



**THE SENATE
SENATE FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**Inquiry into the Social Security Legislation Amendment (Community
Development Program) Bill 2015
Public Hearing – Friday 19 February 2016
Questions Taken on Notice – Central Land Council**

1. HANSARD, Page 35

Senator SIEWRET: At the moment under your program, what are the activities that your participants are engaged with under Work for the Dole?

Mr Kee: We have a large number and a large breadth, and some of those even change within themselves...

Senator Siewert: How many of those have led to paid positions?

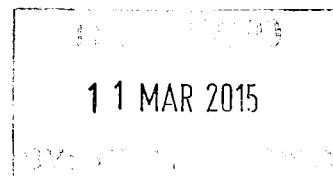
Mr Kee: I can give you a statistic for the last six-month snapshot that we did...



MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Mr David Ross
Director
Central Land Council
PO Box 3321
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871

Directorate



Dear Mr Ross

I refer to your Letter to the Editor published in *The Australian* ("Life sentence on the dole" 4/3), regarding the reforms to the Remote Jobs and Communities Programme (RJCP), to be introduced in remote Australia from 1 July.

I note your suggestion for the Australian Government to replace its Work for the Dole scheme with a community development approach to job and business creation. I welcome discussion and alternative views on Indigenous reforms and would be interested to receive any such proposals from you.

I reiterate my commitment to economic development and job creation with targeted funding for new enterprises in remote communities that will provide jobs, economic development and work experience opportunities.

The reforms will also provide new financial incentives for employers to look to the bush for their labour needs and to help job seekers stay in employment.

Getting Indigenous Australians into real jobs is one of the Government's highest priorities in Indigenous Affairs and our reforms do not stop at Work for the Dole.

But we have to be realistic. If people live in areas where there is limited economy and growth, we need to ensure, wherever possible, there are opportunities for people to participate in meaningful activities that will benefit them and their community.

The reformed RJCP is about providing these opportunities. Work for the Dole will help participants to develop the skills and work experience necessary to take advantage of real job opportunities.

Remote communities are failing and we need to do things differently - creating jobs and putting an end to sit-down welfare money is the cornerstone to building better remote communities. The Government's reformed remote jobs programme will deliver this.

Yours sincerely

NIGEL SCULLION

4/11 March 2015



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

Senator the Hon. Nigel Scullion
Minister for Indigenous Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Via e-mail to: senator.scullion@aph.gov.au

2 April 2015

Dear Minister

I write in repose to your letter dated 4 March 2015 regarding my Letter to the Editor in the Australian (4/3/2015) putting forward my views on the proposed remote Work for the Dole Scheme.

In your letter you state that 'Remote communities are failing and we need to do things differently – creating jobs and putting an end to sit-down welfare money is the cornerstone to building new remote communities.' I couldn't agree more, however, I do not believe that your reformed RJCP scheme will deliver this.

You invite me to provide an alternative view, and to put forward proposals for your consideration. I attach here a detailed proposal developed by the Aboriginal Peak Organisations (NT) in 2011. This proposal was developed by a broad coalition of groups in the NT, drawing on the expertise of many previous CDEP providers operating at the local level. It was submitted to the RJCP consultation process, and APONT and local groups undertook an advocacy effort in Canberra to highlight our alternative views. Clearly there was no appetite to consider these views at the time, and RJCP was rolled-out.

The APONT model is a subsidised waged scheme rather than a welfare scheme, in that sense it draws on the strengths of the old CDEP scheme while addressing its flaws. It is based on the following key elements:

- Maximising employment outcomes requires not only significant investment in labour supply but also a pro-active approach to generating additional employment demand;
- The creation of social enterprises increases market-based business activity and builds a local community economy, with the aim of reinvesting back into the community. This can be achieved through investment in local Aboriginal organisations;
- Community control over community priorities and activities;

- Increasing participation requires genuine pathways that recognise levels of educational and other disadvantage;
- The model is based on providing pathways, support and incentives, rather than simply taking a punitive approach;
- Participants are encouraged to enter, move through and eventually exit the scheme (in the latter case for mainstream employment where possible), by using a system of incentives coupled with a mechanism similar to CDEP's 'no work no pay';
- Draws on a sustainable livelihoods framework that encompasses participation in the mainstream economy and cultural practice.

The details are contained in the attached proposal and I trust you will seriously consider how it can best be applied. I would be happy to discuss these issues in more detail at a time convenient to you.

Yours sincerely

David Ross

Director, CLC



MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Reference: C15/34828

Mr David M Ross
Director
Central Land Council
PO Box 3321
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871

DAVID
Dear Mr Ross

Thank you for your letter of 2 April 2015 about the reforms we are making to Remote Jobs and Communities Programme (RJCP) and for providing me with a copy of the APONT model for employment services.

As the APONT model points out, Aboriginal people in remote areas have significant disadvantage. We need a programme tailored to the unique cultural, social and economic settings of remote Australia with a long term transitional pathway that assists people into a more sustainable and ultimately healthier way of life. This is what we are aiming to achieve in our reforms of RJCP.

Some areas in the APONT model align quite well with our reforms and there are other areas that I am keen to discuss with you. I am particularly interested in how Government, employers and enterprises can work together to reduce Indigenous people's dependency on Social Security payments. I would also like to discuss how we can capture some of the positive achievements of the CDEP programme, like the 'no show no pay' policy which provided a strong incentive for Indigenous people to participate in the workforce or to be involved in work for their communities.

I look forward to discussing these matters more fully at the Full Council meeting tomorrow.

Yours sincerely

NIGEL SCULLION

Wednesday 29 April 2015