

MINUTES OF THE 48th MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

HELD ON 10-12 December. 2013 at Cobar Bowling & Golf Club, 9.00am - 5.00pm

MPRA members in Attendance	Mr Norman Hall, Collarenebri Community Working Party Ms Cheryl Johnstone, Menindee Community Working Party Mr Allan Cobb, Lightning Ridge Community Working Party Ms Jeanette Barker Brewarrina Community Working Party Ms Maureen O'Donnell, Broken Hill Community Working Party Ms Joan Evans, Cobar Community Working Party Mr William Johnson, Wentworth/Dareton Community Working Party Mr George Fernando, Ms Annette Kennedy, Walgett Community Working Party Ms Mindy Gibbs, Goodooga Community Working Party Mr Phillip Sullivan, Bourke Community Working Party Mr Anthony Knight Weilmoringle Community Working Party Wednesday and Thursday Mr Ted Fernando Coonamble Community Working Party Wednesday and Thursday
Guests	Mr Leonard Hill, Manager, ICC Dubbo Ms Louise Bye, NSW Deputy State Manager Indigenous Affairs Group- NSW/ACT Network, Dept of Prime Minister and Cabinet Ms Maria Bennett and Mr John Nolan Charles Sturt University Mr Mark Conlon OAA Acting CEO Mr Ian Ogden, Innovations Facilitator, Dept of Industry Mr Darren Smith, Aboriginal Enterprise development officer Mr Leon Donovan, State Manager, Indigenous Affairs Group- NSW/ACT Network, Dept of Prime Minister and Cabinet Mr Stephen Howarth, Acting Regional Director OAA Ms Nerida King and Mr Shane MPREC
Apologies	Mr Alistair Ferguson Bourke Community Working Party Ms Janelle Whitehead, MPREC Ms Tracey Shillingsworth, Regional Director OAA MS Taunoa Bugmy and Mr Harley Williams MPYLP MOVED: That apologies be accepted Seconded: M J Barker Carried: G Fernando
Chair of the Meeting	Mr Sam Jeffries
Minutes Taken By	Ms Carole Medcalf, Brewarrina Business Centre (Secretariat Support)

Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly meeting, Cobar 10-12 December, 2013

--	--

Issue & Discussion	Action
<p>Tuesday 10 December 2013 Welcome All members welcomed to this meeting by Mr Sam Jeffries</p>	
<p>Minutes Silence</p>	
<p>1. AGENDA CHANGES</p>	<p>Moved: G Fernando Seconded: M Gibbs CARRIED</p>
<p>2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST Sam Jeffries working for Far West Medicare Local</p>	
<p>MINUTES OF PERVIOUS MEETING</p>	
<p>3. BUSINESS ARISING Chair to contact Michael Coutts Trotter. Meeting didn't happen but meeting invitation for next year was extended to discuss vacant position. Discussion about employing locally to work on DOCS issues. Confirmation needed. CPO positions to finish in June 2014. Advertising vacant positions in OAA has been approved for some positions but only 6 month positions. Still unclear about ongoing PCPO's in OAA.</p> <p>Ivanhoe CWP Refreshing CWP positions is OAA requirement when CWP is a community based model. Insistence that composition is broad is a departmental position. Community has the model developed and continually refreshing when not necessary is an imposition. Interested in reviewing model by external organisations so resources may be allocated.</p> <p>10 YEARS ANNIVERSARY It has been 10 years in March next year, since MPRA started. Celebrations to be discussed in general business.</p>	
<p>MINUTES ACCEPTED Moved: N Hall Seconded: W Johnson CARRIED</p>	

Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly meeting, Cobar 10-12 December, 2013

