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# Empowered Communities News

in the NPY region  
April 2018

## EC Stories Movie Launch

In front of a 50 strong crowd, on Tuesday 27th March we were very excited to launch two short animations to share the Empowered Communities story.

“One Voice, One Plan: Empowered Communities” and “Empowered Communities Tjukurpa” were made by Anangu, for informing Anangu, Service Providers and Government agencies working across central Australia’s tri-state region about this exciting initiative.

With contributions from many senior Anangu, each film has been produced by iTalk studios in English, Pitjantjatjara and Ngaanyatjarra languages. The films are being screened regularly on ICTV, and all versions are available on the EC NPY Facebook page and Youtube, so take a look!



Director, APY Executive, Murray George spoke with passion about the value of EC after the screening

## EC Partner Directors’ Meeting

On 27th-28th March Empowered Communities Partner Organisations’ Directors came together to discuss progress and ways forward for our work. The meetings incorporated a discussion via Videolink with the Secretary of Prime Minister & Cabinet, Dr Martin Parkinson.

Directors from NPY Women’s Council (NPYWC), Regional Anangu Services Aboriginal Corporation (RASAC), and Mai Wiru were there representing EC’s interim Regional Steering Committee along with two Directors from APY Executive.

We talked about the three priority areas that have been identified by Anangu and are shaping the Regional Development Roadmap (see details overleaf), and there was also strong discussion about the initial findings coming out of the EC Service Audit, in particular the mix of Indigenous and non-Indigenous organisations in the region.

Directors will get together again throughout the year and continue to provide strong Anangu leadership for the EC initiative.



Front L to R: Sylvia Benson (Director, APY Executive), Margaret Smith (Deputy Chair, NPY Women’s Council), Jamie Nyaningu (Chair, RASAC). Back L to R: Robert Stevens (Director, Mai Wiru & Deputy Chair, RASAC), Murray George (Director, APY Executive).



## EC on the Road

During 2016-2017 we travelled to communities, attended Community Council and Local Authority meetings and held wider meetings to hear from Anangu about the most important issues for their communities. From those meetings and talks we've learned that some of the most important things for Anangu are:

- Education, culture and support for young people
- Work, meaningful engagement and financial security
- Anangu led decision making and community empowerment
- Housing and infrastructure
- Health and caring for the vulnerable
- Keeping safe

These priorities will help us build a regional plan – the NPY Regional Development Roadmap. The team is using this information to help us go back to communities and report on what we've been hearing. We want to make sure that everyone has a chance to understand what the regional priorities are. We also want to listen to people's ideas about how things could be done differently and in a way that supports Anangu better and helps Anangu be in the driver's seat.



Lee Brady, Stanley Douglas and friends during EC's visit to Amata in February 2018

We're listening out for good ideas to make those changes happen.

In our most recent visits to communities we've been setting up information tables outside community stores and council offices where we share information we have heard from Anangu about the main worries across the region. We also talk about the research and data that tells the same story as Anangu, about how big and hard some of these problems are.

So far this year we've shared the new EC animation at information stalls in Docker River, Imanpa, Amata, Indulkana and Mimili. We've also shared them with the Indulkana and Docker River Local Authority members and the Mimili and Indulkana Community Councils.

Everyone was really happy to hear the EC story being told in language – not just English. It helped people to understand what Empowered Communities is about and to think about good ideas for a strong future, especially for children and young people.



Anangu families were keen to have a look and a chat when the EC team visited Imanpa in March 2018



Hearing the money story from Outback stores at Mimili Community Council AGM, February 2018



## Emerging Leaders Workshop

*“Everything I want a leadership workshop to look like is this. We’ve gone strength to strength these three days... Our time to shine. Next generation of Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara and Ngaanyatjarra leaders”*

These were the words of one of 17 emerging Anangu leaders who came together at Yulara for a three day workshop in late March. This workshop focused on personal qualities of a leader, and participants were encouraged to reflect and talk about their own leadership journeys. There was a lot of talking about what it means to be a young Aboriginal leader, walking in two worlds.

Voyages (who manage the resort at Yulara) provided an opportunity for the group to share ideas about how Voyages can better engage and support their Aboriginal staff and include the local community more.

We are very grateful to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Mutitjulu Foundation who have provided funding for this project for an initial 12 month 'proof of concept' or test period.

The next workshop will be at the end of May, and will be focused on community leadership. At the next meeting managers from Voyages will meet with the emerging leaders to update them on how things have been going with the ideas that the emerging leaders shared with Voyages last time.

We are so excited that this inspiring group of Anangu have an opportunity to come together from across the NPY region, learn from one another and increase their confidence to be leaders in their communities and beyond.



Voyages' Jamie Williamson (2nd from left) and some of the NPY EC Emerging Leaders group

## EC meets with Minister Scullion

Empowered Communities is working to help make Anangu voices heard. In early March EC Co-Chairs Andrea Mason and Mark Jackman had the opportunity to meet Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion and discuss our progress of the Regional Development Roadmap and some of the challenges we face.

The Minister was very interested in the ways we are working to make sure that Anangu can speak up more and talk about their ideas about the services in their communities and the way they are delivered.

The Minister talked about his strong commitment to EC, and full support for the work that we're doing.



Emerging leaders from across the NPY region enjoyed the opportunity to share experiences & learn from one another



EC Co-Chairs Andrea Mason (NPYWC) & Mark Jackman (RASAC) with Minister Scullion (at left)



From left: Andrea Mason, Rueben Burton & Daisy Ward

## Focus on priority area: Education, culture and support for young people

In February Empowered Communities got together with two of the Anangu education powerhouses, Rueben Burton from Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Education Committee (PYEC), and Daisy Ward from NPY Women's Council. The pair met with EC Co-Chair and NPY Women's Council CEO Andrea Mason to discuss the future of education in the region, and a snapshot of that discussion is described in the picture below.

The EC Directors' meeting also provided a good opportunity to sit with ninti Anangu and hear about their ideas for good education. Some ideas were:

- All schools need School Councils with parents, teachers and community members making decisions together
- Language teaching is important – kids need to be

able to read and write in their own language and English

- School should be interesting and relevant, helping people learn to live well and healthy
- Train more local Anangu teachers and have good cultural awareness training for teachers coming from outside.
- Work experience can show young people that education leads to employment & financial independence
- Learning needs to go beyond Year 12, have TAFE available locally or offer scholarships for young people to study beyond year 12
- Work with boarding schools to support young people who don't have access to high school in their community.

