

ACTIVITY PERFORMANCE INFORMATION REPORT

For

Dept. Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

1. Grantee's Name: Brewarrina Business Centre
2. Activity Number (GMS): 63731
3. Activity Name: Murdi Paaki Regional Partnership Agreement
4. Period from: 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011
5. The above project has the following performance indicators

Approved Objectives:

To assist the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly (MPRA) to deliver the objectives of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Reform Agenda and the NSW State Plan priorities in sixteen (16) Communities across the Murdi Paaki region through a Regional Partnership Agreement (RPA). The RPA has been endorsed by the FaHCSIA Minister and will be in place for the period 2008/11.

This funding initiative supports multi-agency arrangements to address Closing the Gap imperatives and to develop community governance/leadership initiatives in the Murdi Paaki Regional.

This Agreement establishes a partnership to achieve sustainable improvements for people living in the Murdi Paaki region across the six Closing the Gap outcomes. The parties will work together to coordinate services and effectively deliver initiatives across communities in the region in response to locally identified need.

The parties will work together to deliver the objective of the COAG Reform Agenda and the NSW State Plan priorities and has identified the following 'building blocks' that need to be in place in order to comprehensively address the identified drivers of disadvantage, and tackle them in an integrated way:

- healthy homes and environmental health;
- safe families and communities;
- health;
- early childhood;
- education;
- economic participation and development
- community resilience and
- governance and leadership

Through this partnership plans to address the above priorities are pursued through five (5) established theme based regional sub groups with both government and community representation, monthly meetings of the 16 Community Working parties, and regular meetings of the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly and governments.

Closing the Gap on Indigenous Disadvantage Statement, endorsed at the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting on 26 March 2008 underpin's the approach that the Australian Government and NSW Government have adopted.

The COAG targets are:

- To close the life-expectancy gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians within a generation
- To halve the mortality gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and other children under age 5 within a decade
- To halve the gap in literacy and numeracy achievement between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and other students within a decade;
- To halve the gap in employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within a decade;
- To at least halve the gap in attainment at Year 12 schooling (or equivalent level) by 2020; and
- To provide all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander four year old's in remote communities with access to a quality preschool program within five years.

Regional Partnership Agreement governance arrangements

- The Murdi Paaki region has a multifaceted system of Indigenous community governance, based on the principles of community participation, responsibility, and accountability;
- Each of the 16 major communities has established a Community Working Party, comprising representatives from the local Indigenous community;
- The Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly (MPRA) comprises the 16 Chairs of the Community Working Parties and is chaired by an Independent leader of the Region; and
- The parties to this Agreement agree that Senior Managers of FaHCSIA, and DAA will meet four times a year with the MPRA at the regular MPRA meetings to review progress and continue to strengthen the engagement between the parties as is the intent of this Agreement.

Through the Murdi Paaki Regional Engagement Group, the parties will jointly monitor and evaluate progress against the timeframes and performance indicators outlined in projects contained in the Schedules to this Agreement. The parties will provide sufficient information to the Committee for that purpose.

In the third year of operation of this Agreement, the effectiveness of the Agreement will be independently reviewed.

The Terms of Reference for the review and the reviewer must be agreed by the Murdi Paaki Regional Engagement Group within two years after the Agreement is signed.

The core Terms of Reference will be to review the effectiveness of the partnership and the impact of the Agreement and its Schedules on the people living in the region, with reference to the timeframes and performance indicators.

Outcomes will be measured by the following;

- Provision of a quarterly financial report by the funds auspice (BBC) to the MPRA members on the financial position of MPRA funding at the MPRA Workshop following the end of each financial Quarter
- Provision of a progress report on the MPRA engagement with Local Government

- Provision of MPRA Workshop Minutes to the Western Region ICC
- Number of meetings held
- Number of people attending meetings

1. Provision of a report that describes the outcomes achieved against each of the specified objectives contained in the Schedule to the Funding Agreement.

Comment: Quarterly financial report attached,
Minutes of MPRA meetings Feb 2011, April 2011 and June 2011 attached.

Progress report on MPRA engagement with Local Government
MPRA engagement with Local Government was informal only.

Number of MPRA Meetings held – 5 meetings and 1 forum held - 1 health. The planning for a second health forum was also undertaken during this period which will occur in October/November 2011

Number of people attending MPRA Meetings only – ^{s47F} This brings attendance at MPRA meetings from 1 Jan 2009 to 30 June 2011 to ^{s47F} people. This is an indication of high attendance levels. It also does not include separate attendances at MPRA Forums

2. Provision of a report that describes how the activities have improved community engagement for young participants

Local young people attend MPRA meetings to improve their decision making capacities and their understanding of governance processes. Reports are provided to the MPRA on the progress of projects undertaken by young people at a local level. Between May 2010 and June 2011 the attendances by young people directly and indirectly associated with MPRA have increased from ^{s47F} (May 2010) to ^{s47F} (June 2011). The MPRA provides a role model for young people to develop an understanding of meeting processes, decision making, accountability to community and the management of discussion and disagreement about difficult issues. It also provides a structure for them to conduct projects, maintain timeframes and budgets as well as encouraging team building and leadership development.

Attached also find a presentation made to the MPRA by young people as part of their participation.

6. I certify the above performance information is correct.

Regards,

Carole Medcalf
Acting Secretariat,
Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly

Authorised Persons Signature

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4 October 2011

Date