

ATTACHMENT 1

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Primary Health Care

1. A formal protocol is negotiated between the local DOH office and the OAH that provides a framework for a greater degree of information sharing in relation to the planning and provision of health related services to Indigenous people in the region.
2. A greater degree of focus is placed upon providing a comprehensive induction and cross-cultural awareness package for new doctors coming into the region. The Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre (WMPALC) already runs successful cross-cultural awareness courses and should be approached to implement a package to meet the requirements of the DOH.
3. Priority be given to progressing the proposed Statement of Intent between the mainstream and Indigenous health service providers with focus placed on:
 - improved collaboration;
 - resolving issues such as the potential for multiple treatment plans; and
 - establishing a process that will provide Indigenous stakeholders with an opportunity for input to the way current mainstream health services are administered to Indigenous people

Alcohol and Drugs

4. Appropriate steps are taken by DOH to ensure that doctors receive adequate and appropriate training in relation to treatment programs and overall drug awareness.
5. The DIA Regional Office provides increased levels of support to the local patrol to help access other funds, provide staff training, and improve awareness of the function and potential of the patrol. This should also include liaison with WAPS to ensure that protocols are adopted to ensure that there are clear procedures in regard to supporting requests for assistance from the patrol.
6. The PKMIF support the need for an increase in access to detoxification and rehabilitation services in the Pilbara region as a matter of priority.
7. WAPS, DAO, the Town of Port Hedland and other relevant stakeholders undertake to review the Liquor Accord in light of proposed restrictions that will come into force on 1 January 2004 and to ensure a suitable monitoring and evaluation mechanism is in place.

8. In order to combat the “culture of drinking” associated in Port Hedland, more efforts should be directed towards trying to initiate “dry” community events, with an emphasis on drawing Indigenous and non-Indigenous people together. *The Long Grassers* report¹ contains a number of recommendations within its alcohol strategy that could be profitably investigated and adopted with modifications by the relevant agencies. For example:
 - the development of acceptable drinking venues;
 - the education of itinerant people regarding the expected types of behaviour within the environs of Port Hedland;
 - targeted case management;
 - an alcohol-free day; and
 - the creation of diversionary activities.

Family Support

9. The relevant government agencies work in conjunction with all youth focused community organisations and young people to develop a range of programs and activities to engage the 17-25 year old age group.
10. The “ready reckoner”/posters produced by the Pilbara Regional Domestic Violence Council and the DVAG be used as a model for other areas such as crisis accommodation and alcohol and drug misuse.
11. The relevant organisations collaborate in developing strategies to market the Bunara Maya hostel to local Indigenous people and to develop suitable alternate accommodation strategies (see also section 5.3.2).
12. DCD and other relevant agencies investigate options to assist the YIC in taking young people home from the youth centre when it closes.

Housing and Tenancy Support

13. A holistic approach is adopted to meet the housing and accommodation needs of Indigenous people in Port Hedland. This should consider remote, town reserve, itinerant and town based needs, and the relationship between each. The first stage of this process should be a detailed study of population trends and shifts, motivations and subsequent short, medium and long-term accommodation requirements.
14. A formal protocol is negotiated between the DHW regional office and the AHU that promotes a joint approach to the planning and provision of housing and related services to Indigenous people in the region.

¹ Memmott. P & Fantin. S, *The Long Grassers: A Strategic Report on Indigenous ‘Itinerants’ in the Darwin and Palmerston Area*, University of Queensland, 2001, p 9-10. Some of the recommendations used have been slightly modified from those in the report.

15. DHW establish a clear process (possibly utilising the ATSIC Regional Council sub-committee structure) to provide direct and local input to housing services, design and evaluation.
16. The application of appropriate housing design guidelines suitable for extended Indigenous families and cultural needs be applied to all future and existing rental housing stock catering for Indigenous people.
17. Increased emphasis is placed on providing home support to tenants of DHW and other housing providers in order to facilitate the transition to mainstream housing and to develop life skills. DHW and DCD should fully implement existing protocols to supplement existing resources and to prioritise Port Hedland for the roll out of the pilot programs.

Crisis Accommodation and Indigenous Itinerants

18. A comprehensive strategy is developed to meet the immediate, medium and long-term needs of all four categories of itinerants identified above. This strategy should build on the proposals contained in the CSP and the work that has been done in the Northern Territory.
19. The commonality between itinerant issues in Port Hedland and other areas of the State be acknowledged and that the State Government through the Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure Council (AHIC) consider the development and resourcing of a state-wide (or across jurisdiction) strategy for itinerants comparable and/or complementary to that being developed in the Northern Territory.
20. The Town of Port Hedland take an active role in managing any proposed town camping area and that no facilities be provided until ongoing management and funding issues have been resolved.
21. A protocol is developed between those agencies providing crisis accommodation in Port Hedland, which details the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder, eligibility requirements and referral procedures.