Issue & Discussion	Action
<p>4. CORRESPONDENCE Letter from J Bugmy – discussion needed re: whether or not individuals address the Assembly.</p> <p>MOTION That the MPRA sends a letter advising of role of Assembly with a clear statement of Assembly’s inability to take up individual cases of this nature but offering opportunity to address in light of Assembly’s role if required. Moved: J Barker Seconded: M Gibbs CARRIED MP Drug and Alcohol network annual report summary</p> <p>Action: Start discussions with Leonard Hill and Tracey Shillingsworth to establish a drug and alcohol rehabilitation service in Broken Hill for clients at the western end of the region. No services at this end of the region means unrealistic and unsupported options for people in the west. Need to support Orana Haven as well but need to focus on voluntary rehabilitation clients rather than remain court focussed clients. Moved: A Cobb Seconded: G Fernando CARRIED</p>	<p>Letter to be sent to J Bugmy</p> <p>Chair to discuss D&A rehabs in Broken Hill and at Orana Haven with OAA and PM&C</p>
<p>5. Chair’s report</p> <p>RPA funding has been approved for 13-14 financial year but funding is being withheld due to issues with BBC which are unclear. Motion: MPRA supports the Chair’s recommendation that BBC auspices the funds for the 13/14 financial year. Moved: M O’Donnell Seconded: F Johnstone CARRIED.</p> <p>J Barker refrained from voting due to her position as BBC Chairperson.</p> <p>Employment and training review was attended and a 2 page submission will be forwarded on employment for relevant industries or for community projects that benefit individual as well as community. Dubbo ICC and Fahcsia meetings to discuss RPA. Moved: J Barker Seconded; N Hall CARRIED</p> <p>Sydney University is setting up Centre for Cultural Competency which will happen over next 3 years. Chair is interested</p>	

Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly meeting, Cobar 10-12 December, 2013

Issue & Discussion	Action
<p>in taking up a seat on the Board of the Centre but is waiting for documentation. Meetings in Canberra to meet the new politicians and bureaucrats who will be managing Aboriginal Affairs. Need to have the Minister attend Brewarrina and Bourke for the Breaking the Cycle funding. What has happened to CBA communications manager as MPRA as we have not had access? Person left the CBA and that has been raised with Reconciliation Australia.</p>	
<p>Allan Cobb congratulated the Chair for his achievement on being nominated for Chair of Sydney Uni positions. Round of acclamation from delegates with wholehearted support for his work.</p>	
<p>6. Ian Ogden- Innovations Facilitator Dept of Industry</p> <p>Looking at larger regional based projects rather than smaller projects. Aboriginal art gallery in Broken Hill discussions led to larger discussions about art and what is involved. Centre of Excellence for Aboriginal Creativity – space that will service the region providing pathways to careers and industry development. Lot of interest from Chamber of Commerce, Local govt, private sector, federal govt, work collaboratively. Waiting for advice about whether the project can progress. Second project is to examine how to decrease the cost of energy by making new arrangements, lowering energy costs will make region more sustainable. Interest from corporate and govt, NSWALC also interested. Third project is about community stores and food supply how to build supply chains which are owned and operated by Aboriginal people which are not dependent on extra regional transport options. Warehousing options and systems development and market gardens are all part of the underpinnings of this project. Last project is land management and best use of land assets and use all knowledge that is evident in region and elsewhere. Six month project has resulted in these 4 options. Regional tourism project also discussed but not extensively thought through.</p> <p>Meeting closed 5.24pm</p>	
<p>Wednesday 11th December 2013 Meeting opened 9:05am</p>	
<p>7. Leon Donovan, State Manager, Louise Bye, Deputy State Manager , Indigenous Affairs Group- NSW/ACT Network, Dept of Prime Minister and Cabinet and Leonard Hill, Manager, Western region ICC and Dubbo ROC, Indigenous Affairs Group- NSW/ACT Network, Dept of Prime Minister and Cabinet</p> <p>State Manager's role is influential and it was desirable to him for that reason. All Aboriginal programs are now under PM&C. Predecessor, James Christian, would congratulate the MPRA on their efforts so far.</p>	

Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly meeting, Cobar 10-12 December, 2013

