

## MINUTES OF THE 46<sup>th</sup> MURDI PAAKI REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

HELD ON 17-19 September 2013 at Cobar Bowling & Golf Club, 9.00am - 5.00pm

MPRA members in Attendance	Mr Sam Jeffries, Chair, Regional Assembly 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 Ms Faye Johnstone, Ivanhoe Community Working Party Ms Roslyn Darcy, Gulargambone Community Working Party Mr Harley Williams and Taunoa Bugmy MP Young Leaders
Guests	Mr Leonard Hill, Manager, ICC Dubbo Ms Tracey Shillingsworth, Regional Director OAA Ms Janelle Whitehead, MPREC Ms Louise Bye, NSW Deputy State Manager FaHCSIA Ms Mary Trapman, BBC Secretariat support (Tuesday) Ms Elaine Lang CPO Mr Greg Simpson, NSW Department of Education Ms Julie Cooper, Western Health District Mr Stuart Riley, CEO Far West Health District
Apologies	Mr Jason Ardler, CEO AANSW Mr Des Jones, Lands Council western zone Ms Maureen O'Donnell for Tuesday am, Wednesday and Thursday Ms Teena Bonham Ms Alison Bentick Ms Jeanette Barker (Brewarrina, Thursday) Ms Ros Darcy (Gulargambone Thursday) MOVED: That apologies be accepted Moved: A Cobb Seconded: Fernando Carried

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Chair of the Meeting	Mr Sam Jeffries
Minutes Taken By	Ms Carole Medcalf, Brewarrina Business Centre (Secretariat Support)

Issue & Discussion	Action
<p><b>Tuesday 17 September 2013 Welcome</b>                      All members welcomed to this meeting by Mr Sam Jeffries                      Minutes silence                      .</p>	
<p><b>Minutes Silence</b></p>	
<p><b>1. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA</b></p>	<p>MOVED: That the Agenda is agreed.                      Moved: A Cobb                      Seconded: J Barker                      CARRIED</p>
<p><b>2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b>                      Sam Jeffries working for Far West Medicare Local                      Ted Fernando now Chair of LALC</p>	
<p><b>3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BBC to check with motel if agenda booklets can be left at motel the night before. Also emailed prior to Assembly mtg.</li> <li>• Chair approached Paul Locksley about release for M Gibbs.</li> <li>• Delete action with nothing against it.</li> </ul>	<p>MOTION: That minutes be accepted                      Moved: N Hall                      Seconded: M Gibbs                      CARRIED</p>
<p><b>4. INWARD/OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE</b>                      As presented in Agenda.                      Healing Foundation letter – G Fernando raised housing issues – to be discussed later in meeting. Healing Foundation dealing with trauma related to removal of children. New board appointed for AHO after a lengthy period without any Board members but the Chair.</p>	<p>MOVED: That correspondence be accepted                      Moved: J Barker                      Seconded: C Johnston                      CARRIED</p>

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<b>Issue &amp; Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
Survey – encourage members to fill in and send back before end of the month.	Action: Chair to follow up with Healing Foundation to formalise relationship by way of MOU.

