

House of Representatives Inquiry Submission Wheatbelt Region

Closing Date for Submission - Monday 14th July 2008

Please complete as many pages as required

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Position Role (if applicable): principal
Organisation (if applicable): Bruce Rock District High School
Region: Wheatbelt Region

Signature:

1. Please provide your thoughts on future funding of regional programs in order to invest in genuine and accountable community infrastructure projects.

A key area I believe needs to be funded is support for families in the way of:

- parenting skills support
- cheap/free counselling services available
- greater promotion of kids help line services and support for children, via schools, for agencies such as Mercy Reconnect etc to be able to come into regional schools and work with children.

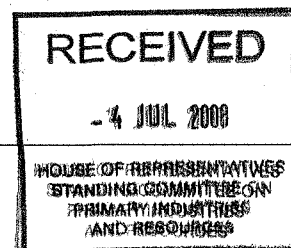
There is no point supporting other community infrastructure if the family itself is in crisis and unable to function effectively. With the ongoing 'creep' of low socioeconomic and dysfunctional families moving to the country (mainly as they cannot afford to live in Perth due to rental prices) there is an ever increasing need for these services and they are not the type of families who will drive 2 hrs to Northam to meet with an agency.

2. How should the Federal Government design regional programs in a way to minimise administrative costs and duplication for taxpayers.

Make sure they are talking to the State Govt for starters to ensure they are on the same page! And ensure there is no overlap of services. It really is a case of each department needing to talk to each other to ensure the outcomes trying to be achieved through service delivery target different audiences and have different outcomes. And, as a novel concept, maybe sometimes different departments could even work together to jointly provide a service!

3. Examine the former government's practices and grants outlined in the Australian National Audit Office report on Regional Partnerships http://www.anao.gov.au/director/publications/auditreports/2007-2008.cfm?item_id=40BC1C6C1560A6E8AAA43AAB96708E61 with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs.

4. Examine the former government's practices and grants in the Regional Partnerships Program after the audit period of 2003-2006 with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs.



Forward Submission to -

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Post: Committee Secretary; Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government; PO Box 6021; House of Representatives; Parliament House; CANBERRA ACT 2600
(Note- In order to facilitate electronic publishing of submissions, the Committee would prefer posted submissions to be sent on disk or CD-ROM in Microsoft Word[®] or Portable Document Format (PDF).