

House of Representatives Inquiry Submission Wheatbelt Region

Closing Date for Submission - Monday 14th July 2008

Please complete as many pages as required

Name: Linda Bulloch
Position Role (if applicable): Principal Southern Cross DHS
Organisation (if applicable): Department of Education and Training
Region: Wheatbelt Region
Signature:
<p>1. Please provide your thoughts on future funding of regional programs in order to invest in genuine and accountable community infrastructure projects.</p> <p>Funding in Regional locations is dependent upon local knowledge of the community. Submissions should reflect a 'whole of community' approach thus ensuring communities grow within a planned manner, building upon the strengths they have. Funding should not be undertaken in an <i>ad hoc</i> manner. Sometimes the funding in a rural community is meant to be spread so far that little is really achieved – a focus on one area or initiative [such as parenting or vocational education] may be of greater benefit than several smaller applications ~ some experience here has been too little to do too much.</p>
<p>2. How should the Federal Government design regional programs in a way to minimise administrative costs and duplication for taxpayers.</p> <p>Design of regional programs should be continuous and ongoing. It is critical that there be public disclosure/education of the funding existence; guidelines for potential applicants; examples of successful applications expressly for the purpose of educating the community.</p> <p>The employment of an officer within our region has greatly facilitated community access and knowledge – I am uncertain who funds this position; but it is of great benefit.</p>
<p>3. Examine the former government's practices and grants outlined in the Australian National Audit Office report on Regional Partnerships http://www.anao.gov.au/director/publications/auditreports/2007-2008.cfm?item_id=40BC1C6C1560A6E8AAA43AAB96708E61 with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs.</p> <p>Were there universal education/information within the public domain about the grants and process of applying there may be less reason for criticism of the location of successful submissions.</p>
<p>4. Examine the former government's practices and grants in the Regional Partnerships Program after the audit period of 2003-2006 with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs.</p> <p>Education for all ~ although it is possible there is greater likelihood electorates within rural regions will be</p>

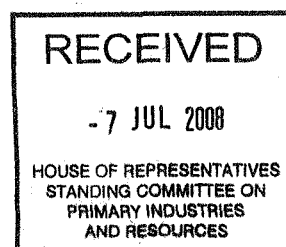
Forward Submission to –

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Email: itrdlg.reps@aph.gov.au

Post: Committee Secretary; Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government; PO Box 6021; House of Representatives; Parliament House; CANBERRA ACT 2600
(Note- In order to facilitate electronic publishing of submissions, the Committee would prefer posted submissions to be sent on disk or CD-ROM in Microsoft Word® or Portable Document Format (PDF).

aligned to the Coalition [which may be why the audit revealed more successful submissions from Coalition areas]; it is not helpful to see or hear of projects promoting/targeting rural growth being aligned to politics. Communities work hard and I believe across the political boundaries ~ rural communities believe in and work for their community; they are not so defined by politics.



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