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<p><b>5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b></p> <p>Finalised and we have 3 year funding commitment and agreement. Funded for \$650,000. EOI for auspicing the funds will go out before the end of the year. Launch of RPA unable to be arranged due to State and Federal Governments not being available at the same time. New Federal government are due to review and come back to discuss with Chair about their commitment to RPA. Implementation groups are operating, having been established recently in Dubbo. Reporting against the Regional Plan to enable Assembly to identify what is working well and what is not and re thinking what isn't working well. Reporting will be evidence based. Need documented reports. When Collarenebri and Lightning Ridge met – not adequate response for issues raised. Template to be developed and fed into implementation groups.</p> <p>Secretariat support for CWP's still not addressed under MPRA. Need resources to get outcomes at a community level. CPO positions at Walgett and Wilcannia have been cashed out and provided secretariat support to CWP. Bre, Bourke government funded positions for DCS could be cashed out and positions created in community. Use existing money differently rather than add funds.</p> <p>CPO positions are not filled and the shortage is impacting on community capacity to respond to issues. The most successful thing on the table is the partnership with community. Chair has discussed with CEO OAA the recruitment of additional CPO's asap and a recruitment program is being developed. CPO positions only funded until June 2014 currently so extension needs to be implemented as well.</p> <p>NGO forum report has been provided by Boomali Consulting and included in documentation for this meeting. Broken Hill left out of some government boundaries. Maar ma work as an NGO doesn't get captured in the departmental documentation. Need to be sensitive to the NGO's requirements while trying to inform everyone about what is coming into the areas and how effective it is. Still need the key person in the community is pulling these things together – be it CPO or CWP support person. CWP's could do it if they were adequately supported.</p> <p>Some of the changes will not be seen for some time because there are long term implications for some of the health strategies as well as education.</p> <p>Gulargambone CWP has representation around the table after a short absence. Good to have local representation again.</p> <p>Far West Sport Academy is looking for additional Board members which has been contained within government until recently when it has come out from under government. There are two designated Aboriginal representatives on the Board but it is not limited to two.</p> <p>Chair attended the Ronny Gibbs dinner in Bourke as well as the Land Rights review. Youth Forum and NAIDOC events to be held in March 2014 to coincide with MPRA meeting.</p> <p>Clontarf academy opened in Brewarrina School. Positive impact on the young boys involved. Coonamble has role model along the same lines as Clontarf for young girls.</p> <p>Coonamble asked if we could have Young Leaders more involved in MPRA meetings. What's missing is co-ordinator but Clontraf</p>	<p>MOTION: That Chairman's report be accepted and endorsed.  Moved: J Barker  Seconded: T Fernando.  CARRIED</p> <p>Action: Chair to contact Michael Coutts -Trotter Director General FACS and invite him to the next meeting regarding funded departmental positions being able to be used for community.</p> <p>Standing agenda items – FaHCSIA, OAA, Young Leaders and FWML.</p>

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is an opportunity to work together with them.	
<p>6. Financial Report and Update from BBC Update report distributed to delegates and discussed. Excess internet usage happening in 4 communities to be paid for by CWP's until October then by individual CWP's or whoever is using the CWP computer. Strong Women's Funds- Previous decision from Assembly has been that money is distributed between CWP's. Possible mtg for region being discussed for Dubbo. Chair to write to FaHCSIA regarding decision for regional forum.</p>	<p>Motion: Excess internet usage to be paid for from individual CWP until September. From October particular CWP Chairs or delegated person will pay if they use excess. Moved: F Johnstone Seconded: T Fernando Action: BBC will write to all CWP's to notify of change.</p>
<p>7. MPRA Charter update discussion deferred until next meeting.</p> <p>8. Charles Sturt University Bill Anscombe (John Nolan is an apology due to accident) – Acknowledgement of leaders of Murdi Paaki. Largest educator of social workers in NSW, working in local government, DCS, Correctional settings. How do we encourage Aboriginal people in these programs? Approximately 4.9% of current enrolments are Aboriginal but looking to increase those numbers. There are over 1,000 social work students in Australia currently with CSU being the largest education provider. Several strategies have been tried some more successful than others. Three campuses of CSU to teach Social Work – Port Macquarie, Dubbo, Wagga students enrolled in TAFE and CSU with cross crediting (Kempsey TAFE) TAFE studies in local TAFE but come in once a month to assist in the development of workforce in local communities. Finish TAFE and credits are given for University studies. Distance education is possible for these courses. Social work is one of the top 5 careers into the future. Away from Base DEST funding is available if people are studying in blocks. CSU has a bus that tours in MP region. Demographic of social work students. Average age is 42, 80% female with significant life experience but not necessarily having HSC. Some males come from cohort of men who have had work related accidents and have to re-train.</p> <p>9. Mr Ross Earle, General Manager, Bourke Shire Council, Mr Don Ramsland General Manager Walgett Shire Council, Mr Brian Wilkinson Acting General Manager Brewarrina Shire Council – Resource Sharing Presentation by GM's of 3 Councils regarding resource sharing. Brewarrina CWP pointed out that it is already existing in RPA. Signing of Local Government to RPA, would need to know what the difference is with this proposal. Local communities would be the ones to sign up not the MPRA. Representatives would be from Shires not individual communities. Individual communities generally get left</p>	

