



Not for Profit Manager's Forum (Broome)

Submission to the Inquiry of the Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia

February 2014

**Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia
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BACKGROUND

Background:

The Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia was appointed by the House of Representatives on 21 November 2013 and the Senate on 4 December 2013.

The Committee invites interested persons and organisations to make submissions addressing the terms of reference.

Joint Select Committee Terms of Reference:

The Committee is to consider policies for developing the parts of Australia which lie north of the Tropic of Capricorn, spanning Western Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland, and in doing so:

1. examine the potential for development of the region's mineral, energy, agricultural, tourism, defence and other industries;
2. provide recommendations to:
 - a. enhance trade and other investment links with the Asia-Pacific;
 - b. establish a conducive regulatory, taxation and economic environment;
 - c. address impediments to growth; and
 - d. set conditions for private investment and innovation;
3. identify the critical economic and social infrastructure needed to support the long term growth of the region, and ways to support planning and investment in that infrastructure.

Inquiry Outcomes:

The Joint Select Committee will present to the Parliament its recommendation for a white paper which would detail government action needed to be taken to implement the committee's recommendations, setting out how the recommendations were to be implemented, by which government entity they were to be implemented, a timetable for implementation and how and when any government funding would be sourced.

Inquiry Timeframes:

The Committee is due to present an interim report to Parliament after **30 May 2014**, with particular reference to the outcomes of public hearings held across Northern Australia, and any specialist knowledge emanating from the public submissions process. The Committee is due to deliver its final report and recommendations to the Parliament on or before **6 July 2014**.

Submission Information:

Submission deadline Monday 17th of February

Submissions to be emailed to jscna@aph.gov.au or sent on disk or CD-ROM to the Committee Secretariat in Microsoft Word® or Portable Document Format (PDF).

SUBMISSION PARTICIPANTS

Not for Profit Manager's Forum (Broome)

The Not for Profit Manager's Forum is a consortium of community service organisations.

The organisations who participate in the forum deliver generic services from the Broome Urban Centre/Locality however they are frequently involved in delivering services across the Kimberley. Agencies may deliver services to some, or all of the following Shires;

- Broome
- Derby-West Kimberley
- Halls Creek
- Wyndham-East Kimberley.

The organisations who participate in the forum are generic service providers, not Aboriginal Corporations or indigenous-specific organisations.

The Forum was established in 2010 and meets informally on a regular basis to provide peer support, share information and foster collaboration on service/project delivery in the region.

Forum Members

Member	Services Delivered	Shires Covered
Broome CIRCLE Inc	Early Years Learning Family Support Financial Literacy Education Financial Counselling Emergency Relief Volunteer Resource Service Community Development	Shire of Broome: Urban Centre/Locality (UCL) and wider Local Government Area (LGA) incorporating key Aboriginal Communities
Men's Outreach Service	Indigenous youth suicide prevention (Alive and Kicking Goals) Prisoner recidivism reduction (Re-entry Link) Prisoner support Men and Family Relationships Regional Men's Health Initiative	Shire of Broome UCL & LGA Shire of Derby-West Kimberley Shire of Halls Creek Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley
Centacare Kimberley	Meals Emergency Relief Tenancy Support	Shire of Broome UCL & LGA Shire of Derby-West

	Case Management	Kimberley Shire of Halls Creek Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley
Red Cross	PHaMs (Personal Helpers and Mentors) SAM Our Way (Alcohol and Other Drugs prevention) Youth Well-Being FoodCents Indigenous Links HESS (Home Energy Saver Scheme) Emergency Services	Shire of Broome UCL & LGA Shire of Derby-West Kimberley Shire of Halls Creek Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley
Kimberley Personnel	Specialized Employment & Job in Jeopardy Services for community members affected by disabilities & long term health conditions including; Mental Health	Excised Non-Remote Area of Broome
Kimberley Individual & Family Support Association	Support and referral for families affected by disability Respite Employment Support Carer's Support	Shire of Broome UCL & LGA Shire of Derby-West Kimberley Shire of Halls Creek Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley
Anglicare WA	Relationship Counselling F&DV Support & Counselling Sexual Abuse/Assault Counselling Carer's Support	Shire of Broome UCL & LGA Shire of Derby-West Kimberley Shire of Halls Creek Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley
Headspace Kimberley	Outpatient Mental Health Service for Young People	Shire of Broome UCL & LGA Shire of Derby-West Kimberley Shire of Halls Creek Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley
Marnja Jarndu Women's Refuge	Residential Support Service for women and children escaping F&DV Children's Activities Outreach	Shire of Broome UCL
Burdekin Youth In Action	Young Mums Group Life & Social Skills	Shire of Broome UCL

	Diversiory Activities	
Broome Youth Support Group	Parent Capacity Building Early Years Learning Family Support Life & Social Skills Development Diversiory Activities Case Management	Shire of Broome UCL

Other contributors to the Submission:

Organisation/Department	Contribution
Shire of Broome Community Development Directorate	Review of Submission
Dept for Child Protection & Family Support	Review of Submission

SUBMISSION SCOPE

In a meeting held on 12/02/2014 consideration was given to the full Terms of Reference (TOR) however Forum Participants have elected to focus this Submission on TOR 3.

That being;

To identify the critical economic and social infrastructure needed to support the long term growth of the region, and ways to support planning and investment in that infrastructure.

