

MINUTES OF THE 36th MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

HELD ON 15th – 17th February, 2011 at Cobar Golf & Bowling Club, 9.00am - 5.00pm

MPRA members in Attendance	Mr Alistair Ferguson, Acting Chair, Regional Assembly Ms Joan Evans, Cobar Community Working Party Mr Norman Hall Collarenebri Community Working Party Mr Ted Fernando, Coonamble Community Working Party Mr Allan Lamb, Goodooga Community Working Party Ms Fay Johnstone, Ivanhoe Community Working Party Mr Des Jones, Wentworth/Dareton Community Working Party Ms Cheryl Johnstone, Menindee Community Working Party Mr William Bates, Wilcannia Community Working Party Mr Allan Cobb, Lightning Ridge Community Working Party Ms Jeanette Barker, Brewarrina Community Working Party Mr Luke Brown, Weilmoringle Community Working Party Ms Maureen O'Donnell, Broken Hill CWP
Guests	Mr Tom Warren Manager – Dubbo ICC Mr James Christian, Chief Executive, AANSW Mr Brian Stacey, State Manager, FaHCSIA Ms Gerry Crawley, RPO, AANSW Ms Julie Blackhall Acting Regional Manager, AANSW Ms Anjali Palmer, Area Manager, Greater Western - AANSW

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Apologies	<p>Ms Christine Hooper, Goodooga CWP Mr Ted Fernando, Coonamble CWP (Wed, Thurs) Ms Christine Corby, Walgett CWP Mr William Bates, Wilcannia CWP (Thurs) Mrs Fay Johnstone, Ivanhoe CWP (Thurs) MOVED: That apologies be accepted Moved: Mr Des Jones Seconded: Mrs Fay Johnstone CARRIED</p> <p>(Letter to be sent to Walgett CWP stressing importance of a representative attending) Mr Fernando praised for his representation of Walgett on the Assembly. Issue of Enngonia not attending also raised. The Chair will follow up with the two communities.</p>
Chair of the Meeting	Mr Alistair Ferguson
Minutes Taken By	Mr Bill Palmer, Brewarrina Business Centre (Minutes and Exec Support)

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Issue & Discussion	Action
<p>Welcome All members welcomed to this meeting</p>	
<p>Minutes Silence</p>	
<p>1. Confirmation of Agenda Agenda was confirmed</p>	<p>MOVED: That the Agenda be accepted.</p> <p>Moved: Ms Jenny Barker Seconded: Mr Des Jones CARRIED</p>
<p>2. FaHCSIA/DAA/AHO AHO – Mr Ivan Simon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AHO – Mr Simon outlined changes in AHO’s structure and operations. Reform issues were spelt out at AHO Forum. Fact sheets distributed. Concern raised at definition of Rural and remote and how this excludes remote centres who still contain significantly disadvantage Aboriginal communities. • Build & Grow – DoH will not be involved, may need to use mainstream provider for headlease arrangement if Aboriginal provider not available who has passed Provider Assessment & Registration System (PARS). Question raised at Forum which still hasn’t been answered which is if properties are headleased, can the owner organisation use the assets to mortgage properties to build new housing. PARS registration is ongoing and required every three years. Five year minimum under the headlease. AHO’s intent is to develop capacity in local organisations to receive PARS registration. No restriction when under headlease to obtain other funding from other sources. AHO will attend housing provider meetings and provide them with all details necessary to make an informed decision. New thinking is that Government will support community housing in terms of rental/maintenance support. Issue of headleasing doesn’t cover airconditioning and unfortunately government policy doesn’t recognise the need. AHO fighting for it but not successful. MPRA invited to visit the NSW Federation of Housing Associations website (www.communityhousing.org.au) for information and resources. Concern raised at Goodooga circumstances. Question whether AHO insurance would cover and motor failures. Rental policy has been developed and includes rent calculators to ensure viability. Majority of policies developed except for operating subsidy policy. Planned for two regional forums and then a NSW state conference Sept/Oct 2011. • Answers – Answers to questions raised at Forum included in presentation. Further update requested for April meeting. Ask Mr Simon for what would like to be heard. • Other questions – Concerned raised re: Ivanhoes R&M contractors still not having finished works. <p>AANSW – Mr James Christian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RPA response – Joint response tabled – learnings are that RPAs are resource intensive. Partnership 	<p>TAKE IN IVAN’s PRESENTATIONS ACTION: Invite Remote Access definers to next MPRA meeting</p>