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<p>out but they are the ones that need to be represented. Councils looking to act by consensus and the best interests of the community at heart. Happy to auspice funds. MPRA delegates see the balance of representation is skewed towards Council and that appears unfair. Councils will look at representation. The RPA is in place and perhaps we need to look at bringing Local Government into that Agreement rather than creating another one. Need to spread across the whole of the region. Council's see that there is provision for other Councils, but there is possible amalgamation threat which is a concern for these towns. Delegates see a need to look into the future for the whole region not just the three councils. MPRA is trying to train people in each town. State Government want a large authority to take in the whole region but the 3 Councils want to do a model that will split the region into 3 areas with their model being able to be duplicated by other areas. Resource sharing is also a component of this plan. Up to individual councils to make that decision. Replace contractor employment and backpackers with local employment for Aboriginal people. Councils are being asked to look at how the representation would operate more effectively. If representation is place based then earlier comments about smaller communities missing out are extremely relevant. Perhaps sub groups may manage that. Are the Council's using any of the data that is provided by State and Federal Governments? Independent review panel have used examples based on English and NZ which are heavily weighted towards urban areas and not useful for rural or remote areas. An EOI for interested people to nominate which is then decided by a combination of GM and CWP Chairs in LGA? No Aboriginal Employment strategy in any of the LGA's and this has a major impact on long term strategies.</p> <p>10. Local Decision Making – presentation and discussion. Need to think about longer term and the Young Leaders need to be involved in the process. Difference in decision making from a local to a regional level. MPRA has the runs on the board from the ATSI days. Previous experience in the region regarding project funding. Will the organisation be required to be incorporated from the start? What area would they cover? What impact would it have on the RPA and does it change the relationship between the organisation, the Department and the Minister? If MPRA is not the remote area then are there other areas that are considered remote? Do we have to include them? Does the non remote classification of Wentworth and Broken Hill exclude them from being part of this model? What are the boundaries for the remote area for this model?</p> <p>EOI for LDM to be made by MPRA after all considerations discussed. Moved T Fernando Seconded A Cobb. Carried</p>	
Meeting Closed at 4.45pm	
<p>Wednesday 18 September 2013 Meeting opened at 9.00am</p> <p>11. Mr Mark Horton and Rod Archer, - Dubbo Youth Foundation presentation to be included in the next agenda</p> <p>12. Ms Louise Bye, NSW Deputy State Manager, FahCSIA James Christian has had his position extended in Canberra – Leon Donovan has been appointed to act in James' absence. Leonard</p>	

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<p>Hill has been successful in being appointed as the Dubbo ICC Manager. Nigel Scullion is the new Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs (Senator for NT). Allan Tudge was appointed as Parliamentary Secretary on Indigenous Affairs working specifically on welfare issues. Programs and policies for Indigenous Affairs will be moved into Prime Minister and Cabinet. Under social services are all the payment services, re-settlement programs and disability care and multicultural affairs. It is not yet known where the programs around families, housing etc will sit within the ministries. Brian Stacey, now Dep Sec with responsibility for Indigenous Affairs. Two of his team have shifted to P&amp;C to sort out machinery of government (MOG). Still to get information on where the Coalition will shift Indigenous Affairs programs. DEEWR will be split into education and employment ministries. Coalition policies on Indigenous Affairs - Indigenous Affairs Council, led by Warren Mundine – will look at all the programs that have been delivered, what is working and what is not. \$24.5 billion that goes specifically to Indigenous organisations. Announcements to be made about who has been appointed. March 2014 is the final report date on the audit. Education will be about attendance and also linking that to payments. School attendance and enrolment data will underpin. Direct instruction program where teachers are given a script/program for the week. One of the major differences between previous Coalition govt and this one is a move away from mainstreaming to a closer alliance with the corporate sector.</p> <p>Within 12 months this govt will put forward constitutional changes for recognition of Indigenous people in the constitution. Twiggy Forrest will head up another taskforce to review employment issues.</p> <p>Boarding schools will continue to be funded for \$22 million for indigenous students and scholarships will be means tested. Review of JSA's in June 2014 for new contracts being available in July 2014.</p> <p>13. Ms Angela Langdon LDM OAA – Jason and Mark are apologies for this meeting. Information is only provided through 2 staff members to ensure fair and transparent process. Came from new Aboriginal Affairs Plan _ OCHRE. It is about changing the relationship between govt and communities.</p> <p>What's a region – communities will decide what a region is for them. It is not a single town/LGA – MPRA will still support the Assembly whether we apply or not or whether we are successful or not. Sustainability of program is why region has been chosen rather than on a town by town basis. Govt agencies also operate on a regional basis. EOI closes next Wednesday at 5pm. Deadline is a commitment. Committee will decide application. Remote, country and urban categories to get a diverse range of communities in trial.</p> <p>There is a need for government accountability which it is hoped will occur through this process. Discussions about the model, the process, the buy in from govt agencies and dept heads has occurred but some of the fine detail about how it will work will need to be worked out with the nominated communities.</p> <p>14. Leonard Hill, Manager Western Region ICC and Dubbo ROC and Tracey Shillingsworth Regional Director, Office of Aboriginal Affairs.</p> <p>Tracey Shillingsworth - Staffing freeze in OAA until a later date but there are 3 offices open and only 3 CPO's employed. Brief update on OCHRE will leave contacts for this process. Cindy Berwick is key contact for language nest. Opportunity hubs are to be announced</p>	<p>Motion: That MPRA will submit an EOI for the Local Decision Making Model process, with Chair and Secretariat to complete on behalf of the Assembly.</p> <p>Moved: T Fernando Coonamble CWP and Seconded: A Cobb Lightning Ridge CWP Carried.</p>

