

Regional Partnership Agreement Community Consultations (Eastern Communities)

Tuesday, 9 May 2012: Mimili

s47F - personal privacy

Mike Fordham; Chris Moon; Sally Underdown; James Malar; Liz Barfoed; Catherine Wright – FaHCSIA

s47F - personal privacy

Mike Fordham and ^{s47F - personal privacy} introduced themselves and advised that FaHCSIA and DPC-AARD representatives were travelling across the Lands over the next two weeks talking to Anangu at the request of APY Executive to progress a Regional Partnership Agreement for the APY Lands. The proposed model where equal partners including: C'wth; SA government; service providers, and Community Council Chairs on a committee were proposed. *At this stage fact sheets and posters were distributed to attendees.* People were then encouraged to talk about what they wanted from an RPA and how they would like governance and services to be improved in their communities?

A discussion followed:

^{s47F - personal privacy} - The RPA was not about new funding or programs; and it is was not about funding going back to communities, but rather a better way of working together within the existing resources.

^{s47F} – APY Executive proposed an RPA for the APY Lands because they are worried and have many concerns. Anangu people are scared, their self determination and powers have been taken away. APY Executive are worried about what government have been doing; taking money way from Communities and giving it to Bungala who haven't delivered jobs for Anangu. Anangu feel that the government is not listening. By coming here and saying that no money will come back to our communities is not helping. We are worried about our children; we want to help our children. We still have many problems in our communities – children are still walking the streets at night causing trouble and this worries our community. We have not night patrol in our community; this was taken away from us. Our children are not working, they brake into the store at night – there are too many children here that are not working.

Mike Fordham – is your Council continuing to meet?

^{s47F - personal privacy} – our Council not longer meets, it is now just a name, but we don't meet and this is a problem.

Mike Fordham – FaHCSIA and DPC can talk further about what support we can offer to your community council, but this will be hard to follow up if your council no longer operates.

s47F – There is an unfilled position in Mimili at the moment and there has not been any interest. Anangu need to take responsibility too, encourage kids to take up opportunities and work in the community.

s47F - personal privacy – what do we need to do to encourage kids in your community to put their hands up for these jobs?

s47F – people from outside our community are coming in to do these jobs. Anangu feel that they can't do it.

s47F – I have tried to get people from my community into work, and I had a lot of trouble getting interest from people. I had jobs to offer people but no one wanted them.

s47F - personal privacy – The RPA would provide a forum (a way) where Anangu could tell government that people aren't being employed in their communities. That these employment programs aren't working the way that they should. While you will not have money, as a Partner you will be able to influence decisions about programs and services in your community.

LUNCH 12:45pm

Mike Fordham – what we have heard today is that you are unhappy about the ways government funds MUNS, that you would like to have night patrol re-established in your community and that we need to talk further with you and your community about jobs. Government will be coming here again in June to talk to you about jobs.

s47F – prepared a drawing on the sand which depicted council chairs around a circle, representing APY, with commonwealth, SA gov and each of the service providers outside of this circle and separate to each other.

s47F – presented another drawing where APY Executive, Community Chairs, Government(s) and Service Providers were all equal parts of the circle – in this model Anangu sit within the decisions and can communicate both ways with government and service providers.

s47F , with the support of majority in attendance then indicated their preference for the first model, stating that they wanted to return to the old model of doing business, rather than this government model presented.

Mike Fordham – thank you, we appreciate you talking with us about your concerns for your community and your children. We're spending this week and next week talking to communities, listening to Anangu. We can talk again, the proposed RPA is not set in stone and we will continue to work with Anangu.

Income Management

Liz Barfoed – today I wanted to talk to you and get your thoughts on income management for your community and the basics card. Some benefits of income management for you or your community are that....

s47F – how is this like what happened in the Northern Territory? I no longer have young children so this is not relevant to me. I don't want people to control my money.

s47F – next time you come to Mimili you should organize to talk to our young mums and parents, it is relevant to them not us.

Liz Barfoed – presented a true story where income management has had a successful outcome.

XX – suggestion that people in Mintabie are doing the wrong things when people get larger payments such as the 'baby bonus' lump sum payments.

s47F suggested that there is opportunity for local employment, with Anangu helping to teach people about income management.

SUMMARY & KEY POINTS

James!

