

# Empowered Communities News

## *in the NPY region*

### December 2018

Welcome to our final newsletter for the year— with updates from the last few months! 2018 has been a big year for Empowered Communities (EC) in the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara region. A few of the highlights include:



*The EC Team: Lisa Gray, Margo Northey, Sal Ward, Sasha Kiessling, Peter Riley*

- ⇒ 5 Anangu organizations 'opted-in' as formal partners of EC
- ⇒ 8 workshops held, attended by local & interstate guests
- ⇒ 3 meetings of Anangu leaders & Directors of EC partner organisations
- ⇒ 6 Jawun secondees provided 42 weeks work
- ⇒ 6 animations in 3 languages launched, plus 6 interviews of local leaders released
- ⇒ More than 30 presentations providing EC updates to community councils, Anangu Boards & Directors, at conferences and workshops
- ⇒ 4 submissions to Government reviews and enquiries
- ⇒ And, we drove around 40,000 kilometers visiting NPY communities (equivalent to more than 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> laps of Australia!)

Thanks to everyone for your support –  
we look forward to an even more exciting 2019!

## The Fregon Roundtable; Anangu-led decision-making in action

In early October 2018, EC brought together the Kaltjiti (Fregon) Community Council, with Federal and State Government and local service providers to talk about Anangu-led priorities for the community.

At the meeting, a \$15.8 million South Australian Government investment to build a **new school** in Kaltjiti was discussed. The community is very keen to be at the centre of planning and construction works for the new school – to ensure that the money invested stays in Kaltjiti community.

SA Police also spoke about new about new '**pop-up**' **police stations** to be built at Kaltjiti, Iwantja and Pipalyatjara. SA Police are now talking with the Kaltjiti Community Council about where they want the new police station to be located. Superintendent Paul Roberts announced that they want to employ 30 Anangu community constables across the APY Lands, and that the success of the new pop-up police stations will be better if Anangu are employed and working to keep their communities safe. Support from families in identifying people who could be community constables is really important.

We are really happy to be working with the Kaltjiti Community Council to ensure that the voice of Anangu is being heard. We will keep working with them through 2019 to ensure these exciting new Government investment projects have Anangu at the centre, and bring maximum benefit to the people of Kaltjiti community.



*There was a strong turn out at the Fregon Roundtable with good outcomes for Anangu education and safety.*

## EC First Priority Projects kick off

Empowered Communities is an Aboriginal-led reform initiative working to create long term change to the way Governments make decisions on the programs and activities that affect Aboriginal people. In the NPY region, we are bringing Anangu families, communities, and organisations together with Government to ensure that Anangu are at the center of all future development for the region.

Our work to date confirms that Anangu share many common concerns and a vision for the future with improvements to -

- Education, culture and youth support
- Work, meaningful engagement and financial security.
- Anangu led decision making and community empowerment

Underpinning this is a strong commitment to maintaining Anangu culture and traditional values of *tjukurpa* (culture), *walytja* (family), *manta* (land) and *wangka uti* (language).

We are now taking action through the following projects...

### School-to-work transition support initiative



Everyone coming together in Warakurna to talk about supporting young people from school to work



Winita Campbell and Ingrid Kenny at the Pukatja workshop on transition support

We are excited to have begun work on the design of a 'school-to-work' transition project for the NPY Region. This initiative seeks to prepare senior school students for a smooth and successful transition from high school to work or further study.

The 2017 Closing the Gap report states - 'Young people who do not successfully make the transition from education to work are at risk of long-term disadvantage'.

This is recognised by Anangu, who are worried for the future of their young people and have identified the need for more supports to navigate this transition successfully.

The first planning workshops were held in November at Pukatja (SA), Yulara (NT), and Warakurna (WA). These workshops brought together 50 different Anangu leaders, Government departments, service providers, and subject matter experts to share information and ideas. A combined co-design workshop is planned for March 2019, to finalize this exciting project.

Work experience, one-on-one support for young people and their families and partnerships with local employers are expected to be key elements of the initiative.





## Intensive support for new workers initiative

Anangu have spoken up about their desire to find meaningful, local employment – ‘real jobs’ that contribute to the family and community as a whole. We are working with local employers to not just increase the local employment opportunities for Anangu, but to ensure that work is a positive, supportive and engaging experience, with ongoing incentives for greater worker retention.