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<p>agreements is vital – particularly their participation at MPRA meetings. Evaluation must be driven by MPRA and be part of the feedback to the MPRA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New resources – FaHCSIA providing an additional \$100,000 and AANSW is providing PCPOs for another three years – a \$9m commitment. • Review of PCPO program – prepared by Cox Inall Ridgeway and was part of bid to Treasury – this program was only program in Maintenance of Effort bid that was successful before government going into caretaker mode. • New role – Mr Ferguson to be appointed as the Murdi Paaki Community Engagement Coordinator • New direction – need to engage NSWALC, Land Council’s and Local Government to ensure that RA and the Aboriginal sector are less vulnerable to a change of government. Concern raised regarding NSWALC and the need to work with CWPs who also represent non LALC members. Concern raised that the potential conflict of interest between being an independent chair and bureaucrat needs to be managed such that the Chair is not gagged. AANSW is seeking unfiltered advice about what is working and what is not – in fact not gagged but frank and fearless. Consensus that worth trialling the position for six months. • Discussion – re a regional organisation held in closed session. • Support of LALC system – chance to do something different in order to support the system and get maximum value for communities. • Discussion continued regarding the coordinator position - intent was that no chairperson be in a paid position thus the concern for someone in a paid position of government being chair. Agreement/PD needs to state that his role in Government does not interfere with his role as Chair ie. When he is in the chair he is a volunteer and cannot be censored and is allowed to be completely independent. Point of contention is independence. • Recommendations: That whilst this role is on RA business, such as RA meetings, the role is completely independent; Include all sixteen communities in brief; Change Greater Western to Murdi Paaki. • Question – what happens if change of Government. First question is do they still want Mr Christian in position. Frank discussion of what is working and what is not. Process to refresh the agreement – failure to continue with new agreement will be politically costly. • Remote Area definition/sub-groups/ Chair takes responsibility for changing agenda for having to forsake sub-groups for corporate engagement. Subgroups met this week and addressed Terms of reference and have committed to the dates. Update provided on subgroups/REG meetings with Health Forum in May and Justice Forum in June. Concern expressed regarding number one priority with the fishtraps – is being addressed by Regional Department. Question raised if we don’t have funding for fishtraps do we have funding for any other programs. Broken Hill issues are being looked at whatever ABS definitions say. FaHCSIA is working out 	<p>INCLUDE JOINT LETTER IN NEXT MINUTES</p> <p>INCLUDE STATEMENT OF DUTIES IN MINUTES</p> <p>Moved: That recommendations be accepted and reflected in the PD or Letter of appointment.</p> <p>Moved: Mr Des Jones Seconded: Mr Alan Cobb CARRIED</p> <p>(Motion carried without Mr Bates and Mr Lamb being present)</p>

