

Submission No. 25
Date Received 22-4-05



Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation

ABN 77644522576

Offices at: 10 King Street Smithton

Postal Address P O Box 355 Smithton Tas 7330

Phone 03 6452 1287 Fax 03 6452 1187

E-mail: chaboriginal@our.net.au

20th April 2005

RECEIVED
22 APR 2005
BY: ATSIA

The Secretary
Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2660

Dear Secretary

Thank you for your letter dated 24th March 2005 regarding "Inquiry into Indigenous Employment" and the opportunity to respond.

Over the period of 01/10/2004 to 31/12/2004 we have been successful in gaining employment for 27 young people. We are not funded to provide this service but it has become a bi-product of the programmes that we are running. We have a lot of voluntary workers that help to support the programmes, as the process can be very time consuming to get satisfactory results with the young people.

We have established a very reliable process that assists youth with employment addressing these issues:

- Building self esteem
- Attitude
- Habits
- Negative work ethic culture
- Generational welfare dependence
- Mentoring
- Positive role models
- Addressing anti social behaviour
- Chemical abuses

This has been achieved by taking our youth away into an environment where they are open to learning. Bush camps are most successful that address personal issues that assist in bringing life balance that is culturally appropriate. Using the MESSH

(mental, emotional, social, spiritual health) workshops, this is an eight session group learning programme that deals with the life issues that often remain hidden and not dealt with in an appropriate manner, which in turn leads to risky behavioural patterns.

The target group we have had success with are the non academic, low achiever in the school system, being around 30% of all our students.

Positively dealing with literacy - numeracy challenges has been successful when the young person understands the reason for needing those skills.

We make sure that all activities are totally drug and alcohol free as this just compounds any personal issues towards learning.

What we like to see put in place is a programme that addresses the learning environment in a culturally appropriate way. Bringing understanding that helps the youth to know the reasons why they need to study and to develop the necessary skills to gain meaningful employment.

We feel that such a programme will be of great benefit to the community, especially our youth at risk and we are fully committed to developing this programme providing we can source suitable funding.

Should you require further information please contact me at your convenience.

Yours respectfully



NORM RICHARDSON
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

nr/nr