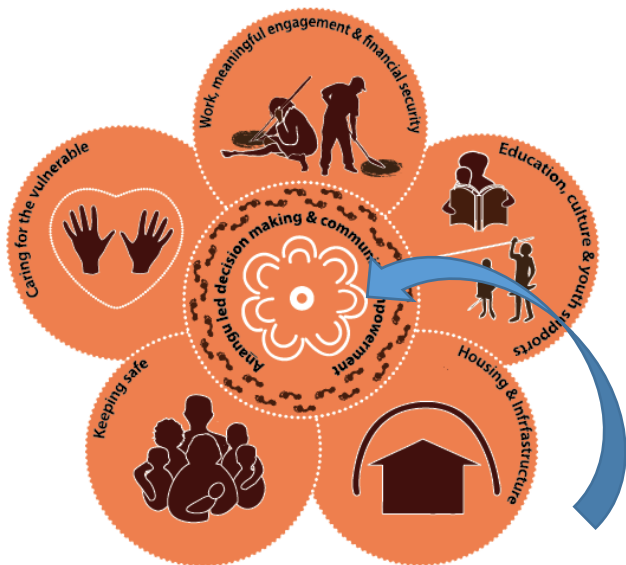


Regional Funding & Procurement

'Anangu led decision making and community empowerment'

Background:

In the NPY Region, Joint Decision Making is a key mechanism by which Empowered Communities is working to support **Anangu-led decision making and community empowerment**. During 2016 and 2017, Empowered Communities conducted extensive community engagement (talking and listening) with all 24 Anangu communities in the region. During this time, communities identified governance and empowerment as a key priority, and spoke strongly about the lack of control over decisions affecting their lives and the importance of Anangu-led programs and services. **Subsidiarity** is a cornerstone of the national EC model – which determines that “*authority for deciding or acting should rest as close as possible to the people affected by the decision or act*”.



“Government should listen more to Anangu and provide consistent support and services to all communities. There needs to be proper talk by government and service providers with Anangu, remembering that by engaging with communities, you get a good plan that everyone understands.”

- Anangu Community Member

Kulintja Kutju ('One Vision') Group

In mid-2018, an Anangu representative group- the **Kulintja Kutju ('One Vision') Group**- was formed to trial Joint Decision Making in the NPY Region. The Group is composed of senior and emerging Anangu leaders and subject matter experts.

This group enables Anangu to make decisions about what programs and services are funded in the region. The process contributes to greater transparency, efficiency and effectiveness in program delivery - for the benefit of Aboriginal individuals, families and communities. Now, Anangu have a formal role in the decision-making process for funding decisions in the NPY Region.

“It’s about having our voice heard... We need to, as communities, we need to have an input. We need our decision-making and ideas coming from us. We want to be empowered you know. We want to use this as a tool to be heard and we want to be able to achieve things in life.”

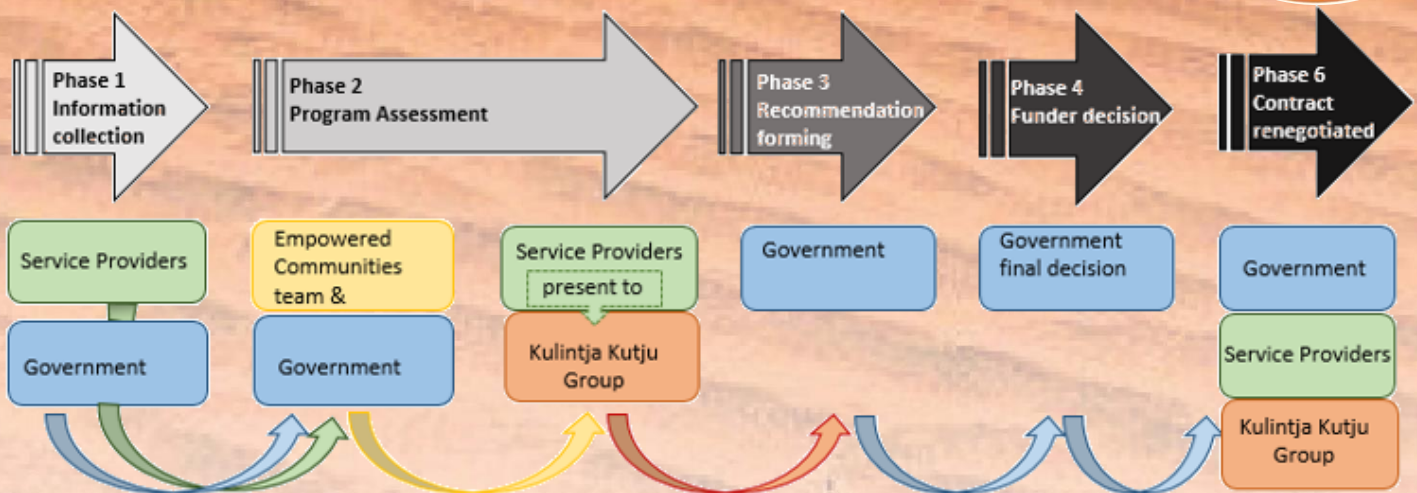
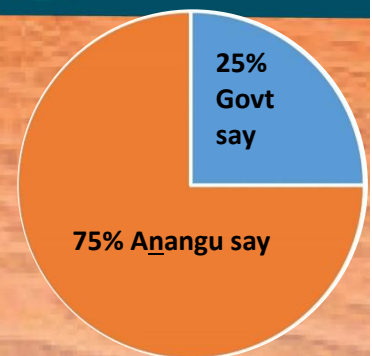
- Kulintja Kutju Group member



Joint Decision Making Process:

The process which has been developed is a collaborative means by which funders, providers and local Anangu representatives review and assess program funding. Crucially, Government provides a 75% weighting to Anangu recommendations when making final decisions about what programs to fund in the NPY Region.

This process has enabled Anangu to receive information directly from Government and service providers and make recommendations to Government as to whether programs should continue or not, and suggested changes to improve outcomes for Anangu. In the future, the process will also enable shared decisions regarding indicators for service and program outcomes.



Outcomes:

To date, the Kulintja Kutju Group have participated in three processes to review a number of programs funded by the Australian Government's Indigenous Advancement Strategy. The Group's recommendations have been provided directly to Government for consideration.

Early feedback indicates that Kulintja Kutju Group members have found this **process empowering** and it has **enhanced their confidence to work with and provide feedback to Government**.

The medium to long-term outcomes on program design and delivery will be a focus of our evaluation over time.

Long-term vision:

Over time, it is anticipated that through negotiation with the Commonwealth and State and Territory governments, additional program funding, procurement and investment streams will also be funnelled through the Kulintja Kutju Group's review process. At the same time, the program aims to build the capacity of Kulintja Kutju Group members to advocate for their communities' rights and interests and confidently engage with Government.

The long term aim of this initiative is the creation of a regional pooled investment model, expenditure from which will be guided by the Regional Development Roadmap as it matures.

"It makes me feel proud and it's exciting for all of us here coming together to talk about things what we need in community. Hopefully this sort of process of having our input towards Government could change the way they deliver services..."

- Kulintja Kutju Group member

