workshop what economic development means in the Murdi Paaki.

Education

In August and September, Suspension workshops were held in Goodooga, Lightning Ridge, Collarenebri and Bourke.

Requests have been made to all agencies in Accord to sit on working group for the Review of the existing Working with Children Checks (WWCCs) process. DPC will be sending letters to all CWP Chairs to request that they identify the issues with obtaining WWCCs.

Work to identify participants for the Adult literacy course has progressed in Brewarrina but progress in other sites are slow. TAFE will continue to work with communities on this.

Early Childhood

Lead Officer is in the process of finalising the Response Plan and issue Request for Quotation to engage a consultant to conduct workshops with agencies, service providers and MPRA.

Governance Capacity & Support

Strategic and Communication Plans have been development and endorsed by the Assembly.

Aboriginal Affairs continue to provide support to the MPRA. Work has commenced to assist with MRPA to understand budgets and the budget built has commenced with NSW Treasury. Sam Jeffries is part of the Working Group alongside DPC, PM&C and AA.

NSW Aboriginal Housing Office

CEO of NSW Aboriginal Housing Office, Shane Hamilton stated that the AHO owns approximately 5700 properties throughout NSW. Around 700 houses are managed by Aboriginal housing providers, 200 houses are managed by non-Aboriginal housing providers and the remainder of managed by Housing NSW.

Shane stated that one of the AHO goals is for Aboriginal Housing Providers to manage more AHO housing stock. By 2022, the aim is the Aboriginal Housing Providers will be responsible for managing all of the AHO properties.

NSW Aboriginal Affairs

Julie Blackhall started that the Department of Family & Community Services have given a \$50,000 grant for the Murdi Paaki Young & Emerging Leaders. Rebecca Suckling and Tegan Hinchey are the support the Murdi Paaki Young Leaders. In January Mr Gerry (Chika) Merit will be visiting communities to identify with young leaders local project that will be funded \$1k to \$1500.

It was identified that the previous auspice for the MPRA, had additional funds left over from the previous financial year, Aboriginal Affairs and working with the Bre Business Centre to transfer funds to the new auspice body Maari Ma Health.

Tenant and Support Education Project

Danika Tonna provided an update to the members on the progress Tenant Support and Education Project which has been established to support Aboriginal housing tenants to strengthen and sustain their tenancies through the provision of community education, case management, service collaboration and community engagement.

Since September 2014, 4403 newsletters have been distributed throughout the region. A survey conducted showed that 88% of readers found the newsletter has helpful and 58% of readers gained knowledge about services available.

In 2015, 10 Community Kick Off events had been held with 941 people in attendance. As part of the Case Management, Danika stated that as of 1, September 2015 that clients had reduced their rental arrears by \$20,826. There have been 5 Commonwealth Rent Assistance Days held within the Region with 93 people accessed support and information, 47 of those participants now receiving accurate CRA which resulted in \$13,700 in back pay.

The Tenant Support and Education Project is funded until 30 June 2016.

Indigenous Land Corporation

ILC Eastern Divisional Manager, Tricia Button stated that the ILC was celebrating in their 20 years and that they had just launched the Our Land, Our Future program. There are currently 14 properties in the Murdi Paaki Region. 20% of all ILC properties are divested to Aboriginal communities. Tricia stated that the ILC are focused on economic development for the Aboriginal population. The ILC Board of Directors are embarking on a strategic planning process that will focus on:

- Maximising the productivity of existing Indigenous held land
- Assisting prescribe body corporates in land management activities following native title determination
- Providing protection of land and cultural & environmental values
- Developing social and cultural enterprises
- Assisting land management projects that bring regions together.

Murdi Paaki Regional Plan

Cliff and Judith from Burns Aldis have been engaged to develop a Regional Plan for the Murdi Paaki Region. The Regional Plan has been developed utilising the last three regional plans and local community action plans. Burns Aldis analysed additional information which included population, economic geography, early childhood, law and justice and housing, infrastructure and environment.

The Regional Plan is 90% complete.

Bourke Community

Lillian Lucas and Jamie Moore, Murdi Paaki Young Leaders from Bourke presented a snapshot of life for Aboriginal Children & Young People which showcases collated data from 2013-14 based on young people living in from the Bourke Community on behalf of Alistair Ferguson. For more information, please contact Vivian at Maranguka on (02) 5834 7915.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Will Swain and Mylisa Smith stated that the ABS Census will be commencing in August 2016. There are employment opportunities that will be advertised in early 2016 to assist in conducting the Census in the Murdi Paaki Region.