



Poverty in the Midst of Plenty: Economic Empowerment, Wealth Creation and Institutional Reform for Sustainable Indigenous and Local Communities

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

AUSTRALIAN POSTGRADUATE AWARD (INDUSTRY) (APAI) SCHOLARSHIP

Project Summary

Poverty in the Midst of Plenty: Economic Empowerment, Wealth Creation and Institutional Reform for Sustainable Indigenous and Local Communities is an ARC-funded research project which investigates legal, social and political factors, especially but not confined to the mining and energy sector, that enhance or detract from indigenous economic development outcomes.

The Chief Investigators are examining social, economic, policy and other relevant data relating to the flow of benefits (such as employment, training, education, enterprise development) from the resources sector to indigenous peoples and the links between government policy/services for indigenous well-being. The project also involves an investigation of legal forms (land title, securities, taxation, incentives) for indigenous economic empowerment and wealth creation. The project aims to provide reliable data and information to stakeholders involved in mining and energy projects, including indigenous parties, corporations and government agencies responsible for indigenous economic and social development. The research design is predicated on the goal of sustainable indigenous and local communities as envisaged by the researchers and research partners.

Chief Investigators

- Professor Marcia Langton (School of Population Health, University of Melbourne)
- Professor Lee Godden (Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne)
- Professor Ciaran O'Faircheallaigh (School of Politics & Public Policy, Griffith University)
- Assoc. Prof. Miranda Stewart (Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne)
- Dr John Taylor (Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, ANU)
- Assoc. Prof. Maureen Tehan (Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne)
- Dr Lisa Strelein (AIATSIS) is a Partner Investigator (PI) on the project and AIATSIS is a collaborating institution.

Research Partners

- The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- Woodside Energy Ltd
- Rio Tinto Ltd
- Santos Ltd
- Marnda Mia Central Negotiating Committee Pty Ltd

The Scholarship

As a part of this project, the ARC has awarded us an Australia Postgraduate Award (Industry) (APAI) scholarship over three years (\$27,222 per annum plus a \$6,000 contribution per annum from the project's industry partners).

We envisage that the APAI will be centrally involved with the project's Chief Investigators and Partner Investigators in research planning and development of the methodology and engaged in design and conduct of aspects of the case studies.

Possible Research Areas

The inter-disciplinary scope of this project, its conceptual design, the breadth of its research and comparative approach make the project particularly appropriate for a research higher degree student. There is a number of potential research areas for the successful APAI candidate. For example, the design and intent of legal and/or institutional frameworks for securing and managing benefits for indigenous and local communities that are parties to, or affected by, mine project agreements would be a highly suitable topic. So too would the institutional forms and types of engagement used by both indigenous and non-indigenous parties in implementing agreements for land access, the mechanisms agreed for implementing provisions of the agreement relating to employment and training, education, enterprise development, environmental monitoring and benefits management. These topics would also involve investigating the process through which the parties seek to achieve long-term outcomes for the sustainability of local communities and the agreements themselves, including the issue of how do the parties establish 'ownership' of agreement outcomes. This is an issue that arises within the native title process but which also touches all types of agreements in other circumstances.

Applications Welcome

We welcome applications from candidates interested in pursuing a PhD, ideally in a public policy, economics or legal field relating to this project. The candidate would be qualified in social science, economics or law and demonstrate a capacity to conduct research at the doctoral level. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants are encouraged to apply.

Depending on the discipline and topic, the successful candidate may be supervised by any of the Chief Investigators and so may be based at the University of Melbourne, Griffith University or ANU.

The successful candidate must enrol on a full-time basis before 31 December 2010.

How to Apply

Send a half to one page outline of your proposed topic, together with your CV, including your academic qualifications, to our Project Manager Jessica Cotton by email jcotton@unimelb.edu.au by **Monday 6 September 2010**.

For further information please contact

Ms Jessica Cotton

jcotton@unimelb.edu.au

03 8344 0823

www.atns.net.au