



Aritaripilta Community Government Council

Alice Springs NT

21/01/04

**Senator The Hon. Nick Bolkus
Chair
Legal and Constitutional Reference Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600**

Via Fax: 02/62775794

Dear Sir,

Please find below a response to your recent letter requesting feed back.

1. The community has at present no availability to face to face legal services unless people travel to Alice Springs.
2. This is non existent from a community level.
3. Legal advice is available over the phone. Its use however limited as people do not feel comfortable with this situation. It is helpful however although it is very limited.
4. They do not come to the community.
5. Court has never been held in the community.
6. This has not occurred
7. This is not applicable due to the above however it would not always be needed in this community.
8. No one is available however would be utilized.
9. No

Above we have given simple answer to these question how for this region it is not that simple. The community is currently addressing these extremely important issues on a regional scale. The Council has informed the local Department of their willingness to regional and service a greater region and are currently setting up a Steering Committee. As part of this development Council realizes they need to bring 'normal' services to the region that are automatically afforded to people living in larger regions. Council has looked out side the square and realized that in future they will be required to service all people living in the region and not just the indigenous people. This will include pastoralist, mining companies and tourists. Council has applied for funding to

build a Rural Transaction Centre that will then be available to house such services. At present there is no where in the community for services to be provided from other than the Council Office. This centre would be a place for legal service and court as well as, Centrelink, training, dental, health services, eye doctors, employment contractors, banking and any other services that can be attracted. Council is currently talking to the Justice Dept about holding court in the community as this would open up a whole new area for the community. It would mean that the region is being thought of as a normal town based service provider and would enable the Council to attract other facilities and services to the region. Give the fact that the area has a Police Station only 2kms from the main based community it would be relatively easy to coordinate court hearings.

Any assistance that can help this region develop and provide services would have a great impact on the future directions and develop of such areas.

Please feel free to contact us if further information is required.

Thank you for your time.

Yours truly,

per [Signature]

Anthony Petrick
President

[Signature]

Donna Cole
Council Clerk