



MEDIA RELEASE

8 May 2007

**The Hon Mal Brough MP
Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Indigenous Affairs**

Budget backs a better future for Indigenous Australians

“The 2007–08 Budget will deliver practical health, education, employment and welfare reform measures as well as help tackle housing overcrowding in remote Indigenous communities to give Indigenous Australians greater opportunity to share in the nation’s prosperity,” Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Mal Brough, said today.

“The 2007–08 Indigenous Affairs Budget contains 26 initiatives involving \$815.7 million in new and extended funding over five years focused on remote housing, early childhood, new education opportunities, health and economic independence. These measures have a net fiscal balance impact of \$748.3 million. This will take total spending on Indigenous specific programmes to a record \$3.5 billion in 2007–08 — 42 per cent more in real terms than Labor spent in its last year in office.

Overcrowded housing in Indigenous communities is a major contributor to social problems, poor health and low school attendance. Despite massive spending on the Community Housing and Infrastructure Programme (CHIP) by ATSIC, little progress was made. CHIP is inefficient and wasteful. It will be scrapped in July 2008 and replaced by the Australian Remote Indigenous Accommodation (ARIA) Programme with additional funding focused on land tenure reform, mainstream public housing, private home ownership and better value for money.

“Subject to state and local community cooperation in implementing the new Indigenous housing strategy, and clear evidence that it is working, the Howard Government will consider expanding funding for the programme.

“In other practical measures to offer Indigenous people pathways to a better future, the Australian Government is backing an initiative of the National Indigenous Council to provide new opportunities for high quality education by providing more boarding school places for young Indigenous Australians from regional and remote communities.

“More than 1600 young people living in remote areas will be able to study away from their home, with more boarding accommodation available in regional centres. The successful Indigenous Youth Mobility Programme will be expanded from 640 to 1500 places and the Indigenous Youth Leadership Programme will be expanded from 250 to 1000 places. One thousand more scholarships for higher education will be created and ABSTUDY entitlements enhanced to better support study away from home.

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“Early childhood development is also a key priority in Indigenous Affairs. The Budget provides extra resources for home health visits for children aged 0–8 in remote areas, better access to child-care and playgroups, and funding for research on childhood health and development. Extra funding is provided to strengthen Indigenous primary health care services and for projects to address the misuse of alcohol and other drugs.

“The Budget provides measures to tackle passive welfare and will build on reforms commenced last year for the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) programme. More than 800 positions supporting government services through CDEP will be converted into paid employment at a cost of \$97.2 million over four years.

“The Hopevale community in Cape York will be the site of the first stage of a significant welfare reform measure focused on housing, economic development, behavioural change and money management.”

Mr Brough said the Government also recognised the importance of Indigenous culture, with two measures to help preserve significant Indigenous cultural property and archival material.

“The Budget provides \$10.2 million to digitally preserve the most at-risk, fragile and deteriorating materials held by the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and \$4.7 million to fund repatriation of cultural property held in Australian museums,” Mr Brough said.

“This year’s Indigenous Budget offers more choices and opportunities. It is about building the foundations for a better future for Indigenous Australians.”

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

- **Two media releases – housing reform, education**
- **Summary of Indigenous Measures**
- **Fact sheets on individual measures**



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Government tackles overcrowding in remote Indigenous communities

The Australian Government will implement a significant strategy of major reforms to help fix the Indigenous housing problem.

From 2008–09 the Community Housing and Infrastructure Programme (CHIP) previously managed by ATSIC will be abolished and replaced by a new expanded Australian Remote Indigenous Accommodation (ARIA) Programme.

Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Mal Brough, said that the Government was making a substantial down payment of \$293.6 million in additional Indigenous housing funding in this year's Budget to kickstart the strategy over and above the current level of Indigenous housing funding of around \$380 million per year.

"This is a substantial down payment to tackle overcrowding, particularly in remote communities. Subject to the success of this reform package and the cooperation of State and Territory Governments and local community people, the Australian Government will consider increasing expenditure further," Mr Brough said.

"This major investment shows that the Government recognises the need to unwind the failed policies of the past, particularly under ATSIC, that left an unacceptable state of housing in many remote Indigenous communities.

"This is a practical response to the recent independent review of CHIP commissioned by the Government last year and demonstrates that at the national level we are prepared to take hard decisions and commit resources towards fixing the problem," Mr Brough said.

Australian Government funds will be used to construct new houses and repair and upgrade existing houses in remote locations across Australia where Indigenous housing need is the greatest.

ARIA will also provide assistance for Indigenous people to directly purchase new homes or to lease-purchase a home.

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Funding for Indigenous public housing will continue under the Aboriginal Rental Housing Programme (ARHP), which is part of the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement. ARHP is currently used by State and Territory Governments for Indigenous housing mainly in urban and regional locations.

