

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005**

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

**(239) Output 3.1: Whole-of-Government Coordination of Policy Development and Service Delivery for Indigenous Australians**

Senator Crossin (L&C 113) asked:

Provide a copy of the statement of requirements for a tender that the consultants that are engaged to undertake the evaluation of the COAG trials are required to meet.

*Answer:*

The documentation used to procure a consultant for the AP Lands trial is at **Attachment A**. This documentation is similar to that used in other sites, with small differences to reflect the particular circumstances of each site.

**ANANGU PITJANTJATJARA (AP) LANDS (South Australia) COAG TRIAL**

**REQUEST FOR QUOTE DOCUMENTATION**

**Background**

**The wider context**

On 5 April 2002, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) announced they would trial a new approach for working with Indigenous communities in up to ten regions.

COAG agreed a new approach was necessary as both outcomes and management processes in Indigenous policy and service delivery needed to be improved. The new approach was twofold:

- governments must work together at all levels and across all departments and agencies; and
- Indigenous communities and governments must work in partnership and share responsibility for achieving outcomes and for building the capacity of people in communities to manage their own affairs.

To contribute to the framework of continuous learning on Indigenous Affairs, the Australian Government is looking to ensure that all the COAG trial sites are evaluated by independent evaluators. This will be a two stage process, with the first stage (in 2005) focused on learning from and developing the trials, and the second stage (in 2007/08) on a more comprehensive assessment of trial outcomes and achievements.

**The AP Lands trial site**

The Australian Government Sponsor and Partner for the trial is the Department of Health and Ageing. South Australian State Government Partners are the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (DAARE) and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. The Tjungungku Kuranyukutu Palyantjaku Regional Forum represents communities in the trial site.

The AP Lands cover some 103,000 square kilometres in the far north west of South Australia. The AP Lands are defined and protected under the Pitjantjatjara Lands Right (PLR) Act (SA) 1981. The title (freehold) to the land is held by Anangu Pitjantjatjara (the AP Council), an incorporated body established under the PLR Act.

The AP Lands are part of a much larger country of Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara (NPY) people which covers some 350,000 square kilometres of South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory, and is known as the 'cross border' region.

Communities in the cross border region share strong language and cultural ties that operate irrespective of State borders. The communities are; Pipalyatjara, Kalka, Murputja Homelands, Amata, Pukatja (Ernabella), Kaltjiti (Fregon), Mimili, Watarru and Iwantja (Indulkana). The communities range in size from approximately 650 at Pukatja down to small homelands groups.

The estimated total population in the AP Lands is 2600. Population is comparatively young with 34% aged under 15 and only some 9% over 55 years (source: Nganampa Health Council). The total NPY population in the cross border region is estimated to be 5,000. There is a considerable

mobility throughout the whole region, for family, ceremonial, access to services, and other purposes.

Strategic documents specific to the AP lands trial include the original Shared Responsibility Agreement (SRA), endorsed by the Steering Committee in September 2003. This SRA is currently under review with potential to endorse a Regional Partnership Agreement under the Tjungungku Kuranyukutu Palyantjaku Regional Forum (the new Steering Committee formed in February 2005).

### **Statement of Requirements**

OIPC wishes to engage a consultant to conduct a formative evaluation of the South Australian AP Lands COAG Indigenous trial. The evaluation will consist of a literature review (research material supplied) and consultations with nominated groups.

**The primary focus of this evaluation is on what's working, what's working well and what could be improved.** It is anticipated that at this stage of the trial, most of the lessons learned will relate to the processes of the trial, and capturing community and government perceptions of these processes will be an important part of the evaluation. Though any interim evidence of outcomes should also be included, a detailed analysis of outcomes achieved is not required for this evaluation and will be addressed in the 2007/08 evaluation.

The consultant will provide OIPC with a **draft and final written report** (short and concise) that addresses/considers the following:

#### 1. Setting the scene (The History)

- A broad overview of the region, conditions and challenges at the start of the Trial.
- The history of the Trial – key dates, agreements, significant events, specific initiatives, the establishment of governance and partnership arrangements.
- Any commitments made by governments and the community.
- The extent of involvement of the community in setting the objectives and priorities for the Trial.

#### 2. Working together (The Process)

- What has and has not worked with the Commonwealth and State lead agency arrangements and why.
- The mechanisms in place to improve coordination between and within governments and what difference they have made.
- The extent of Commonwealth and State agency knowledge of and support for the COAG trial.
- The kind of working relationships that have been built between the government and community partners and how this is affecting the operation of the Trial and community outcomes.
- What Shared Responsibility Agreements are in place and how these have worked.
- How well the concept of shared responsibility has been understood and adopted by both governments and communities.
- Whether governments have delivered on their commitments/undertakings.
- Whether community has delivered on its commitments/undertakings.