Wednesday, 10 May 2012: Fregon

Mike Fordham – introductions – today we are here at the request of APY Executive to talk to you about better service delivery, and how we could better coordinate services. We also want to talk about some of the Partners that could be involved, such as NPY Women's Council, RASAC, Mai Wiru. When Minister Jenny Macklin was here last week she said that she wanted to consult with Anangu about income management and today we also have people here that can talk to you about income management and money, if you would like to.

s47F - personal privacy – we want to hear from Anangu about what they want for their communities and how we could work better together. Yesterday when we talked at Mimili we talked about an example of how an RPA could work to improve services. An example of having all Partners having an equal seat at the table, where government and service providers could address problems directly. Community Chairs could identify the problem with their roads and talk directly with the state government and service providers about how they wanted this problem to be corrected.

s47F – I am here today, representing APY. Government and APY are travelling through the Lands to talk to Anangu about a proposed Regional Partnership Agreement. We're talking about a Regional Partnership Agreement because APY Executive has many concerns for our Lands and our people, concerns about funding being taken away from our communities. The RPA was proposed by APY as an opportunity to come together with the Commonwealth and South Australian government to improve the conditions on the APY Lands. We want better health, education and futures for our children. The governing body that APY is proposing doesn't have Anangu at the center. APY Executive proposes another body which has APY at the centre. APY has also been asking government to put money back into our community councils. APY want to work with government but Anangu want to talk about how this can be done. APY wants to make its own decisions, and have our own funding so we can be strong again.

s47F - personal privacy – the South Australian government are here to listen to Anangu and hear your concerns. We've heard from APY Executive about what model they want to develop. Yesterday we were in Mimili, tomorrow we'll be travelling to Indulkana and next week, we're travelling to Pipalyatjara, Amata and Pukatja, listening to your communities.

s47F – Funding was taken away from councils and this funding needs to come back to APY, CDEP needs to come back too. The government thinks that APY can't manage the money but we can. We're asking you now, to bring the money back to our communities. When you took our money away we lost all our powers, we're asking for another chance, we want to do this right. Anangu want to be strong with an Anangu model, the government will need to work through our model and decide how they can make that work. Today we have young people here with no jobs, we want our children to look towards the future and the government needs to listen and support us.

s47F – Fregon community wants to see the notes from these sessions. The fact sheets that we see today are like snakes and they tell lies. We want money to come back to our community; people want jobs in their own communities. The government has been playing games with us, treating us like yo yos. We want government to help Anangu. We want to bring money back to our community. If you're not prepared to give us back the money don't come to our communities. The lies and decisions that governments have made are destroying our communities. We want change in our community, out people use to work in our community and we want that back.

s47F - personal privacy – when we were in Mimili yesterday the community presented another model to us. Government is keen to talk about other models with communities, the model that government has proposed is not agreed or set in stone. Please, there is a white board if you want to propose or talk about another model.

s47F – We presented the model yesterday – where community members make decisions for our communities – the model that was working for us before, where the government gives us the money – it is our story, our decisions. The model that I presented represents our land, our communities, our future.

s47F – not people should ask the government some questions – tell them your concerns for your communities.

s47F – we have big problems in our community because we live the old way, with live on the APY Lands, our land and we need to focus and speak with one, strong voice for our future.

s47F – The government spends a lot of money through the APY Lands, today we want to talk about money, we don't want to talk about our concerns – the government has our model now, it is the same model we presented to the government a long time ago – the government needs to work our how they can support this model.

s47F – Why did government take the money away? Why do we have this problem? I use to get money to run my homeland and we use to have a MSO who supported me to do my business. Now we have no work, nothing is happening in that homeland any more. I'm old now I want my children and grandchildren to have work. I want money to come back to so my children can continue to work. Now there are road works and rubbish in my homeland but I still live there – no one comes to my homeland to support me. I want to know what support FaHCSIA, the South Australian government and RASAC are giving to homelands.

Craig Turnover and Mike Fordham – offered to speak to ^{s47F} separately about concerns and Craig offered to speak directly to RASAC’s homeland manager about his particular concern.

Mike Fordham – we’re here to talk, to reach some agreements on the way forward and to support Anangu. The government doesn’t have buckets of money but we’re here, we want to hear from you, we want to work together on a Partnership for the future – we don’t know what the Partnership looks like but we want a Partnership to coordinate services, improve communication and work better together.

^{s47F} – Presented ^{s47F} model on the white board (see attached). The government always says they have no money, but why is there no money? Why is the government coming here if they have no money?

^{s47F} – we’re talking about a ‘Partnership’. Can Robert Stevens tell us whether this is a model that he has been talking about with his community and whether it will help Anangu? In 2010 APY Executive told you about our concerns, now you we are here together talking about our future. This is like the song “from little things, big things grow”. The idea of a Regional Partnership Agreement for the APY Lands is like this song, we’re not ready to talk about big things – service providers shouldn’t be talking about community issues now, we need to start this discussion again, we need to talk about little things, self-determination, our communities and getting money back to our communities. Mai Wiru don’t have funding and this is a community store, we (the community) should make decisions for our community.

Mike Fordham – I agree that the concept of an RPA for the APY Lands is like the song “from little things big things grow”. We’re here to start on conversation, we want to talk about a partnership, not funding.

^{s47F} – we need ‘one voice’, a strong Anangu voice. The model that the government has presented is about the government taking control. People from our communities, the homelands need to come together and speak with one voice.