“The Australian Bureau of Statistics recently found that the Indigenous housing stock had increased by only 2 per cent since 2001 and in the Northern Territory there are 271 fewer houses than there were five years ago. This is despite well over \$1 billion spent since 2001,” Mr Brough said.

“The PricewaterhouseCoopers review of CHIP found in some cases houses in remote communities were costing in excess of \$600,000. And yet many of these houses are lasting only ten years.

“This ridiculous situation cannot continue unchecked. Taxpayers have a right to expect value for money in this area.

“We cannot continue to throw money at an old ATSIC Indigenous housing programme when it is not making significant headway,” he said.

Mr Brough said that under this reform programme, ARIA funds would be spent on new houses or upgrades only where ownership of the houses could be transferred to state/territory housing authorities or made available for purchase by individuals.

“The current Indigenous Community Housing Organisations (ICHO) model has not worked to benefit Indigenous people. While some have been well managed, there are too many where nepotism and poor management have become entrenched. The ICHOs will have the opportunity to upgrade their properties, where they agree to private ownership opportunities or to transfer title to state housing authorities,” he said.

“Proper management of houses through state/territory housing authorities or private ownership, where Indigenous people choose to take up that option, combined with more efficient building techniques, means that more houses can be built and housing stock should last much longer.

“More houses that last longer will help address overcrowding and the general housing needs of Indigenous people in remote communities,” Mr Brough said.

Mr Brough said that the increased expenditure includes \$30 million for hostel-style accommodation in remote locations and \$12 million for major infrastructure projects including sewerage, water supply and roads in the Torres Strait Islands, subject to matching funding from the Queensland Government.

“The Australian Government will also be asking State and Territory Governments to invest more of their own funds to help ensure that together we make a real effort to meet the housing needs of Indigenous people living in remote areas,” Mr Brough said.



MEDIA RELEASE

8 May 2007

**The Hon Mal Brough MP
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\$218 million education funding boost for Indigenous youth

“The 2007–08 Federal Budget will offer thousands of young Indigenous Australians from remote communities a new start in life by providing more boarding school places and scholarships,” Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Mal Brough, said today.

“The Budget provides nearly \$218 million in new funds over four years for Indigenous education and training mobility programmes.

“The National Indigenous Council has highlighted the importance of boarding schools and mobility measures to enable young people from remote communities to access quality education. The Australian Government has responded with a substantial funding boost,” Mr Brough said.

“As the NIC recognises, education is critical to creating opportunity and hope for young Indigenous people. I’m delighted that the Howard Government has been able to respond so positively to the NIC on this issue.

“The Indigenous Youth Mobility Programme which assists young people access quality training in major centres has been boosted by an extra 860 places to a total of 1500.

“There will also be 750 more places in the Indigenous Youth Leadership Programme in addition to 860 new places for young Indigenous students being assisted to study at schools and universities under the Indigenous Youth Mobility Programme.

“The Australian Government will provide nearly \$43 million to help establish boarding hostels in regional towns with quality secondary schools. This programme is a partnership with the private sector. The construction of a new boarding hostel at Kununurra in Western Australia is expected to commence in September 2007 and to be completed by July 2008.”

A capital injection of \$65 million will upgrade facilities in a number of existing boarding schools with strong track records of providing secondary schooling for Indigenous young people and provide additional places.

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An additional 1000 Indigenous Access Scholarships will be provided each year to assist students enrolled in an undergraduate course at university meet costs associated with relocating from remote and rural areas.

“This is a major new investment in Indigenous youth. Education is the fundamental building block for economic independence and this package offers more opportunities for Indigenous Australians to reach their full potential,” Minister Brough said.



A Better Future for Indigenous Australians

Summary of Indigenous Measures

Housing

- *Implementation of Australian Remote Indigenous Accommodation (ARIA) Programme: \$293.6 million* over four years to kickstart a major reform strategy aimed at reducing overcrowding in remote Indigenous communities. This is over and above the current level of Indigenous housing funding of around **\$380 million** a year.

Early Childhood

- *Health@Home Plus: \$37.4 million* to provide home visits by health professionals and support teams for children aged 0-8 in outer regional and remote areas.
- *Expansion of playgroups for Indigenous families: \$13.8 million* for more playgroup services and to develop Indigenous parenting skills.
- *Improved access to child care and early childhood services: \$23.5 million* to establish 20 new Innovative Child Care Service Hubs in rural and remote communities and to provide support for existing child care centres to improve services and improve access to mainstream programmes.
- *Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children – continuation: \$8.9 million* to support the \$12.0 million longitudinal study *Footprints in Time*, to monitor health and development outcomes of Indigenous babies and 4–5 year olds.

