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BY: ATZIA

Cullacabardee Aboriginal Corporation

C/o Manager

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Management Support Program

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Parliament of Australia
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

Attention of
Cheryl Scarlett
Inquiry Secretary

Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs**Inquiry into Indigenous Employment**

Dear Cheryl

I welcome this opportunity to respond to your letter dated the 24th of March 2005. At Cullacabardee we run a Management Support Program (MSP) and Capital Upgrade Program (CUP) which are funded by the Aboriginal Housing Directorate (AHD) which is a department of The Department of Housing and Works, (DHW) and the Ministry of Housing.

I am the Works Supervisor of these programs at Cullacabardee and have spent the last 10 years delivering this service to various Aboriginal Communities around Western Australia.

The purpose of these programs is to provide full time work and training to Aboriginal people in building and construction. We currently employ 6 people of aboriginal decent in a full time capacity. We are upgrading and renovating all of the houses at Cullacabardee. All of the houses here were built in the early 80's and have never had any work carried out on them since.

These programs can also be subsidised by CDEP. Although we don't at the moment have a CDEP program at Cullacabardee we are in the process of trying to obtain some CDEP Positions.

From my own experience of working in MSP has shown me how successful these programs can be and should provide the following outcomes.

1. Provides training and experience in Building and Construction.
2. Provides full time employment with award wages.
3. Improves self-esteem dramatically.
4. Helps Communities with Housing Management (rent collection etc)
5. Aids Communities in Self Government.

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6. Helps to provide people with good affordable housing.
7. By providing a better standard of housing we also provide a healthier environment for all residents.

In addition to the above we also find a large improvement in the general community with people taking better care of and having more pride in their houses. This of course reduces maintenance and maintenance costs. There seems to be sense of pride throughout the community.

This is obviously not 100% efficient because you can only help the people that want to improve their lifestyle and only people who want to learn can be taught but I work on the principle that every small success is better than none.

One of the major problems we face is the fact that we are never guaranteed funding for longer than a 12 month period which leaves people wondering all the time as to will they have a job next year.

Also most of the Traineeships and Apprenticeships in the construction industry run for several years so without a guarantee of funding we can't sign people up for apprenticeships etc. I have worked with several people that I have felt with the proper guidance could go on in this industry to working towards a trade certificate and could then in turn pass these skills on to other indigenous people which in the future would have a great benefit not only to themselves but to the whole Australian Community.

I have over the years seen many different schemes and programs that have started and fizzled out due to lack of interest, lack of funding, lack of training or the complete lack of people to follow things up. These programs (MSP and CUP) are different in the respect that we have very positive outcomes and provide what the community needs. We also have very strict guidelines in accountability, not only financially but in the outcomes and amount of work carried out.

I hope this will provide you with some information as to a positive program and please provide us with any feed back from your enquiry. If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



E.J. Riley
Works Supervisor
12th of April 2005