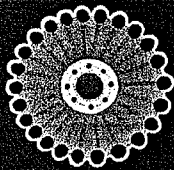




NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA



SHARED RESPONSIBILITY AGREEMENT

between the

Commonwealth of Australia
through the Department of Family
and Community Services

the

Northern Territory Government
through the Department of Chief Minister
Indigenous Policy Unit

and the

Thamarrurr Regional Council

21st March 2003

A COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS' INITIATIVE

1 OVERVIEW

This is a *Shared Responsibility Agreement (Agreement)* between the three governments the Commonwealth Government, the Northern Territory Government and the Thamarrurr Regional Council, (the Governments).

This Agreement is made in a spirit of partnership, and:

- recognises and respects each of the parties' rights and responsibilities; and
- provides a basis for cooperation and partnership between the Governments.

Key Principles

This agreement is also based on the following principles and beliefs that the people of Thamarrurr hold to be important.

The people of Thamarrurr:

- wish to have the same opportunities to participate equally in society as do other Australians;
- recognise and respect traditional owners rights;
- respect each other's country;
- are working towards respect and peace between families and clans;
- are working towards unity as a region;
- wish to develop all 20 land owning group's country;
- recognise that the services at Wadeye are for all people of Thamarrurr;
- recognise 'first contacts' and contemporary contacts and their influence;
- wish to develop clan and family business interests;
- support an educational system that teaches our children mainstream education whilst at the same time reinforcing our cultural values; and
- recognise Kardu Diminim as the traditional land-owning group of Wadeye

2 OBJECTIVES

In making this Agreement the Governments have agreed to work together to:

- establish partnerships and share responsibility for achieving measurable and sustainable improvements for people living in the region;
- support and strengthen local governance, decision making and accountability;
- learn from a shared approach - identify what works and what doesn't and apply lessons to future approaches both at the community level and more broadly;
- ensure the provision of better coordinated and more flexible services to meet the needs, as agreed to by the Governments, of the Thamarrurr Region; and
- concentrate on community capacity building by supporting the community's assets, capacities and abilities.

3 ARRANGEMENTS

The guiding principles of this agreement are:

- the partners are the Thamarrurr Regional Council, the Commonwealth Government and the Northern Territory Government;
- each partner is equal and understands and accepts the role of others;
- the central role of the Thamarrurr Regional Council is recognised and partners understand and accept the differences of cultures;
- responsibility for achieving outcomes and setting actions is shared;
- partners recognise that priorities identified under the agreement will change over time;
- Thamarrurr will be the primary point of contact for undertaking activity in the region; and
- the development of Thamarrurr and the well being of its people will underpin all actions undertaken through the COAG Indigenous Community Coordination Project.

The Governments recognise the need to ensure that the views of all stakeholders are considered.

4 REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Following on from community consultations the Governments agree that the key regional priorities for this agreement fall into three broad areas:

- Women and families;
- Youth; and
- Housing and construction.

All partners agree that education, training and enterprise development are essential for the well being of Thamarrurr and its people. Any agreed actions to address the three priority areas must also address agreed education, training and enterprise development needs.

A Tri-partite Steering Committee made up of the Governments has been established to:

- guide and monitor negotiations on the partnership agreement;
- negotiate with the community on establishing priorities and themes; and
- develop an appropriate evaluation methodology agreed by all parties.

To assist the Tripartite Steering Committee to develop agreed actions and outcomes Priority Working Groups have been established to concentrate on the three priority areas (Women and Families, Youth and Housing and Construction). These Priority Working Groups are made up of the Government representatives.

The Priority Working Groups will:

- report on a regular basis to the Steering Committee;
- work with the community to develop an Action Plan and timelines to address identified priorities and related issues (to be endorsed by the Tripartite Steering Committee);

- identify, join up and source existing funding and services, both government and non-government; and
- monitor the implementation of on-the-ground programs and services.

As part of this Agreement, regional priorities and agreed outcomes will be detailed in the *Shared Responsibility* Priority Working Group Action Plans between the Governments. These action plans will be attached as schedules to this Agreement when endorsed by the Tripartite Steering Committee.

5 ATTACHMENT TO THIS AGREEMENT

The Shared Responsibility Priority Working Group Action Plans will come together in one attachment to this agreement when endorsed by the Tripartite Steering Committee and will:

- contain information on what the Governments agree to do and take responsibility for in making positive changes in the three priority areas;
- contain information on how the Governments will know these actions are making a positive difference (agreed performance indicators, benchmarks and (need for) baseline data; and
- contain information on how the Governments continue to talk to each other and how they are able to check that progress is occurring (establish specific feedback and monitoring mechanisms).

With the agreement of all parties, the Shared Responsibility Action Plans may be added to or changed at any time to reflect agreed new or revised priorities, actions and outcomes.

6 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT AND EVALUATION

The Governments agree to monitor and evaluate progress against agreed benchmarks and milestones as well as agree to make performance information available for national evaluations. Benchmarks, milestones and performance information are being developed and when agreed on will be attached at a later date.

7 ACCESS TO DATA

Data collected during, or as part of, an activity carried out under this agreement will be made available to the Governments.

8 DISPUTE SETTLING ARRANGEMENTS

As part of this agreement the Governments will agree on a simple process for settling any disagreements/disputes or misunderstandings that may arise. The agreed dispute settling mechanism once developed and agreed on will be attached at a later date.

