



Ngura Kunpu Ngaranytjaku

About Empowered Communities

Empowered Communities (EC) is a national reform initiative created by Aboriginal people, for Aboriginal people. EC is working to create long-term, enduring change, with Aboriginal people driving their own development - making decisions, identifying priorities and seeking solutions to local needs. This ground-up approach ensures Aboriginal people have the responsibility and authority to lead their own futures.



The Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Lands is one of nine EC regions around Australia. The NPY Lands encompasses 26 communities across 350,000² kilometers in the NT, WA and SA cross-border region. The Anangu population of the NPY Lands share languages, cultural and family ties, and a history of unity and collaboration that transcends state borders.

In the NPY region, EC comprises a partnership of communities and their representatives within Aboriginal organisations. Together with service providers and Government, EC is working towards a common vision for Anangu-led development. The EC partnership includes:

- **Anangu Partner Directors:** Anangu representatives from the Boards of each partner organisation, who provide collective oversight and governance.
- **Regional Steering Committee:** representing six Aboriginal organisations operating within the NPY Region (see below), who provide decision making and direction to the Secretariat.
- **Secretariat:** A small team employed to facilitate the EC collaboration and activities. The Secretariat is auspiced by NPY Women's Council (NPYWC) and is based in Alice Springs.
- **Partners and affiliates** in Federal, State and Territory Governments, local Aboriginal organisations, Land Councils, service providers and communities.



Western Desert
Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku
Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation
Making all our families well.
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Our journey so far...

Sept 2013	Feb 2014	Feb 2015	May 2015	2016	2017	2018
NPYWC joins with national Indigenous leaders to develop EC concept	NPY Region EC taskforce formed	Key Anangu organisations formed interim Regional Steering Committee	NPYWC auspices EC Secretariat team	EC receives Federal funding to commence 3-year development phase	Recruitment of NPY EC Secretariat; community engagement begins	Anangu priorities inform first draft of Regional Development Roadmap

Anangu Concerns and Priorities

The EC vision in the NPY Region is:

...for Anangu to lead healthy and meaningful lives, in safe and positive communities, where people have improved life choices, while maintaining culture and language.



Extensive consultation with Anangu throughout the NPY Region has highlighted many common concerns. Three key areas have been determined as first priorities:

1. Education, culture and youth supports
2. Work, meaningful engagement and financial security
3. Anangu led decision making and community empowerment

Keeping safe; Housing & infrastructure; & Caring for the vulnerable were also raised as key concerns.

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

Where to next?

Over the next 5 years (2018 – 2023), EC will focus on driving Anangu led change in these priority areas, which will be described in a Regional Development Roadmap. Empowered Communities will work with Anangu to ensure that they are in the driver's seat for all decision-making with Government and service providers working in the region.

Education, culture & youth supports

Anangu men and women speak passionately about the importance of lifelong learning and the opportunities it can bring. For education to be most effective it must be strongly grounded in Anangu culture, incorporating traditional and modern learning. Anangu are concerned for the future of their young people and want to see them supported to lead happy, healthy lives, with strong cultural identity and connection to country. Anangu seek opportunities for locally relevant education and training that leads to meaningful outcomes and opportunities.



Young emerging leaders from the NPY region



Work, meaningful engagement & financial security

Anangu have a strong desire to make a meaningful, productive contribution to their families and communities. Anangu have spoken up strongly about poverty and the cost of living in the region, and the desire to see local people working in local jobs, enterprise development, and effective solutions to keeping money in the communities. Issues of welfare dependence, compliance, and eligibility all cause significant impacts on NPY communities. Real and ongoing employment and meaningful engagement opportunities that value the wealth of Anangu knowledge and experience are a common desire across the Lands.

Anangu-led decision making & community empowerment

Central to all Anangu priorities for the future is an overwhelming desire to reclaim their power and authority to make decisions and lead NPY communities - Anangu-way. Anangu want local governance and decision making, with Anangu-led and culturally appropriate service delivery. Leadership development & succession planning for stronger future leaders is a key priority.



Members of the EC Partner Directors group

The Empowered Communities Regional Development Roadmap

The Regional Development Roadmap is a unifying document for development in the NPY region. It is being created to ensure that communities, service providers and Government are all aligned in working towards Anangu identified goals.

The Roadmap will provide structural and implementation recommendations that address key priorities for Anangu development in the region. It aims to facilitate working together on an Anangu-led approach to local issues, and how to respond to them.

The Regional Development Roadmap will be presented in a variety of formats to suit different audiences and will address:

1. **WHERE ARE WE NOW:** Anangu concerns and priorities across the region, with supporting evidence, data and case studies. Knowledge gaps and areas for further research will also be identified.
2. **WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE:** An Anangu vision for the future - aspirations and ideas from a local perspective as well as evidence of best practice models; what works in the region, nationally & internationally.
3. **HOW DO WE GET THERE:** An evidence-based theory of change that details how to create transformational development for individuals, families and communities in the NPY region. Recommendations for action - from program to policy levels for the next 5 years, with a longer term view to future recommendations.



Anangu-led procurement and funding reform

The Australian Government is committed to working in partnership with EC at both the National and regional level. This includes joint decision-making on Government investment to support the priorities identified by Aboriginal communities in the region. The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet is working together with EC and Anangu on strategic priorities and streamlining services towards more efficient and effective models.



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

The Minister for Indigenous Affairs has committed to ensuring that Aboriginal people have a direct say in Government spending on IAS funded activities.

This is a real example of Government commitment to EC and the principles of subsidiary - whereby Aboriginal people are directly involved in the decisions that affect them, their families and communities.

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