Outlying Communities

22. The current capital investment in improving housing at Warralong is supported by adequate housing management support programs and community development initiatives.
23. A taskforce be established to review current needs and approaches to the Nomad communities and to seek to resolve the current impasse preventing the resolution of the service needs of Strelley and Woodstock. This review should be undertaken by an independent person and involve ATSIC, DHW, DOH, DIA, the Strelley Nomad organisation, the Association of Independent

Schools, the Office of Non-Government and International Education and the Department of Education, Science and Training.

24. DHW should seek to fully regularise essential services to the Tjalka Wara community and consider mainstream options for housing management. In the interim, immediate action should be taken to ensure the correct positioning of the water meter and to ensure the safe and equitable running of the pre-payment power system.

Transport

25. The Town of Port Hedland and DPI give a high priority to the implementation of the recommendations of the Port Hedland Transport study.
26. A coordinated strategy to meet the transport needs of Indigenous (and other) people in the region be developed. This should be led by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and involve key stakeholders from the PKMIF.
27. The PKMIF seek further advice on the implementation of appropriate safeguards to avoid potential problems associated with the practice of taxi drivers with-holding individual ATM cards. Such safeguards may include an education program aimed at drivers and clients and the development of protocols that include the issuing of an itemised account and receipts showing taxi fares and withdrawals.

Safer WA and the Town of Port Hedland Community Safety Plan (CSP)

28. The Safer WA Committee and Town of Port Hedland, take the appropriate measures to ensure that the aims of the CSP are adequately conveyed to the broader Indigenous community.
29. The Safer WA Committee and nominated Task Force liaise with OCP to resolve the issues raised in the recent correspondence and progress the aims of the CSP.
30. The Town of Port Hedland and Safer WA Committee in consultation with DIA examine the possibilities for developing the legal framework required to implement the proposed community by-laws outlined in the CSP.
31. The relevant stakeholders work together to develop strategies that will encourage a broad, consistent and proactive Indigenous attendance at Safer WA and similar forums.

Other Justice Issues

32. DOJ work in collaboration with DCD and the CDSTs and other agencies with outreach services to remote communities to develop strategies for assisting in the monitoring of DOJ clients who have just been released from prison.²
33. The PKMIF support the DOJ Regional office in requesting additional resources for:
- a. improved case management and follow-up for offenders post-release;
 - b. an outreach worker for remote communities;
 - c. investigating options for the establishment of a facility focusing on the rehabilitation of offenders; and
 - d. improved access to counselling and life-skills support as part of rehabilitation and prevention.
34. DOJ work towards creating a wider community awareness of its role and also consider the production and use of high impact videos to help get the message across regarding driving offences and alcohol abuse.
35. WAPS investigate and develop strategies to ensure that the local PCYC attracts more Indigenous youth to participate in its activities.

Pre-Primary and Early Years Strategy

36. The importance of appropriate pre-school support and parent education be recognised and that a case management approach be adopted at an early age, which identifies potentially disadvantaged students and works with their families and relevant support agencies.
37. DOET investigates the apparent declining pre-school attendance and determines the causative factors and develops strategies to address these.
38. Port Hedland is considered for the future expansion of the Early Years Strategy.

School Retention and Truancy

39. The retention of Indigenous students requires a multilateral approach involving a range of agencies including those responsible for education, health, housing, and community development. A case management approach that encourages the sharing of information should be adopted by those dealing

² DOJ has recently advised that they have been allocated additional resources to address this issue. They are hopeful of contracting an NGO to provide community re-entry services for offenders leaving prison [funding is \$200,000 per annum]. They are also in the process of recruiting two full-time positions whose focus will be developing programs, capacity building [community development], negotiation of MOUs/contracts, etc. between DOJ and remote and not-so-remote communities and assisting with whatever support the community[ies] needs.

with at risk students and families that is flexible and responsive to individual needs.

40. Retention and at risk programs focus on all at risk students from year one and beyond.
41. The DOET “Student Information System” be reviewed to ensure its utility for regional and district operatives.

Teacher Induction and Cross Cultural Awareness

42. Cross-cultural awareness training is mandatory for all teachers working with significant numbers of Indigenous children and forms part of a comprehensive recruitment and induction program for those posted to Port Hedland.