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<p>what it is going to do to resolves the issues in BH. ABS Census is not accurately counting Aboriginal population or housing conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Closing the Gap – Large targets but no detail on how this will be achieved – working on detail around targets - these targets in a decade will not be achieved eg. Employment targets. Correlation of targets was also missing which has led to a strategy that defines what changes need to occur in Government for targets to be met and the second that early intervention and prevention measures need to be developed to prevent disadvantage occurring prior to child being born and increasing over the life span of the child into the next generation. Have worked with Price Waterhouse to determine the cost of disadvantage as a financial imperative. If you don't close the gap and don't meet year 12 targets the saving is \$165 million. \$3.1b is spent on delivering services to Aboriginal people. \$550,000 will be consumed by each Aboriginal person - \$8,000 on police, courts vs \$4,000 per person on education. Requests for more information made. Concern raised around identification as Aboriginal and validity of Proof of Aboriginality which may not be genuine. Seeking a solution to the issue of identifying Aboriginality – raised that MPRA pursue the identification of Aboriginality on birth certificates. Reform agenda to be developed to address this issue. Suspensions are depriving Aboriginal children of their education as they know what they have to do to get suspended. Much discussion ensued regarding incarceration of Aboriginal people and their inability to successfully rehabilitate into society on release as can't access housing or guaranteed three meals a day. Consensus that intervention is required but intervention needs to be backed up on facts. Bottom line – we need to look at where dollars are to be spent – on jails or on diversion. ● Lightning Ridge – need reply from FaHCSIA regarding boys homelessness in LR. Also Women's Group has been given exit housing but do not have the funds to employ someone to manage the transition house. DoCS has increased funding significantly to Safe Houses so that they can afford to man the transition house. AANSW will take issue back to DoCS to address. AHO is involved in Rent setting for transition house to ensure sustainability of program. ● Funding – Need to know how money is allocated to determine plan to target maximum dollar input to Aboriginal communities from those agencies who are majorly funded – caution need to be applied around this model – education of costs and effects will probably have greater influence – the argument needs to be constructed to push for change and change in closing the gap using an evidence base. ● CDEP Assets – Rather than answer this now that at April meeting a table be prepared that shows what assets were believed to be CDEP assets and where those assets are now. ● Evidence base on three priorities – evidence is being sought on the three priorities, Fishtraps, MPAYLP and Safe Families at each meeting (including response to Smiley's report) ● RPA Review – committed to reinforce the importance of Government agencies to work within the framework 	<p>ACTION: Request information and data on the Murdi Paaki region and AANSW should be able to supply for the next meeting but will be pre-Census data</p> <p>ACTION: ½ day workshop to be set aside at next RA meeting around identification of Aboriginality (to include ABS)</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: Use \$21k regional plan funds to develop priorities</p> <p>ACTION: Request for quarterly reports so we know how we are tracking to develop evidence base. FaHCSIA to go back to RPA to determine structure for evidence base</p> <p>REQUEST: That Price Waterhouse works with the MPRA on an appropriate evidence base</p> <p>ACTION: FaHCSIA to provide table of CDEP assets and their location at next meeting</p> <p>ACTION: FaHCSIA/AANSW willing to provide evidence on three priorities at next meeting</p>

