



**Committee Secretary**

Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

**15 June 2017**

Sent by Email: [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Secretary

We are pleased to provide our views on the extension of Income Management to this Senate Inquiry.

In Coen we have a proud history of leading reform for our own people. Coen Elders were instrumental in the design of many of the key aspects of the Cape York Welfare Reform trial that began in 2008, and we think to accelerate progress there should be more innovations like the FRC and Income Management, not less. Coen now has the best school attendance of any Indigenous community school in Queensland and we are the only one that can beat the Queensland Average School Attendance.

Giving local people real power to hold other community members to account through the FRC gets our 100% support. Income Management here isn't like in the NT intervention. Local Commissioners decide when Income Management will apply here after conferencing a person who has not sent their child to school etc. Income Management is not common and it is for those people that really need some help. There are also support services available that the FRC refers people to so they can get help with their particular problems.

In Coen our biggest problem is still the passive welfare system. We have seen welfare killing our people and suffocating our futures. Doing something for your welfare payment should just be a normal thing, even more so in a remote setting the size of Coen where the local real economy is small. People shouldn't get money for nothing. We don't want that any more. We want home ownership and economic development here and we are frustrated about the lack of progress on these fronts. So we ask you to continue the FRC because it is helping and



please instead focus your energies on how you can support the people of Coen to make our own dreams for the future of this place a reality.

If you have any further queries regarding this correspondence, I am only too happy to discuss this with you.

Thank you

Dion Creek  
Chair ALLKUMO Coen Regional Aboriginal Corporation