- Who was involved when the Trial began, and who is involved now. Any changes that have occurred. Whether the work of the Trial is largely confined to governments and service providers.
- The extent of understanding of and support for the Trial within the broader Indigenous community and how this has been demonstrated.

### 3. Lessons learnt (Interim Outcomes)

- The extent to which the community continues to support the objectives/priorities agreed at the start of the Trial. Whether they have changed, and if so why.
- The extent to which the new Indigenous affairs arrangements are understood and/or accepted by the communities.
- What has worked and not worked from the community's perspective.
- What has worked and not worked from governments' perspective.
- Any initiatives that have been undertaken as part of the Trial and what the outcomes are.
- Any interim outcomes from Shared Responsibility Agreements.
- Whether in practice the Trial has resulted in a new way of working together or doing business, and what is new or better.
- Whether one part of the Trial is working better than others and why.
- What progress has been made in implementing a whole of government approach. Whether there is better coordination of government programs and services. Whether this has led to improved service delivery arrangements and outcomes.
- Whether there have been any (good or bad) unintended consequences, outcomes or changes.
- Whether the proposed commitments and undertakings are likely to achieve the agreed objectives and priorities.

### 4. Next steps

- Whether the Trial has progressed as far as hoped, and if not what the critical barriers were. What could be done about any barriers that exist.
- Whether there would be benefit in revisiting the agreed objectives, priorities or commitments for the Trial.
- Whether the Trial will be ready for evaluation in 2007-08. Whether agreements have measurable and achievable objectives and priorities. Whether there are baseline and/or ongoing performance monitoring reports.
- Suggestions for issues that should be examined in the 2008 evaluation.
- Suggestions for any other changes that could be made to improve the work of the Trials.

## **Consultation**

In conducting the evaluation, consultation with the following groups must take place. There will be one consultation meeting per group.

- Department of Health and Ageing (Adelaide)
- Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (DAARE) (Adelaide)
- Department of the Premier and Cabinet (Adelaide)
- Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination (Adelaide)
- Tjungungku Kuranyukutu Palyantjaku Regional Forum (Alice Springs)
- Chairperson of the AP Council (AP Lands)
- Aboriginal Lands Task Force (Adelaide)
- Commonwealth heads of agencies (that attend the OIPC led meetings)

- WPT members
  - Anangu Pitjantjatjara (Land Council) and PY Services
  - PY Media Corporation
  - Nganampa Health Council
  - NPY Women's Council
  - PY Education Committee
  - Anangu Arts

## **Literature review**

The literature review will consist of the following documents:

- South Australian APY Strategic Plan
- Report by the Hon Bob Collins, dated 23 April 2004
- AP Lands SRAs
- Report on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands by Prof Lowitja O'Donohue and Rev Tim Costello, dated 23 March 2005
- Improving Program and Service Delivery on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands: A proposed approach by the Australian Government and the South Australian Government dated June 2005
- Bi-lateral agreements between the Commonwealth and South Australian Governments
- Steering committee (previous and current) minutes

## **Skills**

Consultants should demonstrate:

- experience in working with Indigenous people and an understanding of the issues facing Indigenous Australians in a remote setting;
- experience working with government;
- an understanding of the Australian Government's new arrangements in Indigenous Affairs.

## **Proposed Timetable for Provision of Services**

The consultant will provide the services in accordance with the following timetable:

Briefing of consultant	24 October 2005
Submission of draft report to OIPC and South Australian government staff	5 December 2005
Submission of final report	19 December 2005

The information collected in the process of the project and the report will remain the joint property of the Commonwealth and the South Australian Government and may be used by the Commonwealth and the South Australian Government to expand this project, and may be published in part or in its entirety.

The proposed length of the contract is three months.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

In evaluating Quotations, OIPC will determine which quote represents best value for money and may take into account, among other matters:

- (a) the extent to which the quote complies with and demonstrates an understanding of the Statement of Requirements;
- (b) the service provider's methodology for undertaking the evaluation;
- (c) the extent to which the quote demonstrates that the service provider has the technical capability, experience, capacity and resources to provide the services in a timely manner;
- (d) the extent to which the service provider demonstrates successful experience in dealing with Indigenous communities in a remote setting;
- (e) the extent to which the service provider demonstrates knowledge of government processes;
- (f) the service provider's detailed costings (including hourly rates) and timeframes;
- (g) the service provider's potential for conflict of interest.

### **Quotations must be sent to:**

Ruth Frampton  
Performance and Single Budget Branch  
Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination  
PO Box 17  
Woden ACT 2606

Or e-mailed to:

ruth.frampton@oipc.gov.au

**By COB 14 October 2005**

Quotations must include a methodology to address the 'Statement of Requirements', and a statement addressing the 'Evaluation Criteria' outlined above. Enquiries should be directed to Dianne Lantry on 02 6121 4711 or to Ruth Frampton on 02 6121 4847. Further information about the COAG Trials is available at: <http://www.indigenous.gov.au/coag/>