

This email is in response to the IAS funding process.

The Halls Creek Healing Taskforce Aboriginal Corporation was incorporated only in late 2013. The Taskforce existed for six years before that time. Since January 2013 until now it's work has created 10 new Social and Emotional Wellbeing positions and has secured \$1.2m per annum of funding to create a SEWB workforce of local Aboriginal people in Halls Creek.

It's job is to implement the Halls Creek Healing Strategy, funded by State and Federal Governments.

The Taskforce applied for funding through IAS believing it met all the criteria set down by the government and spoken about publicly by the Prime Minister and Minister Scullion. Each said the IAS process would fund local solutions by grass roots organisations. Taskforce is both.

Providing jobs and safer communities, as well as Aboriginal Governance were all priority areas. Taskforce's work fits into all categories.

On the smell of an oily rag it has been able to implement already significant changes, create jobs and provide community oversight and governance of the projects it has found funds to start. Taskforce finds funding for the organisation in town it believes can best run the programs which fall under the Healing Strategy. None of this funding for programs is received by, or can be used by the Taskforce to fund its own governance and Healing Strategy implementation activities.

Yet the Taskforce received zero funding from the IAS project, leaving it without ongoing funding. It now survives on small grants from \$20,000 to \$35,000 which will keep it going until June this year, after which time its activities will cease unless further funding can be found

The Halls Creek Shire, which is run by non-Aboriginal people, received significant funding of more than \$1m for a new youth project.

While the Taskforce believes youth funding is crucial for Halls Creek and supports this allocation, it believes what was said would be adhered to in the funding process was at odds with what was allocated.

Kind regards

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Barbara Biggs
Project Implementation Office/Mentor
Halls Creek Healing Taskforce