9 REVIEW OF PROGRESS

Progress with activities undertaken as part of this agreement will be reviewed after six months and again at regular intervals as agreed by the Governments and endorsed by the Tripartite Steering Committee.

10 DURATION AND VARIATION OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement will come into effect from the date of signing by all parties and shall continue in force until the parties agree to terminate the Agreement.

The Governments may agree in writing at any time to change the contents of this Agreement.

If any partner wishes to withdraw from the agreement at least 3 months notice must be given to the other party or parties.

This Agreement was made on the 21st day of March 2003.

Signed for and on behalf of
the COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA by

Signed for and on behalf of the
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY by

MINISTER
Family and Community Services

CHIEF MINISTER
Northern Territory

Signed for and on behalf of
Thamarrurr by

DESCRIPTION OF LOCAL PROJECT

PRIORITY AREA - WOMEN AND FAMILIES

Thamarrur and governments have recognised that women and families is a key priority area.

The women of Wadeye have been working for a long time to develop the Kardu Darrikardu Pumemanpinu Family Program.

Now they are a part of the Priority Working Group for Women and Families and together, they are working out how this program can actually happen.

The Kardu Darrikardu Pumemanpinu Family Program will allow the local Aboriginal women of Wadeye to build a happy healthy community within its foundation.

The broad aim of the program is to provide necessary, practical and appropriate information and support to individual families and their members on a wide variety of topics through culturally appropriate processes.

The program aims to assist families to develop individual family plans that considers all issues for families. It will help families build their social capital, provide accurate information on contemporary issues, help families help their kids to attend school and it will help families with work options.

The program will be run by the local women who have the right authority to work with individual families. The program is based on cultural responsibilities and relationships and families will be helped in a range of areas by those who are able to help them.

Shared Responsibilities and Outcomes

Wadeye women have worked out what this program will be doing and how this program will operate. Workshops have been held, many meetings have happened and the work undertaken at the Ngepan Patha Centre (Women's Centre) has also helped to bring this program together.

The Priority Working Group on Women and Families are now working together to identify the shared responsibilities for all partners involved.

The Priority Working Group is also working on identifying outcomes and indicators, benchmarks and feedback arrangements.

The Priority Working Group is also working on how this program will provide jobs, training and enterprise development for the local community.

The Priority Working Group will provide their completed Shared Responsibility Action Plan to the Tripartite Steering Committee meeting in May 2003.

Once endorsed by the Tripartite Steering Committee the Shared Responsibility Action Plan will become a part of this agreement.

DESCRIPTION OF LOCAL PROJECT

PRIORITY AREA - YOUTH

Thamarrur and the Governments have recognised that youth is a priority area.

The Priority Working Group is working on identifying what governments and others already provide for youth at Wadeye and how these services can work better together. They are also working on what services are missing at Wadeye for youth.

Thamarrur have had workshops and meetings about their young people and Priority Working Group members have been involved in these meetings.

Thamarrur and the Priority Working Groups recognise that for positive changes to occur for youth at Wadeye, the involvement of families and the local community is essential. There is recognition that that what ever programs already exist and whatever new programs are created - all must have legitimate roles for the involvement of families and the local community.

The Priority Working Group also is looking at what training and education and job opportunities exist for youth and how to build on this to support leadership and skill development amongst the youth of Wadeye.

Shared Responsibilities and Outcomes

The Priority Working Group on Youth are working together to identify the shared responsibilities for all partners involved.

The Priority Working Group is also working on identifying outcomes and indicators, benchmarks and feedback arrangements.

The Priority Working Group is also working on how training, education and enterprise development can be best targeted to the youth of Wadeye

The Priority Working Group will provide their completed Shared Responsibility Action Plan to the Tripartite Steering Committee meeting in May 2003.

Once endorsed by the Tripartite Steering Committee the Shared Responsibility Action Plan will become a part of this agreement.

DESCRIPTION OF LOCAL PROJECT

PRIORITY AREA - HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION

Thamarrur and the Governments have recognised that Housing and Construction is a priority area.

Thamarrur have already done much work on the above priority area. They see that adequate housing is essential for the well being of their people. They also believe that a sustainable local construction industry will help them become more independent. A local construction industry would create jobs, provide training and generate capital for the community.

Thamarrur have worked on business plans for the housing and construction area.

Their work on these ideas and ideas around home ownership, partnerships with private enterprise and involvement of the banking sector are all being worked on by the Housing and Construction Priority Working Group.

There has been many reports and submissions written around these areas and the Priority Working Group is reviewing these reports to identify common themes and what ideas could be implemented in the short and long term.

Information on residency patterns is being sought to help plan for appropriate housing. The Priority Working Group is working to bring all this information together.

Training and job opportunities is a key area for this Priority Working Group.

Shared Responsibilities and Outcomes

The Priority Working Group on Housing and Construction are working together to identify the shared responsibilities for all partners involved.

The Priority Working Group is also working on identifying outcomes and indicators, benchmarks and feedback arrangements.

The Priority Working Group will provide their completed Shared Responsibility Action Plan to the Tripartite Steering Committee meeting in May 2003.

Once endorsed by the Tripartite Steering Committee the Shared Responsibility Action Plan will become a part of this agreement.