Intensive support for new workers is an initiative aimed at increasing culturally appropriate employment conditions and supportive recruitment, training and career pathways for Anangu in NPY communities.

*Support for people into employment and training directly reduces reliance on welfare and leads to a stronger economy. Keeping people in jobs and supporting them to be successful in work ensures the benefits are experienced longer term for individuals, employers and for Government.*

A co-design workshop held in Alice Springs in early December provided a forum for Anangu, employers, Governments and subject matter experts to discuss the best ways of providing more real jobs for Anangu, and what’s needed for new workers to feel more confident and better supported to stay in the workforce. The next steps are to bring together the information from all the workshop participants and design some options for a pilot project to test our ideas. We will meet again early next year to get feedback on the options and decide what the project should look like for maximum effect.



*Small group work in the Alice Springs co-design workshop*



## Kulintja Kutju 'One Vision'

Giving Anangu opportunities to have a voice in matters affecting their lives is at the heart of Empowered Communities. Kulintja Kutju is one of the ways we are trying to do this.

In August 2018 a group of senior and emerging Anangu leaders came together to:

- strengthen existing knowledge and skills about good governance;
- review and assess how currently funded programs in the NPY region fit with Anangu priorities;
- develop recommendations to Government about the programs future.

The group met again in early December to discuss our continued work together in 2019.



*August meeting of the Kulintja Kutju Group in Alice Springs,*

## Emerging Leaders Program

Great news! We will be funded by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) for Stage 2 of our Pilot Emerging Leaders Program. This will allow us to deliver two more workshops as well as document & evaluate the program outcomes to date.

In other news, in September some of Australia’s most senior executives from Jawun corporate partners came to Central Australia to learn more about the NPY region. A group of emerging leaders did a fantastic job hosting a beautiful dinner for them in the Umuwa Creek, and also a bush picnic. The visit was a great opportunity for the young leaders to showcase their skills through organising the event, presenting to the executives and networking.

A big thank you to all involved.



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**Empowered Communities advocacy with Government Leaders**

In the past few months Empowered Communities Leaders have met with Ministers and senior Government representatives in South Australia and Western Australia to ensure that the concerns of Anangu are being heard at the highest levels.

In South Australia we met the Premier, Stephen Marshall, as well as senior members of the Department for Education. We shared Anangu concerns around education in the APY Region, including – the need for good teachers who remain on the Lands – including Anangu teachers; real bilingual education, so young people can read and write in Pitjantjatjara / Yankunytjatjara; and the importance of vocational education and training to help young people prepare for work.



*The Ngarrindjeri Welcome to Country*

**Empowered Communities Leaders meeting and Ngarrindjeri launch**

Aboriginal Leaders from Empowered Communities regions all around Australia met in Murray Bridge (South Australia) during November to celebrate the Ngarrindjeri people becoming the ninth and newest EC region.

At the meeting that followed, the new Associate Secretary of Indigenous Affairs - Mr Ray Griggs (AO, CSC) met with the EC Leaders. There was lots of discussion about the systems and changes that the Government needs to make to better support Aboriginal people.

The Special Envoy for Indigenous Affairs, Mr Tony Abbott was also at the meeting to talk to about his interest in improving education outcomes for young Aboriginal people.

We look forward to working closely with Mr Griggs and the team from PM&C over the next few months as we look at funding and support for EC into the future.



*Samara Hanley & Vicki Lack (SA Department for Education), Andrea Mason OAM (EC NPY co-chair), Prof Peter Buckskin PSM (University of SA) and Mark Jackman (EC NPY co-chair)*



*Andrea Mason OAM (EC NPY co-chair), Maimie Butler (NPY Women's Council); Minister McGurk, Daisy Ward (NPY Women's Council), Jan Turner (consultant)*



*Early morning meeting of EC leaders, Associate Secretary Ray Griggs & senior PM&C representatives*

In November, we met with Simone McGurk, the WA Minister for Child Protection, Women, Family and Domestic Violence and Community Services, and with senior members of WA's Departments of the Premier and Cabinet and Education. At these meetings, we talked about important issues – including more training and leadership development opportunities for young people as they transition from school to work; more mental health services and support for women and children experiencing family and domestic violence on the Lands; and the need for regular playgroup programs in all communities.

There is a lots of work to do, but there was clear agreement from everyone on the importance of working together *tjungu*. Empowered Communities will be following up and continuing to work closely with Governments to bring about positive changes for Anangu families.