Issue & Discussion	Action
<p>Nigel Scullion is the new Minister for Indigenous Affairs in Cabinet. Parliamentary Secretary is Alan Couch. Aboriginal AMS stays in Health and some other similar specific programs will stay in their relevant portfolios. Responsibility has grown for program management in the new arrangements under PM&C. There are 3 major themes – getting children into school, getting people into jobs and making communities safer. New Advisory Council met for the first time last week headed by Warren Mundine. Full list of council members will be forwarded for inclusion in the next papers. Empowered communities headed up by Noel Pearson has had 2 communities in NSW funded to move forward. One is in Central coast and the other in Redfern. Website has additional information. If it is a model that works communities need to take advantage of that and get behind the model. All ICC offices remain as they are. DEWR programs means that the staffing has grown from 6 offices to 14. Need to manage the network, new responsibilities as well as relationships with community. RSD in Walgett and Wilcannia is due to finish in June 2014. Forest Review of Indigenous employment will provide framework for future opportunities which will be linked to the outcomes of that review. This will be the vehicle for government to consider Aboriginal people's employment prospects.</p> <p>MPRA tried to get Jawun spokesperson to address the Assembly but no response. Their model is something Assembly has an interest in reviewing so keep trying to contact them.</p>	
<p>Discussion and questions between delegates and Federal Indigenous Affairs staff followed</p> <p>Comments from delegates - Aboriginal people are disadvantaged in mainstream programs unless they're structured like CDEP. Some people being disadvantaged as TAFE and Uni fees which have accumulated (HECS) are stopping them from earning a reasonable income. Need to clarify decision about funding for Aboriginal legal service – if decrease in funding occurs then its likely that imprisonment rates will increase. Can we get information about CDEP assets and how they are managed if an organisation wants to sell them?</p> <p>ICC Manager - Information is that if grant funding has been provided for the purchase of an asset such as a building then there is usually a caveat on the building. If the asset is under \$10,000 then the government has no interest in how the asset is disposed of. If it is over \$10,000 the asset is usually distributed to like organisation. There are no known assets in the Murdi Paaki region with caveats. CDEP assets distribution or management finalised in most communities. Culture and heritage – who will be the main driver?</p> <p>Dep State Manager - There is a Dubbo based position that will be coming into the office, Lee Pearson.</p> <p>ICC Manager- Gulargambone and Coonamble will have youth services over the school holidays funded by Attorney Generals and Community services. No funding available for Goodooga and Menindee. Brewarrina will also be in the</p>	

Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly meeting, Cobar 10-12 December, 2013

Issue & Discussion	Action
<p>same position as Goodooga at June 2014. Looking at the possibility of using RJCP participants to run youth centres.</p> <p>Delegate comment – Clontarf has been a successful program in a number of centres in the region. Is it possible to have Broken Hill put into the isolated area as it is disadvantaged by prejudice in terms of Aboriginal employment, education and training. MPRA has 2 communities which are categorised differently from the rest even though the same issues exist there. Contractors in Broken Hill, for example, do not employ Aboriginal people and much of what was government work is now done by contractors. Discussion regarding housing issues across the region – home ownership, high rents, overcrowding, lack of available social housing.</p>	
<p>Leonard Hill Manager Western Region ICC and Dubbo ROC Dept of PM and C</p> <p>Andrew Rose has left the ICC office and is returning to Office of Aboriginal Affairs. Will be missed but obviously good news for MP region. Review of programs that will be managed under PM&C is underway. Indigenous Broadcasting programs will now also be part of the PM&C.</p> <p>Former Dept of DEWR now part of the PM&C Dubbo office, making it the largest office in NSW. Move to be a single office will probably not take place until Feb/March 2014.</p>	
<p>Teena Bonham – Safe Communities Implementation Group Need to shift this Report draft plan – discussion about the requirements of MPRA for report backs. Data may not always be available for each quarter but may be able to do annual data reports. Attorney Generals (NSW and Federal) are not attending meetings at this stage. Need to review stats to see how they line up with the implementation of different programs. Need individual community data as well as regional data.</p>	
<p>Walgett CWP – Sentencing of young people in Walgett has been able to be diverted to community work in some circumstances. Looking for support for Men’s group across the region is needed to provide some mechanisms for supporting men to change their responses to difficult situations.</p> <p>Walgett, Wilcannia, Broken Hill, Menindee, Bourke – Tackling violence campaigns working with Football Clubs in each community. Susan Lindsay would be interested in coming to MPRA and discussing.</p> <p>If no visits are made to CWP’s by departmental staff, there is no local involvement in the implementation groups as there is no CWP involvement in the implementation groups. When programs are instigated in communities they need to be reporting through the CWP in that community. Finding out what is available for</p>	

Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly meeting, Cobar 10-12 December, 2013

funding needs to be co-ordinated so that communities can access them. Communities need to be focussed on the three priorities identified in each CAP. All the energy and support should go to implementing strategies to address those matters.

DV, sexual assault, are all violence related matters that need to be addressed to make communities safer. Local government are key players in ensuring these matters are dealt with.

PCPO's are stretched and that resourcing is inadequate. Look at audit of government spending for region and what unspent funds are going back to consolidated revenue. For RSD sites (Walgett and Wilcannia) the information is contained in co-ordinator General's reports. Check average expenditure.

LDM should prioritise finding out what amount of money comes into communities.

Country Rugby League and netball NSW are keen to keep going program ongoing. Most of MPRA region covered and there were over 5,000 participants. They want to provide netball and football resources. If there is something that they can work with clubs on and report back to CWP's as the numbers are very high. If Mick Dobin from Country rugby league wants to address MPRA then we should invite them. Proposal to support ongoing programs, need to support positions outside of Dubbo rather than stay just in Dubbo, cost \$150,00 per year to cover the 16 communities.

Involved communities implementation Group – Leonard Hill and Stephen Howarth

Actions align with 5 of priorities of MPRA regional plan

3 draft plans developed at this stage – comments to finalise plans in next month.

Agency participation still not as high as would be desirable.

Local Government – 4 priority areas. Formal agreements for employment and training. Aboriginal participation increasing in local government representation, Aboriginal participation in planning processes i.e. CAP's and regional Plan are included in LG Plans. LG signing up to RPA. LG review will give a better understanding of how to move LG commitments forward.

Bourke – Meeting next week for first time in a while. Governance to be considered for Bourke community.

Maranooka is the primary focus for the community at the moment. Looking at strengthening existing

Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly meeting, Cobar 10-12 December, 2013

<p>organisations at the moment.</p>	
<p>Men's and Women's and elders groups – establishing new groups where they don't exist and supporting cultur and heritage development in communities for these groups.</p>	
<p>Youth Leadership – MPYLP focus has shifted from when it was first established til now. All communities are not represented. There is no consistent engagement with CWP and MPYLP and that needs to be addressed. Top end stuff happens too much. Need to be more focused on local space and not what's happening elsewhere. Need to be able to engage with people from all walks of life rather than only able to meet government requirements. Important to get young people to understand what it means to live in an isolated small community. Young people aged 25 not currently engaging in the program. This engagement is about making some contributions to each of their communities. Depend on the co-ordinator to focus on the leadership development of those young people.</p> <p>Heritage and culture needs to be developed and that includes teaching young people about how to survive on the land in traditional ways and this instils confidence in them as well as knowledge of Aboriginal ways. Need to ensure Aboriginal children are not seen as an industry. Making sure that we develop skills in young people to face the challenge of modern living. Transfer of knowledge and skills needs to happen with MPRA delegates and MPYLP. Additional funding source needs to be found as IEP may not be able to continue funding. Facilitator/co-ordinator needs to be continued.</p>	
<p>MPREC – Nerida King and Shane Edwards. Nuggett's apologies will get here if she can..</p> <p>Shane – RJCP nearly 9 months in operations in Far West and Upper Darling. UD 667 and 241 participants in far west totalling just over 900 making it about 3x as many as under JSA. Total of 23 staff across the two regions – UD is Cobar, Bourke, Bre and surrounding communities and Far West is Menindee Wilcannia, Balranald and surrounding communities. Activities officer to oversee group activities. JSA includes case management, CDEP operates until Mid June 2014. Role is to get people into jobs etc. 75 case load in LR but</p>	

Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly meeting, Cobar 10-12 December, 2013

there are multiple case providers 100 in Walgett and some in Collie. Subsidies are available to potential employees. Positions vacant in two regions total 25. Most job placements are in Cobar and 73 job placements have occurred with approximately 62 being placed and the others found the job themselves. 95 education quals enrolled. Research based project with QUT and MPREC for Aboriginal job seeker resilience project. CAP to be in place by February 2014 and is currently seeking feedback from organisations regarding priorities. BBC to forward MPREC forms to CWP's.