Health

- *Family centred primary health care: \$38.2 million* for existing Indigenous primary health care service delivery by funding up to 45 additional health professionals, new and upgraded buildings and clinics in six rural and remote areas and business management training for 100 Indigenous health service managers.
- *Establishing quality health standards: \$36.9 million* for Indigenous health services for upgraded buildings and clinics, patient information and management systems, staff training, and management support to enable them to meet Australian health care standards.
- *Continuing the National Illicit Drug Strategy – Indigenous Community Initiative: \$14.6 million* to fund a variety of projects to provide evidence-based Indigenous-specific treatment guidelines, together with alcohol awareness products and other resources to enable Indigenous communities to address misuse of alcohol and other drugs.

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New Opportunities in Education

- *The promise of education: \$177.4 million* to provide an extra 860 places in the Indigenous Youth Mobility Programme—which assists young Indigenous people from remote areas to access training in major centres—and an extra 750 Indigenous Youth Leadership Programme scholarships for young Indigenous people from remote areas to study at high performing schools and universities. To provide new boarding hostel places for Indigenous secondary schools students from remote areas by funding (in partnership with others) hostel facilities in regional centres and to provide much needed capital funding to a number of boarding schools with strong track records of providing secondary schooling for Indigenous young people. Also provides capital upgrades to existing boarding schools to create additional places and extension of Youthlink and Reconnect programmes to support young people away from home.
- *Expanding employment pathways for Indigenous young people: \$32.8 million* to fund 1000 Indigenous Access Scholarships for higher education and to enhance ABSTUDY entitlements.
- *Accommodation support for education and health: \$29.0 million* to provide a secondary education hostel in Kununurra, renal dialysis hostel accommodation in Queensland and the Northern Territory and aged care accommodation in Perth.

Economic Independence and Welfare Reform

- *Foundations for Indigenous welfare reform: \$10.0 million* from existing resourcing for a first stage of welfare reform with the community by establishing new norms and strengthening mutual obligations in the Hopevale community in Cape York around housing tenancy, alcohol management, school attendance, money management, home ownership and economic opportunity.
- *Building an Indigenous workforce in government service delivery: \$97.2 million* to create 825 jobs through the conversion of Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) positions into real jobs in government service delivery at a net cost of \$61.3 million.
- *Enhancing opportunities for employment and participation in remote communities: \$23.0 million* to apply work-related activity testing to people by accelerating the lifting of Remote Area Exemptions in remote communities and providing more participation opportunities for people receiving income support.
- *COAG work skills vouchers: \$21.4 million* to fund projects to attract, engage and support Indigenous adults in regional and remote communities to take up training through the *Work Skills Voucher* programme.
- *Improving accountability and increasing returns from Indigenous assets: \$2.2 million* to research the structure and accountability of organisations managing Indigenous assets.
- *Centrelink access sites – continuation of funding: \$12.5 million* to improve Centrelink services to Indigenous customers and communities in rural and remote Australia.

Cultural Measures

- *Digitisation of Indigenous cultural resources: to provide a further \$10.2 million* to complete the task of protecting the most 'at risk' fragile and deteriorating part of the collection of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.
- *Extension of the Return of Indigenous Cultural Property Programme: \$4.7 million* to fund repatriation of cultural property held in Australian museums.

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Other

- *Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) programme – continuation of funding: **\$50.7 million*** to provide additional places in the Community Development Employment Projects programme that provide activities to prevent family violence and substance misuse problems in Indigenous communities.
- *Continuation of the Cape York Digital Network: **\$2.2 million*** to continue funding of this key communication service linking Indigenous communities in Cape York.
- *Indigenous liaison pilot programme for the Family Court of Western Australia: **\$0.7 million*** to fund two Indigenous Family Liaison Officers to assist the Family Court of Western Australia.
- *Continuation of funding for Indigenous social and economic research: **\$0.7 million*** to provide funding for social and economic Indigenous research.
- *Illegal foreign fishing – Indigenous rangers trial: **\$0.6 million*** to fund Indigenous rangers in three remote Indigenous communities to patrol the Australian coastline increasing the surveillance and apprehension of illegal foreign fishers, with \$0.3 million of the funds from existing resources of the Australian Customs Service.



Health@Home Plus

PORTFOLIO: HEALTH AND AGEING

Why is this important?

- Indigenous Australian children have poorer health than their non-Indigenous counterparts across all indicators, with infants twice as likely to be of low birth weight (13%) than babies of non-Indigenous mothers (6%). Infant mortality rates are around 2.5 times those of other Australian children. Indigenous children experience difficulty in accessing pre-school services and child care. Inadequate and early learning experiences lead to poorer educational outcomes. There are increasing rates of substantiated child protection reports, children in out-of-home placements, and exposure to high levels of family and community violence.
- Nurse-led home visiting programmes for mothers and babies are an effective prevention strategy to improve outcomes for vulnerable and disadvantaged children.