REGIONAL PROFILE

1. Key Profile Descriptors:

- 1.1 Large, rugged geographical area
- 1.2 Poor road conditions
- 1.3 Poor availability of public/affordable transport
- 1.4 High population growth
- 1.5 Poor accessibility in the wet season
- 1.6 Significant dry season population spikes
- 1.7 High proportion of residents on Government payments
- 1.8 High proportion of residents in State Housing
- 1.9 Lack of crisis and short term accomodation
- 1.10 Major Industry = Service Industry

2. Key Economic Issues:

- 2.1. High cost of living – the Regional Price Index 2011 indicates that it costs approximately 20+% more in the Kimberley
- 2.2. High cost of doing business locally – commercial rents, freight
- 2.3. Overreliance on the provision of government payments, government services, not-for-profit support and welfare services
- 2.4. Poor financial literacy
- 2.5. Increasing debt & associated financial distress
- 2.6. Untapped opportunities for cultural tourism, agri-tourism and eco-tourism
- 2.7. Untapped opportunities for pay-to-volunteer enterprises

3. Key Social Issues:

- 3.1. Poor quality accommodation and high frequency of overcrowding
- 3.2. Poor access to structured Tenancy Support
- 3.3. High numbers of itinerant/homeless people moving through the region
- 3.4. Widespread inter-generational economic disadvantage, especially amongst the Aboriginal population
- 3.5. High prevalence of alcohol-related crime/injury/illness/disease/disorder
- 3.6. Alcohol restrictions – a mixed bag of outcomes for affected (and neighbouring) communities
- 3.7. Reconciliation and cultural marginalisation
- 3.8. Poor social capital and civic pride

4. Key Health Issues:

- 4.1. Extremely high health burden in the region
- 4.2. High infant mortality rates and poor early childhood health
- 4.3. High rates of suicide, particularly amongst the Aboriginal population
- 4.4. Increasing diagnoses
- 4.5. of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD)
- 4.6. High cost, poor quality and restricted availability of fresh produce in the region

5. Emerging Trends:

- 5.1. Increasing number of resource companies seeking access to the region's natural resources which is in direct conflict with increasing world recognition of the region as a tourist destination
- 5.2. The presence of FIFO families
- 5.3. Increasing community concern regarding local Food Security

ISSUES FACING FORUM PARTICIPANTS

Workforce

1. The transience and poor health/literacy/numeracy/qualifications/work readiness of the region's workforce
2. The lack of regional availability of quality professional development opportunities and tertiary level qualifications for Social Work, Psychology, Community Development, Event Management, Commerce/Business/Management etc
3. The lack of affordable housing for NfP staff

Infrastructure

4. The need for a regional international airport to make living in Broome less isolated and therefore more appealing to wider labour markets
5. Unreliable IT/coms infrastructure and poor regional coms coverage
6. The lack of affordable rental space for NfPs
7. The lack of local/regional facilities planning in support of fostering co-location and the development of multi-purpose premises
8. The presence of systemic barriers to the installation of solar power on public/community facilities
9. The complexity of Royalties for Regions Grant Applications is a barrier to successful submissions from small organisations
10. The inability of NfPs to fully deliver against Government Service Agreements on account of regional barriers such as weather/road conditions, travel time and lack of suitable premises from which to deliver services, particularly in remote communities

Service Delivery

11. The ongoing administrative burden associated with reporting to multiple funding bodies against multiple funding streams at different times throughout the year
12. All Forum participants are generic community service organisations however, due to the regional context, tend to be de-facto Aboriginal service providers. Funding models for services delivered do not always reflect this duality
13. NfPs also end up being a de-facto transport service as there is no public transport or subsidised/low cost transport services to regional centres and outstations across the North of Australia

14. The need for prevention/early intervention services in financial literacy, early childhood health AOD and family support

Sector Coordination

15. The need for regional social infrastructure/community mapping, including, community centres, recreational/leisure/sporting facilities, arts spaces, meeting places, storage spaces, clubs, community service organisations, community events, volunteering services/opportunities, and local knowledge & skill sets
16. The need for the development of a regional plan to reduce the duplication of funding, service delivery and resources and to foster increased collaboration on place-based outcomes
17. The need for a more transparent and coordinated approach to planning for and responding to catastrophic events in the region

RECOMMENDATIONS

Economic Infrastructure:

1. Address local housing models by developing throughput options that focus on increasing options for individuals/families that earn between \$45k - \$75k e.g. more GROH/NRAS/affordable rental and home ownership options. Security of tenure for non-social housing tenants needs to be addressed in transition models of housing. Throughput model of housing required for people to make transitions.
2. Continue to invest heavily in IT/coms infrastructure to reduce regional isolation and the facilitate innovation
3. Support the development of multi-functional Community Centres that encourage co-location and collaboration of allied services
4. Need to increase and re-focus investment in the labour market by upselling local people to take local jobs. This includes securing tertiary level qualifications and investing in Aboriginal Micro Enterprises, Agri Tourism & Eco Tourism – including the scoping of potential business ideas, support for business development, access to micro finance options and ongoing business mentoring to prevent the businesses from falling over
5. Develop a Regional Transportation Strategy – public transport, subsidised low cost transport services to regional centres and outstations across the North of Australia
6. Support community run solar power (and other renewable energy) initiatives and to stop utilities services from blocking the installation of solar power to public and private dwellings

Social Infrastructure

7. Support Local Governments to conduct comprehensive community/social infrastructure mapping exercises in their area of responsibility with a view to developing a coordinated Regional Growth Strategy and fostering the sharing of skills and resources within the sector
8. Shift away from the welfare/rescuing/over-servicing of Aboriginal communities by investing heavily in capacity building that fosters true self determination
9. Invest in cross-sector coordination, capacity building and leadership development for community leaders and NfP Managers
10. Invest in pro-social Activities/Events/Engagement/Reconciliation activities in order to build community connectivity and mutual obligation (and shift the focus from welfare recipients/clients to participants/volunteers)

FORUM CONTACT DETAILS

Members of the Forum would like to invite Select Committee Members to contact the group for further information/interview via;

Broome CIRCLE Inc

enquiries@broomecircle.org.au