

Wiru Palyantjaku (Anangu Task force) 8/02/06

Minutes of meeting

Present:

APYLC

Rex Tjami, Director
Bernard Singer, Chairperson
Ken Newman, General Manager

Nganampa Health

John Singer, Director
Leonard Burton – Mai Wiru, Nganampa,
Robert Stevens – Mai Wiru, Nganampa Health,
Jamie Nyaningu – Nganampa Health,

NPYWC

Yanyi Bandicha

PYEC

Katrina Tjitayi, Director

PY Media

Owen Burton

Amata - Muyuru Burton, Willy Kaika

Anilaya - Ernie Frank

Kaltjiti - Murray George

Murputja Homelands - Sammy Lyons

Pukatja - Makinti Minatjukur, Gary Lewis, Joseph Tapaya, Trevor Adamson

Watinuma - Hudson Lennon

Secretariat Support Officer - Mary Anderson

Meeting opened 11.30 am. Chairperson Yanyi Bandicha

Apologies: Ananguku Arts, Mimili, Watarru

1. Role of Secretariat

Secretariat role was explained to members

Members agreed that Anangu of the APY Lands need more information from Wiru Palyantjaku and TKP so they have a better understanding of the two groups.

2. How WP and TKP operates

There was a lot of discussion from the members about different topics. The overall support for WP and TKP was good.

- Happy that there are representatives from communities on Wiru Palyantjaku
- Being on this group, communities have a voice
- Anangu ideas go forward to government through TKP
- If breakdown in funding, Communities can bring to Wiru Palyantjaku, then it can go to TKP (Tjungunku Kuranyukutu Palyantjaku)

- TKP is for filling in the gaps. Communities still access own funding through government and Funding Bodies.
- TKP is support for community programs
- These two groups look at the Bigger Picture, Health of people, mental health, accommodation & housing, not small programs, Communities still responsible for own affairs

How WP and TKP will work properly

For these two groups (WP &TKP) to work properly members feel that the following has to be right.

- Members have to keep this group strong
- We have to work together, not work separately
- Look, Listen and help our communities and look at our programs
- Work for Anangu
- Start looking toward the future, training is important
- Meeting Minutes go to the communities
- If Communities have a problem, they can bring their MSO to discuss the program.
- Community needs only be brought to WP & TKP not Community business
- Support Community projects and big projects on the APY Lands, eg: Store Policy and PY KU

Other issues members raised were as follows

- Need proper training and apprenticeships for young people
- Not happy with CDEP
- Communities need to run football carnivals on weekends only not during week days, as this affects children's attendance at school

3. Introduction

Leonard Burton introduced new staff member for Mai Wiru, Robert Stevens, who will be working on this project in the Eastern Communities.

4. Pukatja

Gary Lewis nominated Makinti Minutjukur to be the representative from Pukatja to be on Wiru Palyantjaku. Mr Lewis also showed the members of WP the Anangu Flag, which was launched in Adelaide that he said represents the Anangu people of the APY Lands.

5. Anangu Malpa for Service Coordinators on APY Lands

Names of people nominated as potential malpas

- 1 Trevor Adamson
- 2 Sammy Lyons
- 3 Kenneth Ken

6. Membership of Wiru Palyantjaku as nominated by members

East: Sandra Pumani – Mimili
Daisy Henry – Indulkana

Central: Makinti Minatjukur – Pukatja
Hudson Lennon – Watinuma

West: Charlie Antjipalya – Watarru
Sammy Lyons – Murputja Homelands

Allowances for attending meetings will be paid for these members, only if they are on CDEP, have no income or are not receiving allowances from different organisations. Travel assistance will be paid for all members attending meetings.

7. Agenda item for TKP

Wiru Palyantjaku meetings are to be held before TKP Meeting

Members of Wiru Palyantjaku have asked for the next TKP Meeting to be broadcast on Radio 5NPY.

8. Logo for Wiru Palyantjaku

A copy of a letter was supplied to Katrina, PYEC asking for a schools competition for a logo.

9. Mai Wiru

John Tregenza, Mai Wiru provided the following information as an update for WP and for inclusion at TKP on 20-21 February.

The following are priority areas of action which can be taken by the government partners of the Aboriginal Lands Task Force and the COAG partners to support the implementation of the Mai Wiru Regional Stores Policy on the APY Lands.

The Stores Support Unit of Nganampa Health Council is actively implementing the Mai Wiru Regional Stores Policy in community stores across the Lands, and now requires positive and proactive support from the government partners to overcome some of the problems encountered by the Stores Support Unit.

The areas for government action are:

1. Ensure that all government employees, both Federal and State, have read and understand the Mai Wiru Stores Policy (2002) and the Strategic Implementation Plan (2004) in order that appropriate and accurate advice is given to government officers, community employees, community members and others on the Lands.
2. Include, as a matter of urgency, compliance with Mai Wiru Regional Stores Policy and following the directions of the Stores Support Unit as part of the Shared Responsibility Agreements (SRA's) for community funding.
3. Source funding for store managers' salary packages to be included in recurrent community infrastructure funding and thus remove this from the cost structure of store operations and give community Councils more control over store operations.

4. Identify sources of funding for any major renovations/alterations and other infrastructure costs associated with improvements to Stores.
5. Identify funding sources for proposed subsidy on identified health and food items.
6. Ensure State and Federal regulations relating to store operations are enforced, including:
 - Fair trading regulations,
 - State health regulations,
 - Community Council’s compliance with legal requirements of non-profit organizations and community constitutions.

