

The objective of the project was to provide the participant with experience in basic mechanical repairs and welding. The project would provide an opportunity for the participant to work in a team, to experience the work environment (including occupational work and safety requirements) and for the participant to assess, without committing to an apprenticeship or traineeship, their aptitude for this type of work.

Council currently employs an apprentice every two (2) years. The project did not guarantee employment as an apprentice but was designed to encourage the participant/s to promote themselves for formal consideration.

On the basis of the information provided to Council it was understood that the hourly rate (inclusive of on-costs and casual loading) would have been \$29.12, which is considered extremely high for an unskilled person, with the level of subsidy being considered as insufficient to reduce the hourly cost to the level expected for a trainee position.

Unfortunately, Council has been unable to proceed with the project on the basis of the estimated costs.

Council would seek consideration being given to the funding of strategies to engage indigenous youth, to provide workplace experience in trades related areas, to encourage employment as apprentices, and/or trainees. Council would also be seeking information on the success of other similar initiatives.

Yours faithfully,



Mark Arnold
General Manager

Submission No. 53
Date Received 10-5-05

Birthplace of Our Nation

10 May 2005

The Secretary
Standing Committee on Aboriginal &
Torres Strait Islander Affairs
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

RECEIVED
10 MAY 2005
BY: ATSI/A

By Email: atsia.reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Scarlett,

Re: Inquiry into Indigenous Employment

I write on behalf of Council in response to your correspondence dated 23 March 2005, advising of the Inquiry into Indigenous Employment by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Affairs.

The following submission is prepared in accordance with the following Council Minute 194/05, adopted at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 21 April 2005:-

"Resolved that Council write to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Inquiry into Indigenous Employment, detailing the difficulties recently experienced in obtaining employment with training opportunities for a local indigenous youth."

Council in providing its comments notes that the standing Committee under the terms of reference for the Inquiry is seeking "positive factors and examples amongst Indigenous Communities and individuals", and that Council's recent experiences do not fit this criteria.

Council has recently investigated with the assistance of the local employment agency, a project that would have provided a local indigenous youth employment for a period of approximately fifteen (15) weeks, in Council's workshop for two (2) to three (3) days a week.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

The General Manager

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