

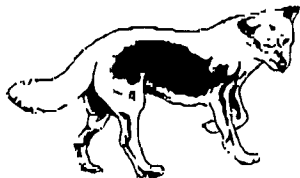
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 PMB ALI-CURUNG
 VIA ALICE SPRINGS
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10/05/2005

The Secretary
 Standing Committee on ATSLA
 House of Representatives
 CANBERRA ACT 2600

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 10 MAY 2005
 BY: ATSLA

Submission No. 9
 Date Received 10-5-05

ATT: Cheryl Scarlett
 Inquiry Secretary

RE: Indigenous Employment

Aboriginal employment needs to be looked at in many different ways before statements like the Hon Kevin Andrews MP made in the discussion papers, "that Indigenous Australians must get their fair share of the jobs". This is very true except where are the jobs and the people who want to do them. If he knows something we don't know, then it would be great to hear it.

There are several things that need to be considered:

1. Do they practice work ethics?
2. Do they want to work?
3. Is there Employment where Aboriginals are living?
4. Can Employment opportunities be created for a long term?
5. Who will fund these employment opportunities, (Private or Government)?
6. Should Mining royalties be paid to individuals or should it be accounted for like any other payment to any Australian?
7. Mining company's should train and employ Aboriginals where the mines are on Aboriginal lands.
8. Understand that City Aboriginals have more opportunities than Remote Aboriginals.
9. Change welfare mentality. (The government will always give us money no matter what) **so why work!**
10. Aboriginals on communities basically only live for the day and seldom make plans with their incomes and wages.
11. Customs and traditions need to be considered with out question.
12. Have continual communication training on roles and responsibilities to family, self and work (this needs to be an everyday event not when ever you can get a trainer to come and talk. In main stream homes it starts with parents teaching children, this is not being done in many of the remote community families.

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RE: Indigenous Employment

Aboriginal person in Ali Curung will not leave their country to go and get a job outside of this region; it just is not going to happen. Most employment opportunities need commitment to show up for work. Very few are prepared to make any commitment. Even if they did have the same opportunities the culture here is totally different to Aboriginal people in the city, bureaucrats and politicians realise that it is important to the community to keep some form of employment. Full time employment can only be achieved with full time commitment with continuous funds. (Private Enterprise, Government funding.) Private Enterprise is not sustainable at the moment in Ali Curung. We would in the future like to see it become sustainable. We look at what we can get the community to do that will teach them and help them keep the community clean. This also gives them pride in the fact that they have been doing something that can earn a small income instead of just sitting around.

CPA will only work if there is some sort of push and shove forcing participants to get involved with CDEP. They are unable to sustain any reasonable time frame in work, eating, sleeping, and playing.

Ali Curung CDEP has participants at the school and at the community shop as well as the Sports and Rec, Bracs and municipals. The government wants CDEP to be a stepping stone to getting a full time job. This is not the case for Ali Curung and it will be many years to come before this can happen. Even if there were jobs, only four of five percent would be reliable enough to show for work.

It seems that most of the Governing agencies are only interested in performances and reporting, and pointing out what we don't do right (us and them). It would be better if they were supporters and planners with communities for a better future.

Understanding of the cost involved with the up keep of machinery and other equipment in remote areas. At Ali Curung we need to replace most of our machinery. The cost would be around the Five Hundred Thousand Dollar mark (\$500,000.00) or more. Most of the machinery is between 10 and 20 years old. This makes it hard to employ people to operate the machinery due to cost of repairs and unreliability. When Machinery gets to a certain age, there should be no question to the need of replacement, unless Councils think they are still ok.

Regards



Arthur Dougherty
CDEP Manager