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<p>shortly. Economic development framework with first example from Minerals industry for Aboriginal employment. Land Council is having a series of consultations around the region. No contact was made with MPRA regarding the consultations.</p> <p>Leonard Hill – Things are moving quickly at a Federal level. Indigenous Affairs is going to the PM&amp;C portfolio. 1 vacant position in the ROC and all staffing in the ICC. RPA is one of the major projects for us to work on. \$411,000 for governance workshops for the Assembly in the last 3 years. Currently \$250,000 for 1<sup>st</sup> and third years of current agreement and \$300,000 for second year when the additional funding will be spent on a mid term assessment of the Agreement. Young Leaders project seen as a flagship program and it is being considered by other areas. DEEWR is still in negotiations about what contributions they can make to the Young Leaders program. Community development Fund – FaHCSIA managing the funds and outcomes were announced. Only 1 project in NSW was funded. RSD still important in the two LGA's. There are still 2 plans in place and they have been put up to be refreshed. Of 411 items in plans to be implemented. There are approximately 75% of items completed and working on completing the other 25% before 30 June 2014. LDC services in Wilcannia. Breaking the Cycle program in Brewarrina and Bourke still has a commitment to spending the rest of the money to address domestic violence matters. PCP is in place until June 2014.</p> <p>15. MPAYLP – Young Leaders presentation            18 young people attended Dubbo workshop, 32 attending Canberra for science, indigenous studies, AN, parliament house. Much interest from LR? School doesn't want anything to do it. Meeting to discuss with school is to be held. Meetings have been moved to school holidays. Coonamble young people have pulled out of participating. Youth Centres in local govt. Brewarrina has some young people in the Clontarf program who may be good for the young leaders program. NAIDOC day in LR would be a good promotional opportunity for Young Leaders. Need to talk to Tegan about March 2014 youth forum and NAIDOC celebrations in Cobar at the same time as the Assembly meeting.</p> <p>16. Ms Janelle Whitehead, CEO MPREC            The implications of changing circumstances in smaller communities are that social issues increase. MPRA can write to the Minister regarding the deterioration in youth services. RJCP is being rolled out after some initial difficulties with Federal Government and then the elections. Brewarrina youth centre is funded by DCS. MPREC had corporate partners and some of them have been successful. Coonamble Chair wants MPRA to support whatever activities we can get funded for young people in the MPRA region. Any possibility for re-locating youth services- MPREC to consider.</p> <p>Meeting Closed at 4.55pm</p>	<p>Action:            MPRA to write a letter to</p>