Nerida – received funding for MPYLP has historically funded workshops and DEWR funding has been around the employment of staff. Program to be discussed with Assembly and other parties around how it continues. Young people develop skills but the link between them and communities has decreased. Look at other trends eg Local Govt and future development for programs. Closure of youth services – attorney generals have historically funded diversionary programs. Focus of their funding is now at post incarceration case management. Closing youth services due to funding options being limited. Lower level case management type service being considered only looking at Coonamble or Gulargambone. Service cannot look anything like it did in the past. Apologies for any 'MPREC bashing' which has occurred as a result of the change in Attorney General's decision to change direction of funding. Chairperson met with Susan Lay and discussed some of the issues with her.

General Business

Broken Hill CWP – on a break til February 2014. Two older men went missing and young men went to track them and found them when police couldn't.

Bourke CWP – Meeting next week for first time in a while. Governance to be considered for Bourke community. Maranooka is the primary focus for the community at the moment. Looking at strengthening existing organisations at the moment.

Wentworth/dareton CWP – break over Christmas. Swimming program running over summer break. Sorry business has been a focus as there has been 13 suicides in last twelve months and over 50 attempts. Unreported instances and impacts significantly on small community. Young men have a pact and it's increasing likelihood of it happening

Weilmoringle CWP – Pool up and running again, levee to be addressed by BSC. AHO doing some work on housing. Couple of people got work during maintenance.

Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly meeting, Cobar 10-12 December, 2013

<p>Brewarrina CWP – buildings being constructed. CWP support is falling away and meetings not occurring again until February. Programs occurring, music program diversionary, Barwon 4 and Dodge upgrade, Safe house being constructed.</p> <p>Cobar CWP – Land Council houses had maintenance program. Downturn in mining industry. Lot of suicides, question about murder possibility. Level of violence is not being addressed</p> <p>LR CWP – Child and family Centre almost complete no ongoing funding. Housing is being upgraded by Barriekneal and some evictions. Build and grow strategy no mention of non payment of rents. Angledool was gazetted as an Aboriginal place, LR LALC held NAIDOC activities in LR. NAIDOC Ball with over 300 attendees. DV is now the priority for CWP. LALC looking for funds for culture and heritage including tourism. Barriekneal attended last CWP for the first time in some time so good to have them back at table.</p> <p>Goodooga CWP – Youth centre closure, local committee warriwee mulai for Goodooga youth (making pathways). Last CWP was the largest attendance for the year. Mid Lachlan also attended.</p> <p>Walgett CWP 360 people attended a back to country meeting at Narran Lakes which was a great experience. Talked to children about caring for country and pathways around the lake have been constructed. Service providers not attending CWP meetings. Roads to Namoi and Gingie have not yet been tendered. No services from the Shire but they are looking for Aboriginal money.</p> <p>Collarenebri CWP – disappointing year agencies not attending any more. Hopeful that govt changes improve circumstances as nothing has progressed. Cemetery to be improved by WSC and western CMA.</p>	
<p>Chair – Dates for next year MPRA meetings 18-20 March 2014 17-19 June, 16-18 September, 8-11 December 2014.</p>	
<p>Thanks for support and participation over the year. Couple of wins and commend delegates for patience. March meeting next year will be 10th anniversary so would like to have celebration so Young Leaders and NAIDOC celebrations can be organised. Awards for continued involvement. Local decision making will bring us all together so that will be 49th meeting. Merry Christmas and safe new year and see you all then.</p>	
<p>Meeting Closed at 12:51pm</p>	

