



The Lyndon Community

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ALL CORRESPONDENCE
TO:
PO BOX 9374
ORANGE EAST NSW 2800

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Committees
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600**

16 April 2015

Dear Sir,

Re: Indigenous Advancement Strategy Tendering Process

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to the Senate Committee in relation to the IAS tendering process. The following is our organisation's feedback in relation to the process.

n. the extent of contracts offered, and the associated conditions, to successful applicants;

The Lyndon Community has been funded up until June 15 for 2 projects which provide drug and alcohol treatment and support to indigenous communities in NSW. These programs have been operating for 4 years with proven outcomes across both as shown in independent evaluations that were carried out over the program period.

Both of the existing programs as well as 4 new programs were tendered for under the IAS process. As a result of the tender process we have been offered a 1 year funding agreement with the dollar value equivalent to the existing funding being received in the 14/15 agreement. We have inquired as to the reasons for this 1 year offer and as yet have not been provided with an explanation. We were also advised that the funding was not specific to any one program in our tender. This in itself seems to indicate that the process was arbitrary in the way the decisions were made.

Given the tender process was extended and there was uncertainty in the industry our organisation suffered a significant number of employee resignations. Their reasons for their decisions in many cases were as a result of uncertainty on future funding which we could not guarantee.

The provision of a 1 year funding agreement will make the process of recruiting new staff difficult and challenging, as there will be little enticement for experienced staff to give up more permanent positions or relocate. This is also particularly relevant for programs like ours which operate in rural and remote locations. One year funding will also significantly lessen our ability to achieve positive outcomes due to the need to bring staff up to speed prior to engaging with the clients/communities.

The Lyndon Community welcomes the offer of funding to continue the work that it commenced 4 years ago with the indigenous communities of the Central and Far West and South Coast of NSW. But the offer of a single year of funding will present significant challenges for the organisation in maintaining the services' levels and outcomes we have seen to date.

Thank you again for the opportunity to express our concerns regarding the IAS Tender process.

Yours sincerely,

Ed Zarnow
CEO