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<p>of the RPA which hasn't been easy and more work will be done on this. PCPOs program will continue which is a significant investment. \$100,000 additional is being provided to fund both MPRA meetings and travel etc. for chairs to attend sub-group meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPAYLP – Government will have an outcome by the end of the financial year although the total funding available is not know at this time. • Bourke ICC – advice was that Bourke office was unsustainable and that was the decision that occurred at the time. Whether rightly or wrongly that office was closed – have no budget currently to re-open or fund positions in Bourke. Request was for a Senior FaHCSIA officer to be placed at Bourke and whether asset can be transferred to ILC to remain a Murdi Paaki region asset. Department has agreed not to sell it. Much discussion held about the withdrawal of Federal Government representation in the communities. • Strategic Plans – held over for general items in tomorrow's meeting. Proposal that community plans included in regional plan. • Only building purchased for a region – dedicated to a significant elder and part of the identity of the Murdi Paaki region. Should be offered to a regional organisation first and options determined for it. If ILC or IBA managed asset it would have to benefit the MPRA to support their costs. Sensitive issue. • Roles of PCPOs – needed to be addressed as PCPOs still seem to be confused and there is no action happening in the communities. 	
<p>5. Barwon Sports Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tabled their recent successes and promotional material • CRL – working hard in the eastern part of the region to bring League comp on in the communities of Bourke Brewarrina and Walgett. • LR has \$70,000 to upgrade netball courts but requires another \$30,000 to perform the upgrade • Potential for young leaders to engage in this project as a region • Barwon Darling Sport Group has access to a number of sources for volunteers if communities are considering running a league or netball competition • Using partnerships to support sporting committees eg. pony clubs, gun clubs etc 	<p>ACTION: Mr Cobb to organise a meeting of all sporting clubs in the LR</p>
<p>6. Carol Vale – Safe Families Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misconception about role of Safe Families with some communities being fearful that it is the same or similar to the NT intervention. • Program will have greater education role to remove this fear • Voluntary program – clients do not meet threshold of child protection • NSW does not support an NT intervention model (nor does the MPRA) • Reluctance to join reference group as fear that reference group will be responsible for removing children 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The intent is that families get to prevent child sexual assault • Engagement is consistent with communities not understanding the program • Issue raised that the secrecy of the program when it started has drawn suspicion especially when the community sees a new building going up • Real need for cultural awareness/cultural competency training for staff that is relevant to each community to allow for greater engagement – particularly with this agencies that are associated with the Safe Families program eg, DoCS staff, Police etc • Initial package available from Mr Phillip Sullivan and Mr Mick Williams • Recruitment is still a challenge but new methods are being used to provide better information and methods to access potential recruits • Will come back to MPRA towards end of June 12 to define how Safe Families will look. • Evaluation is being undertaken all along the way – with the first stage evaluation having just been completed • Successes are beginning to occur and generational removal is being broken – it is a change in relationships between parents and service providers, and changes in parents themselves <p>Men’s Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Families has been asked to lead engaging with Aboriginal men in preventing child sexual assault • This is not a perpetrator program but working with men – funding is from Domestic Violence program • Several stages including the development of a policy framework • Project is about engaging men – all men – black and white to the address the issue of CSA • Need to bring our men back to their place in society. • CSA is not part of our make-up, but there have been many victims who still carry scars and are in our jail systems • Real opportunity to address the issue • Men’s policy will need to engage the 16 communities of the MP region • Discussion paper will need to be developed as a basis for the consultation • Care needs to be taken to engage men as their role as Aboriginal men not through the CSA focus as you will lose them • Opportunity to work with NSWALC on the issue of Aboriginal men and their role in their families • Raising the issue can cause much conflict in families and how it is approached needs to be carefully thought out and applied • Needs to be addressed in a cultural way – on the river – or wherever Aboriginal men are most careful • Must protect those who come forward • FaHCSIA receiving numerous requests for assistance in establishing men’s groups 	<p style="text-align: center;">TAKE IN PRESENTATION</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be a localised approach driven by each community • Remove reduce and replace with eliminate – ie are we serious about this issue • Acceptance that it is occurring needs to happen then we can address the issue • Projects need to be identified by May 	