Curriculum Development and Vocational Education and Training

43. Vocational education and training in schools be promoted through increased cooperation between schools and TAFE and that contact with such alternatives be extended prior to Year 10 in order to expose younger Indigenous students to more relevant and career based educational experiences.
44. A closer working relationship develops between the education, training and employment sectors within DOET. This is particularly important given the impending move of the District Education Office from Port Hedland to Karratha.
45. A balance be achieved between the legitimate aims of rewarding and promoting excellence through targeted programs, with the need to invest in the more disadvantaged and underachieving students. Negotiations with potential private sector sponsors should seek support for both approaches.
46. DOET review the impact of mainstream industry training packages on the capacity of TAFE to maintain flexibility and to respond to local training needs and opportunities.
47. The Auditor General’s recommendations relating to the enhancement of VET plans and performance indicators, particularly relating to training outcomes and retention, be given a priority.

Income and Employment

48. Private and public sector employers and relevant Group Training Companies negotiate training subsidies that encourage the pooling of resources to enable group intakes of trainees. This approach could provide mutual support, increased employment options, the potential for rotation between employees and encourage interagency collaboration.

49. The potential for a locally based Group Training Company be investigated by DOET.
50. Group Training Companies, employment and funding agencies place increased emphasis on mentoring and peer support of trainees in order to address the apparent high drop out rate.
51. PDC, DOET, DOIR and DEWR hold discussions to clarify roles and potentially develop more effective partnerships between respective regional employment and economic development officers.
52. The PKMIF support the development of the proposed Local Employment Strategy and closely monitor progress to ensure the active participation of all relevant government and community sectors.
53. Government agencies at the regional and local level consider the development of performance targets to encourage the appointment of Indigenous employees and trainees.

Land

54. The PKMIF acknowledges the importance and inherent potential of land, heritage and culture to provide a number of social, economic and cultural benefits for Indigenous people.
55. The PKMIF adopts the PSROLN as a blueprint for a potential Indigenous land strategy in the Pilbara and works in conjunction with the identified stakeholders to undertake the development of this strategy.
56. The DIA Land Branch brief the PKMIF on the Land Transfer process and provide information relating to the ALT Estate in the Pilbara region.
57. The PKMIF acknowledge the potential socio-economic capital inherent in land for Indigenous people and work to build the capacity of Indigenous organisations to manage and gain benefit from land ownership. This should be done by investigating the various State and Commonwealth initiatives that are available in relation to capacity building and natural resource management.

Heritage and Culture

58. DIA liaise with the PNTS and arrange to brief the PKMIF on the recently signed heritage protocols with a view to developing greater regional collaboration regarding the protection of Aboriginal heritage.
59. DIA undertake to investigate additional resources for Indigenous heritage in the Pilbara region with a view to appointing a Senior Heritage Officer devoted exclusively to the Pilbara region.

60. The PKIMF adopt recommendations 1-4 of the WMPALC feasibility study and work in conjunction with WMPALC to lobby the appropriate arms of the State and Federal Governments in order to secure funding to establish an interpreter service in the Pilbara.

Community Attitudes and Cross Cultural Awareness

61. Cross-cultural awareness training is provided to all government workers and service providers.
62. DIA and ATSIC, in conjunction with BHP Billiton and Wangka Maya, explore options for improving the broader community understanding of Indigenous history and heritage and for the promotion of Indigenous culture and achievements.
63. ATSIC take a lead in engaging the community to develop strategies to address the current level of disharmony within the Indigenous community.

Coordination of Service Delivery

64. The PKMIF is consolidated as a key regional coordinating forum for government agencies in Indigenous affairs.
65. The PKMIF undertake an audit of existing Indigenous coordinating forums and committees in the region with a view to rationalisation.
66. The PKMIF establishes effective linkages to the ATSIC regional planning process, regional council sub-committees, peak community organisations and the IAAC.
67. Participating agencies consider an annual contribution to the cost of “intersectoral collaboration”.
68. A dedicated senior officer (executive officer / place coordinator) be appointed to support the PKMIF in driving collaborative initiatives and achieving agreed objectives.
69. Discussions be held with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet regarding the potential for piloting a Place Management approach in Port Hedland which builds on the proposal outlined in recommendation 68.
70. The PKMIF, with the support of a senior officer, take the lead role in driving the implementation of the recommendations endorsed from this report.

The Role of Non-Government Organisations

71. The vital role of community organisations in the delivery of services to Indigenous people is acknowledged.
72. The training sector, funding agencies, the Office of the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations and the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection place increased emphasis on the development of capacity building strategies to promote improved corporate governance, management and administration of Indigenous organisations.
73. All government agencies that outsource services to community organisations review their processes and evaluation criteria to ensure: maximum value for money; appropriate service standards; and adequate resourcing to achieve the outcomes required.
74. Agencies explore opportunities for the joint tendering of related programs and services in order to streamline the number of service providers, improve efficiencies, reduce perceptions of bias and improve interagency collaboration.
75. A clear distinction is made between community organisations with social objectives and those large corporations that are essentially businesses entities.