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	Minister Dominello regarding the funding of a youth service. Homework Centre, netball for Coonamble
<b>Thursday 19 September, 2013</b>	
<p>Meeting opened at 9.05 am</p> <p>17. Implementation Groups presentation            Greg Simpson presented on behalf of the Vibrant Communities – presentation to be included in the next agenda papers – language in schools is primary concern for group</p> <p>Leonard Hill presented on behalf of the Involved Communities group – presentation to be include din next agenda papers</p> <p>Apologies from Teena Bonham absent due to sorry business in Gilgandra. Tracey Shillingsworth presented on behalf of Safe Communities group - presentation to be include din next agenda papers</p> <p>Stuart Riley presented on behalf of the Healthy Communities group – housing issue is primary concern. Only option in LR for example is private market if they come out of AHO premises. Is it possible to develop a region wide health data base? Stuart to investigate but Commonwealth electronic records manager is partly a response to that question. Information is only able to be installed with consent. 600,000 records are already on it.</p> <p>18. Ivan Simon - Pearls MiiHomes – did not attend</p> <p>19. General Business            Letter from Coonamble CWP to Minister for Transport re: restrictions on P plate drivers, providing statistical information currently operating in Lightning Ridge, Walgett, Brewarrina and Bourke areas. Request is for extension of service to Coonamble and other areas in Murdi Paaki region. What is rationale for choosing the area and is there any rationale for not extending it to other areas. Provisional licences would support young people in their quest for work.</p> <p>Ice is a big problem in Wentworth/Dareton currently because of proximity to border. Couple of youth suicides because of that. Have to acknowledge that some Aboriginal people are involved in dealing and we have to stop that wherever possible. Need to do cross border programs if possible.</p> <p>Menindee – Connected Community has picked up with confirmation of Aboriginal Liaison position being confirmed. Won the rugby challenge losing the most weight for 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. Dancers went to Tongan event mostly Aboriginal dancers. New Police Officers</p>	<p>Action: MPRA to write to Minister for Transport regarding extensions of program – other communities could benefit. Is it trial, what is rationale? Address court appearances for young people.</p> <p>Letter for SWP program to go to all CWP's.</p>

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<p>in town.</p> <p>Tracey has been asking Ivanhoe to do another refresh. Is she doing that with other communities. Is this for the purposes of governance purposes or PCP program. If CWP is working then what is the rationale for accountability in a particular manner. CWP has invited more people on because the same people would be sitting around the table.</p> <p>Next meeting we have a session for refreshers for CWP separate to Tracey's report. Done an MOU with Central Darling Shire and Mayor is coming to meetings regularly. New playground up and Shire has submitted for shade over it next. We had 18 present and Crystal mining were there and MPREC etc because of the mining developments.</p> <p>Young Leaders are planning a fashion show but it is just underway at the moment and we hope to be able to extend that after we have done this time around. Fashion industry is starting to grown in the Aboriginal community. If successful then it might be part of a program for young leaders.</p> <p>Report from communities - Good to have some consistency for Young Leaders representatives - hope to have some commitment from other attendees.</p> <p>Cobar had a couple of young leaders who may need to attend. Ngalii childcare resurrected and now has 20 on the books with a waiting list.</p> <p>LR – ICFC 90% completed. Childcare participants undertaking further study. Ceremony at Angledool and a gala day in town on 25 October. NAIDOC Ball celebrations for 30 years – Fights in school but situation has escalated. Lot of teaching time is being lost due to welfare issues taking up teaching time. Counsellor has been taken out of school either retired or not filled. Looking for Aboriginal elders to assist. Entry fee for Lightning Ridge swimming pool. \$7.00 for fee to use all amenities. Kids are going to puddling pools dams and accidents can occur, some parents not aware that it's happening.</p> <p>Collarenebri – DCS discussed foster parenting program. Tracker – negative issues and school are dividing the community. AGM to be held shortly and community are looking for some progress to be made instead. Cemetery trying to get heritage listed. Footballers won 17's went through undefeated but not reported. Community would like the positive aspects of community reported in Tracker. Jane Madden Ombudsman office to be invited to next meeting to discuss entitlements for carers.</p> <p>Acceler8 Technologies installed printers for CWP Chairs who were present with computers, the others took theirs home for installation.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 2.10pm.</p>	

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<b>Issue &amp; Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>NEXT MEETING: 10-12 December, 2013</b>	

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