<p>GENERAL BUSINESS</p> <p>FaHCSIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-sub round – closes 25th Feb • NAIDOC – No acquittal – no funding this year • Men’s Conference – Tues 21st – 23rd June Lake Burrendong especially including Aboriginal young male leader – limited to six men per community. Limited to Aboriginal men only • Dareton getting good support from Wagga ICC – thanks through engagement by Teagan • Question raised regarding small sporting grants – through ISRP • Request for grant fund notifications – if not on distribution list tell Leonard Hill • Looking for reinforcement that CWP’s are a conduit for project endorsement. FaHCSIA has little ability to influence that other Government Departments adhere to this policy as it is not enacted in Parliament. • FaHCSIA to follow up Centrelink regarding Flood payments eligibility and report back to Chair • Motion put that FaHCSIA match the \$3000 already allocated for each MPAYLP community. Where communities are do not have MPAYLP • BROKEN HILL – want on record that the BH CWP is very happy with Teagan Hinchey as their PCPO (also validated by D-W MOVED Maureen Seconded Des CARRIED MOVED: That the BH D-w and Menindee CWPS are entirely satisfied with Ms Teagan Hinchey support and work provided in her role as their PCPO. • LIGHTNING RIDGE – about commence work on community action plan but will defer until we have a common format that works for corporate engagement. Very happy with PCPO. Will be organising. There are issues with a local Aboriginal organisation that the CWP and the Land Council are receiving complaints about as they are receiving no action and can’t make a formal complaint as directors are unknown. Will be bringing all sporting clubs together • COBAR – Mines are now back on board again – had to field a lot of opposition but will have water and electricity in the next few weeks. Cobar has is almost ready to be recognised • BOURKE – recognition process well under way – hoping to sign before the end of the month prior to caretaker mode • DARETON-WENTWORTH – Not sure that emails are working – Bill to check 	<p>Distribute info Re: NAIDOC acquittal</p> <p>ACTION: FaHCSIA to send schedule to Secretariat for distribution</p> <p>MOTION: Write to Minister Macklin regarding our concerns that there is insufficient budget to allow community consultation by FaHCSIA</p> <p>Moved: Mrs Jeanette Barker</p> <p>Seconded: Mr Phillip Sullivan</p> <p>CARRIED</p> <p>ACTION: Centrelink Manager to be invited to next MPRA (through Brian Stacey)</p> <p>MOTION: That FAHCSIA be requested to match \$3000 per community project funds</p> <p>Moved: Mr Alan Cobb</p> <p>Seconded: Mr Des Jones</p> <p>CARRIED</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BREWARRINA – Confused about the planning process of CWP. Concerned about the financial viability of the BBC. SLA has been signed off. Recognition process signed off. On behalf of Ivanhoe – concerned at the incredible waste on Monday night – where there was duplication of food and where it was believed that the whole of the MPRA was meeting with the Corporates. • MENINDEE – Presentation of the Train Park to be included in the next meeting. • GULARGAMBONE - All MPAYL are marked as absent when they attend the MPAYLP. Lots of work with the CWP as has been dormant for a long period. Focus community thus will have priority to mobilise the interest in the CWP • SUBGROUPS – Chairs attendance at subgroups endorsed in principle until Secretariat speaks to each of the Chairs not in attendance 	<p>MOVED: Mr Ferguson to write to Area Director Carole McDiarmid to send a memo to all schools in the region Moved: Mr Wayne Reid Seconded: Mr Luke Brown CARRIED</p>
<p>INWARD-OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tabled in booklet • NBAN – Mr Phillip Sullivan explained the role and scope of NBAN. Next meeting in March • Three new pieces of correspondence were tabled: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AD for Area Supervisors for ABS ○ Updated PD for Community Engagement Consultant ○ Table of actions from last two meetings • Mrs Barker to formalise letter of complaint including spelling out Assembly policy on payments to members. Mr Ferguson to work with BBC • 	<p>MOVED: That Mr Ferguson request a seat and attend the next meeting of NBAN. Moved: Mr Luke Brown Seconded: Mr Alan Cobb CARRIED</p> <p>MOVED: That correspondence be accepted Moved: Mr Alan Cobb Seconded: Mr Phillip Sullivan CARRIED</p>
<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil matters arising 	<p>MOTION: Matters arising from the minutes be accepted. Moved: Mr Des Jones Seconded: Mrs Jeanette Barker CARRIED</p>
<p>REVIEW MEETING DATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back-up plan is next meeting to be held in Broken Hill • Concern raised at meeting agenda running out into third day. Suggested a delegate be sent if MPRA clashes 	<p>ACTION: Secretariat to follow up with motel to seek clarity around accommodation. ACTION: Mr Ferguson to speak to CWP concerned</p>
<p>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT To be tabled at next meeting</p>	

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<p>STRATEGIC DIRECTION Powerpoint and MOU read to MPRA</p> <p>In principle endorsement given by Bourke, Weilmoringle, Menindee and Gulargambone Brewarrina abstained from endorsement</p>	<p>INCLUDE POWERPOINT AND MOU IN NEXT MEETING FOLDER Moved: Wayne Reid Seconded: Cheryl Johnstone CARRIED</p>
<p>NEXT MEETING: 12-14 April, 2011 – Cobar Bowling and Golf Club</p>	

