

"Submission into the IAS senate enquiry" for Dilkara Hair Academy.

I am writing to express my extreme disappointment and alarm at the outcome of my application under the Federal Government's Indigenous Advancement Strategy.

Whilst I understand there is finite amount of funding, what I am seeking urgent advice on is – Where is the ACT's share?

In way of background, I submitted an application for two projects:

1. Dilkara Hair Academy

Dilkara Hair Academy will be a fully established training academy for Indigenous Students. The Academy will have a full commercial quality salon for onsite in-salon training, along with onsite child minding facilities for students. This will provide Indigenous students a safe place to learn, study and become qualified in the Australian Hairdressing Trade Certificate whilst respecting their cultural needs and heritage.

There is no current Indigenous specific opportunity in this region for this trade that is co-ordinated and directed by an Indigenous organisation. There is currently little or no specific training for Indigenous Students that is culturally appropriate. There is no sustainable opportunity for Indigenous students to train with an onsite crèche to care for their young children whilst studying to gain advancement in their individual qualifications and community.

The region that this project will take place in is the ACT. The model will be a hub and spoke model that will target all regional areas within and around the ACT.

This project is targeted at both Indigenous Youth and Adults that wish to complete a Hairdressing qualification within a culturally safe and encouraging structured program. The aim is to complete the trade with full time or part time study, and qualify students with employable skills within a culturally respected learning environment within a delivery structure that supports all course expenses while linking with relevant support services. This project will enable both the students and the Academy viable ongoing economic opportunities by improving the current Indigenous employment gap.

Relevant Industry leaders as well as community leaders have been consulted who have all agreed that the best way to achieve long term

attendance and attainment is to provide culturally safe and tailored programs that are all for community and especially include family involvement.

2. Yuk to Kids

A study by the Victorian Department of Human Services into Child unintentional poisoning interventions recommended “more widespread application of warning labels” (2004, page 3).

Reflecting this need Yuk to Kids is a safety system created to assist families and communities to prevent consumption of harmful products and avoid unsafe areas found in and around the home and broader community. Items such as household cleaners, laundry products, car care products, garden/yard chemicals and some medications don't carry clear visual warnings to deter children from accidentally consuming their contents. Yuk to Kids was created specifically to fill this gap.

It is also designed to educate children about caring for themselves and their family and friends.

Yuk to Kids is a visual safety aid that seeks to address possible literacy issues in disadvantaged populations and can be used to create safer communities.

It is a single symbol that is easily identifiable and offers clear warning of dangerous products and areas.

The Central Australia region has been identified as a trial site to coincide with and complement government initiatives such as the Opal fuel rollout.

No current visual safety aids are used in schools, community stores and health clinics. There are no culturally appropriate educational tools to teach awareness of chemical poisoning and danger areas. In consultation with community members and the CEO of Urapuntja Health Services, there exists a clear and present danger for children to ingest petrol coolant or someone else's medication. Yuk to Kids seeks to prevent these situations from arising.

My application was supported by

- o Ernst & Young support letter.

- o McKinsey & Co CEO Charlie Taylor.
- o Urapuntja CEO support letter.
- o Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body support letter.
- o RGT support letter.
- o CIT Reid letter of support.
- o Annette Luck letter of support.
- o Anna Bambic letter of support.

in writing and addresses the Government priorities of children to school, adults to work and safe communities.

I was dismayed to receive a mail merge, impersonal letter advising I was unsuccessful and heart broken to have to tell the five Indigenous students I had lined up that there was no longer an opportunity for them to take up. Needless to say, they are devastated.

As an Aboriginal woman, I confess, I care little for the current rhetoric of Government but am seeking urgent advice from you as my member in the Parliament Of Australia, how funding for an excellent economic development opportunity can be dismissed out of hand and both jobs and educational opportunities are left abandoned.

I am an established business woman in Canberra with the establishment of 4 very successful salons under my belt, recently being nominated as one of Canberra's 15 women to watch in 2015, have received certification by Supply Nation, have an appointed IBA consultant and letters and offers of support by both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous organisations and individuals.

What more is it that you and Minister Nigel Scullin need from me?

I again ask you to seek the following answers as my member.

Ø What is the percentage of funding under the IAS that was attributed to ACT and the surrounding electorates?

Ø What is the percentage of funding under the IAS for the ACT that was

attributed to non-Indigenous business?

Ø What is the percentage of funding that has been given to NGO's such as the Red Cross, Mission Australia and the Catholic and Anglican Diocese?

Ø Why when my application was about jobs and education was it not considered for funding – even as an economic development opportunity?

Ø How will you and the Government at the Federal level address this injustice?

Your urgent attention and response is requested, and I can make myself available to meet with you at any time if this would in a quicker resolution to this issue.

Kindest Regards,

Julie Okely.

Dilkara Hair Academy | Dilkara Hair | Dilkara Essence Of Australia



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