The COAG Trial coordinator, OHA, has been provided with this list of requests. TKP could follow up and see who is responsible for each of these issues, who has done what, and how the departments plan to help Anangu implement the Mai Wiru Stores Policy.

10. APY Services Housing Report

Charles Windeyer, Architect provided the following report to members.

HOUSING

Community Housing is about Health
Homelands Housing is about Health

HOUSING & HEALTH GO TOGETHER

Money for housing on the APY Lands comes from the Federal Government Department of Family and Community Services (FACS). This money is passed to South Australia under a Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA) for distribution and delivery of housing and housing services.

The AHA is the South Australian statutory authority charged with planning, coordination, delivery and evaluation of housing for aboriginal people in SA. Although substantial parts of the AHA’s activities are with Federal Government money the AHA reports to the South Australian Minister for Housing.

The Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (2003-8) provided \$365million to South Australia. That is an average of **\$73 million** each year for 5 years.

In 2005/06 the AP Lands get:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Repairs and Maintenance | \$570,000 |
| Housing Administration | \$140,000 |
| Housing Insurance Premium | \$610,000 |
| Housing Upgrades | \$500,000 |
| New Housing (6 houses) | \$1,500,000 |
| TOTAL | \$3.32 million |

IS THIS ENOUGH? IS THIS YOUR FAIR SHARE?

From a media release from the former Minister Kay Paterson after signing the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement :

The Howard Government has allocated \$4.75 billion nationally for the CSHA to help some of society's most vulnerable people get into state affordable public housing
Anangu are some of those most vulnerable people.

The funding will assist people on low incomes in need of urgent housing, including those who are at risk of homelessness or in crisis

Anangu are homeless and in crisis :

If Anangu have many families in one house or are camping with a relative because they can't get a house of their own, they are homeless.

If you have people suffering or at risk of domestic violence or of becoming petrol sniffers, they are people in crisis

Key features of the South Australian Bilateral Agreement are:

- to maintain a viable social housing sector through regeneration and realigning housing stock to better meet the needs of clients;
- to provide greater housing choices to Indigenous people;
- to ensure housing assistance supports access to employment; including facilitating greater social and economic participation by social housing tenants in areas of urban regeneration; and
- attracting additional resources from outside the social housing sector.

- *Anangu need housing that better meets their needs*
- *Anangu need greater housing choices; size of house, layout of house, position of house in community or on homeland.*
- *Anangu need employment and they need the housing and employment to work together – housing on homelands is no good without employment, employment in communities is no good without enough good housing for people to live healthy lives.*

The signing of the Agreement with the South Australian Government is another example of the Australian Government working together with State and Territory Governments to provide affordable and secure housing options and better housing opportunities for Australians in need

ANANGU NEED AFFORDABLE HOUSING, SECURE HOUSING, BETTER HOUSING

What is stopping Anangu getting the housing they need?

Housing on Homelands

We have been advised that the policy from Canberra is that capital funding for new housing and upgrades is not to be used on Homelands. AHA may not have complied

with this policy in the past but indications are that they may not be supporting new housing expenditure on homelands in the future.

What Does This Mean?

- If the policy is to be complied with it means no new houses can be built on homelands and no existing homeland houses can be given major upgrades.
- I do not know how a Homeland is defined under this policy, but it may mean anywhere with less than a certain number of houses (maybe 15?). It may also mean those places not incorporated as communities. On the AP Lands this includes all the little homelands and might also include places like: Watinuma, Turkey Bore, Balfours Well, Yunyarinyi, Kanpi, Kalka, etc.

Why Is This A Problem?

- There are houses on homelands that need replacing, there are houses on homelands that need upgrading and there are people living on homelands with out proper housing or in overcrowded houses.
- If we cannot provide upgrades and new housing on Homelands people who choose to live on homelands will be living in poor quality houses that do not allow people to follow the UPK healthy living practices. They will have high risk of injury, sickness.
- If people have to move off homelands and into communities it will only make worse the existing overcrowding problem in communities. This inturn contributes to more social problems, and more maintenance issues.
- If we have more people crowding into communities this puts extra stress on services, particularly water. We are already having to look at ways to substantially reduce water use or some communities may run out of water.

Related Issues

- If we are going to have houses on Homelands there needs to be access to power and water on the homelands. The funding for the Homelands Power and Water has been progressively cut over several years. The funding currently is insufficient to even make the existing infrastructure safe and provides nothing for work to secure water and power supplies into the future.
- If people choose to live on homelands they still need access to income and employment. This should not require them to leave their homeland and travel to a community. Apparently Homeland residents find it difficult to get CDEP.
- People on homelands should have access to school for their children and be able to contact the clinic. They may not want to live in a community to access these services. They need support to access these services through communications and transport.

What You Might Do

- Tell the government how important homelands are for people's health and for maintaining culture.
- Let the policy makers know that not all homelands are the same across Australia, and that a policy of no Capital expenditure on homelands in the AP Lands does not work.
- Explain why it is difficult to live on a homeland without a resonable income, why it is good to live on a homeland for peoples health and culture, what problems are faced if you have to move into communities.

- Make sure they the government realises that by not providing for housing some people will still not move, they will just live in substandard, continually deteriorating, and unhealthy conditions.

Wiru Palyantjaku members feel that housing is a big issue that needs to be presented at the next TKP Meeting.

11. Next meeting location

Alice Springs or Umuwa to be chaired by PY Media