



ABN 23 001 616 100

## TULGEEN DISABILITY SERVICES

[www.tulgeendisabilityservices.com.au](http://www.tulgeendisabilityservices.com.au)

Bob Westmacott, Patron

Gae Rheinberger  
President Board of Directors

Eva Taylor  
Executive Officer  
[evataylor@tulgeendisabilityservices.com.au](mailto:evataylor@tulgeendisabilityservices.com.au)

Steve Canby  
Operations Manager  
[s.canby@tulgeendisabilityservices.com.au](mailto:s.canby@tulgeendisabilityservices.com.au)

Administration Support  
26 Eden St  
PO Box 512  
BEGA NSW 2550  
Ph: (02) 6492 2455  
Fax: (02) 6492 4296  
[tulgeengroup@bigpond.com.au](mailto:tulgeengroup@bigpond.com.au)

Client Services  
5-7 Spindler St  
PO Box 512  
BEGA NSW 2550  
Ph: (02) 6492 4186  
Fax: (02) 6492 3844  
[tulgeengroup@bigpond.com.au](mailto:tulgeengroup@bigpond.com.au)

Stitches & Prints  
45 Eden St  
P.O. Box 512  
BEGA NSW 2550  
Ph: (02) 6492 3931  
Fax: (02) 6492 3816  
[stitches.prints@bigpond.com.au](mailto:stitches.prints@bigpond.com.au)

Riverside Nursery  
&  
Bega Valley WorkCrew  
Taronga Cres  
P.O. Box 512  
BEGA NSW 2550  
Ph: (02) 6492 4151  
Fax: (02) 6492 5190  
[mbvwc@bigpond.com.au](mailto:mbvwc@bigpond.com.au)



An accredited disability employment service provider.

11 July 2008

The Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development & Local Government  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: [itrdlg.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:itrdlg.reps@aph.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

### SUBMISSION: INQUIRY INTO NEW REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

Tulgeen Disability Services (TDS), a community based non profit organisation providing services to people with disability, was a recipient of funding under the former Federal Government's Regional Partnership Program.

The following submission is based upon the experience with the process of submitting an application and the approval process.

Firstly, however, from TDS's point of view, it was disappointing that the publicity given to the Regional Partnerships Program and the innuendo surrounding how grants were allocated appears to tarnish all projects under that Program. We consider that our project provided real outcomes for the community.

With regard to a new regional development funding program the following comments/suggestions are made:

#### 1) Involvement of Area Consultative Committee

The assistance provided by the South East NSW Area Consultative Committee (SEACC) was invaluable and the guidance provided assisted our organisations success under the program. A local contact for the program was of significant benefit by being able to discuss projects at the grass roots level.

#### 2) Preparation of Business Plan

A substantial business plan was submitted as part of the application process. Many hours were spent describing every aspect of the project including the need for the project; budgets; marketing and outcomes. The business plan ensures that the applicant has thoroughly thought through the project and the requirement for a business plan should remain.

### **3) Development Application/Approval**

Applications for funding under the Regional Partnerships Program required development approval (where necessary) to accompany the application. This requirement resulted in significant delays in the submission of the application. Considerable expense was also incurred in preparing and submission of the development application – and with no guarantee of funding being approved this could have been a costly exercise. It is submitted that where development approval is required, the Council in question be requested to provide details whether the proposal is in keeping with planning regulations rather than the need to submit a development application. Funding approvals can be conditional upon future development approvals.

### **4) Assessment Process**

Our understanding with regard to the assessment of projects was that the project is summarised by departmental staff for the Committee's deliberation. Whilst we were not privy to this summary it became evident that the summary was deficient. During the assessment process a number of phone calls were received seeking clarification on a number of areas. The nature of these questions indicated that the summary of the project was substantially inadequate and wrong conclusions were being drawn from the information presented to the panel. This was disappointing given the effort put into the preparation of a business plan. It is our view that either a representative from the assessment panel meet with the applicant or the opportunity be provided for the applicant to address the panel. At the very least, any summaries should be made available to the applicant to ensure that important information which could be the difference between success or failure is not omitted.

### **5) Matching Funding**

As a non government, not for profit, community based organisation – Tulgeen Disability Services, in its normal operating budget, does not have funds available to match available grants particularly for capital improvements. This lack of funding is extremely restrictive given that our organisation is expanding and the delivery of services to our clients is hampered by the lack of physical infrastructure. It is believed that in any future program, consideration be given to the requirement for matching funds. It is believed that much can be done by organisations such as TDS, to improve and manage community infrastructure in regional Australia. Unfortunately, lack of available matching funding prohibits such improvements and hence the delivery of services.

## 6) Conclusion

In conclusion, we commend the government for reviewing the avenues for providing funding for genuine regional economic development and community infrastructure. Tulgeen Disability Services believes that the success of its Regional Partnership funding application resulted in both economic development - through the creation of new jobs; and improved community infrastructure by providing a purpose built facility that has enabled the creation of alternative, productive and valued work for supported employees (people with disability). This would not have been achieved without the Regional Partnerships Program and a local manufacturer who partnered TDS in the proposal.

On behalf of Tulgeen Disability Services I thank the Committee for providing the opportunity to make a submission to this Inquiry.

Yours Faithfully

**Nick Machan**  
**Business Services Manager**