



Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association Inc

ABN 50 048 081 897

P O Box 435, Borroloola NT 0854

Phone 08 89758746 Fax 08 89758743

Mabunji has sought assistance from PM&C at the state (NT) level – NO RESPONSE
Mabunji has sought advice from the IASgrants@pmc.gov.au level as suggested – NO RESPONSE
Dates on both sets of correspondence 6 March 2015.

Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association Inc operates in and around Borroloola, Gulf of Carpentaria, Northern Territory. Mabunji was established in September 1982.

We wanted assistance and advice to help us understand how and why we were defunded for activities that are integral to Federal Government's THREE MAIN PRIORITIES

- Getting children to school
- Getting adults to work
- Making communities safer

The decision made for Mabunji, without consulting the consequences of NOT funding us, address NONE of these, other than going part way with the Safe House funding.

Mabunji applied for 5 projects of which one was new, the other 4 were existing programs

- We were **successful** with **Radio Broadcasting** funding for 12 months, **Borroloola Safe House** for 3 years
- We were **unsuccessful** with **Men's Talking** program - a program about the male traditional owners, elders and residents getting together and working strategies to reduce family violence against women. This program has been in operation for three years and DV against women and children has been reduced drastically over those three years.
- We were **unsuccessful** with a new initiative **Tourist Shop/Art Gallery** which was a pre-cursor to a self-sustaining business opportunity. Not so worried about this one, we can try again next round.
- WE were **unsuccessful** with our **Community Development** project which is (by far) the most saddening maddening and disappointing decision ever by people in government from afar who will have no understanding of the impact this will have on our community.

Briefly we asked for funding to continue to pay to our Community Development Officer (CDO) and run a vehicle. We did not ask for a huge amount of money. The CDO currently oversees the RSAS (Remote School Attendance Strategy) team of 15, oversees the RJCP (Remote Jobs and Community Program) activity contract directly managing the supervisors for nursery, 4 town camps and 16 outstations, a team of 34. In total the CDO directly manages 49 Mabunji personnel across a wide range of activities which directly address the Federal Government's THREE MAIN PRIORITIES.

As well as, the CDO consults with and listens to the needs and work ideas of approximately 300 RJCP participants in our region in the quest to provide and/or develop meaningful and job-like activities in accordance with the vision of Minister Nigel Scullion under the old system and now IAS.

The CDO is the direct link to Gulf Savannah NT - the RJCP service provider for Borroloola and Robinson River. (GSNT is a 50/50 partnership between Mabunji in Borroloola and Mungoorbada in Robinson River, in case you were unaware).

The CDO is also the direct link for GEC (Government Engagement Coordinator) and IEO's (Indigenous Engagement Officer) in all matters RSAS and RJCP. By denying Mabunji the ability to employ a Community Development Officer, PMC are denying Mabunji the ability to successfully perform all of the above tasks for the benefit of the staff, participants and the community AND will put extra pressure on existing staff who are already burnt out.

By denying Mabunji a CDO, this will seriously compromise the ability of Mabunji to deliver quality RJCP job-like activities in the future. This decision by PMC is detrimental to the opportunity of RJCP participants to engage in meaningful activities that will lead to having enough confidence of developing skills to get and keep a job, or better still owning and operating his/her own business. This decision will also result in serious job-loss for currently employed local indigenous people.

Any anomalies that have arisen from the IAS procedures?

We believe the biggest anomaly is that there was no consultation with our organisation before the final decision was given out. How can strangers judge what is good for this community, how can strangers judge existing business of an organisation when there is not consultation, how can strangers judge or know the impact of not funding such an integral function of Mabunji – OR ANY SIMILAR ORGANISATION?

Alison Doyle
Chief Executive Officer
12 April 2015