



Australian Government



Stronger Futures Remote Engagement Workforce Strategy

Remote Engagement Teams

The Australian Government has made a 10-year commitment to work with Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory to build strong, independent lives, where communities, families and children are safe and healthy.

Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory is a new \$3.4 billion investment and responds directly to what Aboriginal people told us is most important.

We know that part of building stronger futures for Aboriginal people is making sure we have the right structures in place for Government and Aboriginal people to work together. As part of Stronger Futures, we are building on current levels of remote staff in the NT and are introducing Remote Engagement Teams.

Remote Engagement Teams will include Government Engagement Coordinators (GECs) and Indigenous Engagement Officers (IEOs) and will help us to work more closely with Aboriginal people in the NT.

More local Indigenous Engagement Officers and better ways of working

We are increasing the number of IEOs in the NT from 24 to between 60 and 90 full and part-time positions. IEOs are drawn from local communities, understand local cultures and speak local languages. They play a vital role linking people to important services and strengthening relationships between the Government and remote communities.

By June 2014, the number of communities with an IEO will increase from 30 to 54. Career pathways will also be available for IEOs into the Indigenous Coordination Centres, Government Engagement Coordinator positions and other areas of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

Recruitment of IEO positions commenced on **28 March 2013**.

Improving engagement through Government Engagement Coordinators

Government Business Managers will now be called Government Engagement Coordinators. This reflects their new role, which includes a greater focus on engaging with local people and local organisations in community.

The Australian Government's target is that 20 per cent of the Government Engagement Coordinator positions are filled by Aboriginal people by 2017, increasing to 50 per cent by 2022.

In April we will begin the recruitment process for Government Engagement Coordinator positions. This process will take some time and will be finalised after we have received feedback on the draft Implementation Plan for the Remote Engagement Teams. We will also talk to communities about who will be part of the Remote Engagement Team before the team begins work.

Remote Engagement Team Implementation Plan

The Government has released a draft Implementation Plan for Remote Engagement Teams and this is available at www.fahcsia.gov.au/strongerfutures. We are seeking feedback on this plan from stakeholders in Aboriginal communities, Northern Territory service providers, peak organisations, the Northern Territory Government and national peak organisations.

The draft Implementation Plan outlines the purpose of the teams, who makes up a team, the roles of team members, where they might work and the Government's approach to establishing Remote Engagement Teams including recruitment to Indigenous Engagement Officer and Government Engagement Coordinator positions.

We are particularly interested in feedback on:

- how the Remote Engagement Teams will work with communities, and
- where team members should be located.

You can provide comments on the draft implementation plan by emailing sfinformation@fahcsia.gov.au.

Feedback is requested by **30 April 2013** and a summary of the feedback and the final Implementation Plan will be made available on the FaHCSIA website.

How can I find out more?

For more information contact your local Indigenous Coordination Centre on 1800 079 098 (Nhulunbuy on 1800 089 148).