^{s47F} – Mai Wiru wants to be able to support our stores, I’m learning about how committees run from Mai Wiru, I think the government should continue to fund Mai Wiru.

Mike Fordham – we’re taking time to talk to many communities – a decision is not going to be made until we have talked to all communities, then we will return to talk with you again.

Liz Barfoed – introduction – income management...

^{s47F} – APY is different to the NT and WA, our people grew up here. This income management is taking control, telling me how I can spend my money. Anangu should ask government where this started. Where is the basics card from?

Mike Fordham – I want to clear up something, the basic card is not an intervention and there is no intention to have an intervention in the APY Lands. Income management and the basics card are tools to help families budget.

^{s47F} – I’m asking you to think hard about whether you want this.

^{s47F} – we asked government whether basics card has come from the NT intervention and I think the answer is in-fact that it did, income management is part of the intervention.

Liz Barfoed – income management did start in the NT, and we know that people like income management, many people had decided to continue income management by their own choice as they found that it has helped them to manage their money.

s47F – I think income management would be good for our community and our children. I see many of our children spending lots of time around the store and on the streets when their parents have left the communities. This will help our children.

s22 - irrelevant information

s22 - irrelevant information

Thursday 11 May: Indulkana

Community Chairperson welcomed visitors and introduced the concept and discussion of a proposed Regional Partnership Agreement.

s47F – Today we want to talk to you about a Regional Partnership Agreement, which is a plan of action to improve services in the APY Lands.

s47F – APY Executive is travelling this week with government to talk to Anangu about a proposed Regional Partnership Agreement. APY Executive proposed the RPA because we were concerned – funding was being taken from Community Councils and given to outsiders. Our councils haven't been able to operate properly since 2008. We want to help Anangu improve conditions on the Lands. APY Executive are the body representing Anangu. We want Anangu to come with APY to speak with one voice, to talk to government about funding coming back to Councils.

s47F – The RPA is not a document or agreement that the government has established and nothing has been agreed to. We're here, talking with Anangu and listening to your concerns. This week we have heard from other communities that they don't like our proposed model with government, service providers and APY equally represented and on the same group. The model that we're proposing could have your health clinic, your store, your council sitting together, with government making plans to improve services and the coordination of programs on the Lands. I want you to know that the RPA is not about new money and not about new programs. It is also not about MUNS money coming back to Community Councils. The RPA is not about an intervention for the Lands, it is about a better way of making decisions and communicating across the Lands. This week we've heard that people don't like the proposed model, today we want to hear from Indulkana, what you would like for your community. We're prepared to look at other models.

Mike Fordham – welcome and introductions – as s47F said, we're here to listen to Indulkana community today. We're travelling and talking to you about a Regional Partnership Agreement at the request for the APY Executive. We don't have a set agenda or intended outcome, if we can't agree on a Partnership agreement now, then we can come back to talk with your community again. We're here to listen and to work through your issues and concerns.

s47F – It is not good enough to come here and say that the RPA is not about new money or new programs. APY Executive is telling government that Anangu want funding to come back. Government needs to listen – our people need self-determination, we need more than governance. Anangu want to make their own decision have control of their communities.

s47F – It is wrong that APY Exec is travelling with government. APY should be talking to us, government can have their own meeting. APY should be coming to talk to Anangu not push us by bringing government. I ask everyone to remember the picture we have in Umuwa which represents our self-determination.

s47F – We hear you s47F , your community can talk to APY. We're not here to tell Anangu how to run your business. You can take your views to APY if that is what you would prefer to do and then APY can come and talk to government.

s47F – I want to ask the government to please review RASAC and the services that they are providing.

s47F – Why do we need this, we can just talk to APY and they can talk to community and then the government and providers.

s47F – We talked about the same issues at Mimili and at Fregon, we want money back in our communities. We use to work in these communities and since government took money away things have gone bad – we now have no money, no power. We use to be strong and proud, we want our money back. Government made the wrong decision.

s47F – This meeting should go back to Umuwa – we want to meet with APY Executive. We need time to talk about this together. The government should let Anangu through the APY Executive raise this with them. Government should not come here to talk to Anangu. Anangu, without government should be coming together to talk, to share one strong voice.

s47F – we'll take your comments and suggestions on board, we'll be continuing to talk to communities and we'll be having further discussions with APY too.

s47F – we want the model that APY presented to you before these meetings. The government always says "no" money, we'll we say "no" to your model.

s47F – Anangu need to tell APY executive what you want, if that is what you would prefer to do. For those members of Indulkana, or other communities that have questions or want to talk more about the RPA you can talk to s47F

s47F – NPY Women's Council have made trouble for our communities too. They are not from APY, they are from the NT and they have caused a lot of trouble talking about income management. We don't want an intervention here.