Who will benefit?

- From birth to two years of age, all Indigenous children and their families in targeted outer regional and remote areas will benefit from dedicated intensive home visiting services. Those children most in need will also be supported through to the age of eight to help equip them to make a successful transition to school. More than 60 health professionals, including nurses and Aboriginal Health Workers, will be engaged under the measure by year four.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Australian Government will provide \$37.4 million over four years.

What have we done in the past?

- This measure will build on the Government's commitment to improving health outcomes for Indigenous Australians, including \$102.4 million provided in the 2005–06 Budget for the 'Healthy for Life' measure to increase the availability of child and maternal health care and to improve prevention, early detection and management of chronic disease. Currently, 80 primary health care services are participating in the Healthy for Life programme through 53 sites.
- Health@Home Plus will complement the Medicare Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Health Check, introduced on 1 May 2006 to provide access to comprehensive annual health assessments for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from birth to 14 years of age. In the ten months to the end February 2007, 4171 child health checks have taken place across Australia.

When will the initiative conclude?

- The initiative is ongoing.



The promise of education

PORTFOLIOS: EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING; FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Why is this important?

- Indigenous children living in remote communities often do not have access to decent education and training. Too many are living in dysfunctional community and family situations.
- This measure offers Indigenous Australians living in remote areas the opportunity to relocate to major regional centres for the educational and training opportunities not otherwise available to them.
- It expands the successful Indigenous Youth Mobility Programme, which assists young Indigenous people from remote areas to access training in major centres, and the Indigenous Youth Leadership Programme, which provides scholarships for young Indigenous people from remote areas to study at high performing schools and universities.
- Boarding hostels situated near regional secondary schools will be built in partnership with the private sector (particularly the mining industry), the Indigenous Land Corporation and state/territory and private education systems.
- The initiative will also provide much needed capital funding to boarding schools with strong track records of providing secondary schooling for Indigenous young people. Many of these schools are recording growing waiting lists for access to places for Indigenous people. It also provides for grants to existing boarding schools to create new places and for urgent upgrades of accommodation facilities to prevent a loss of existing boarding places.

Who will benefit?

- An additional 1600 Indigenous young people, their families and their communities will benefit through improved education, employment and training outcomes.
- New boarding hostel places will be offered for Indigenous secondary students from remote areas.
- Sites for the new and expanded hostels will be determined through consultation with state and private education providers, the mining industry in key locations and the Indigenous Land Corporation in areas where there is an identified need.
- Indigenous young people living in rural and remote areas whose families choose to send them to boarding schools to access high quality education opportunities not otherwise available to them.
- Accommodation upgrades will benefit students studying at existing boarding schools as well as the boarding schools themselves as they will be able to offer more places.

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What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Australian Government will provide \$177.4 million over five years.

What have we done in the past?

- The Indigenous Youth Mobility Programme (640 places) and the Indigenous Youth Leadership Programme (250 places) were introduced in the 2005 Budget as a result of the Australian Government's 2004 election commitments which focused on mobility.
- The programmes provide the additional support needed for young people from remote areas to relocate to take up apprenticeships and other post secondary training options in major centres and for Indigenous young people to attend high performing schools and universities while developing their leadership potential.
- These programmes build on opportunities supported through ABSTUDY living allowance, ABSTUDY Away from Base and Boarding Schools.
- In the 2006–07 Budget, the Australian Government provided \$10.0 million to support the construction of a pilot community managed Indigenous boarding college on the Tiwi Islands.

When will the initiative conclude?

- This is an ongoing initiative.



Accommodation support for education and health

PORTFOLIO: FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Why is this important?

- This measure will provide funding to build and operate a 40 bed secondary student accommodation hostel in Kununurra, Western Australia; build and operate a 45 bed aged care nursing home in Perth, Western Australia, for older Indigenous Australians; and build and operate two new renal dialysis hostels in Queensland and the Northern Territory.

Who will benefit?

- The hostel at Kununurra will allow 40 Indigenous students each year to continue their education within reasonable and affordable visiting distance of their families.
- The aged care nursing home in Perth will provide 45 residents with access to ongoing care in a culturally appropriate and affordable environment. There is currently no other Indigenous aged care accommodation in Perth.
- The renal dialysis hostels will be located in close proximity to renal dialysis units and provide suitable accommodation and support for patients requiring treatment for advanced renal disease.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Australian Government will provide \$29.0 million over four years (including a capital injection of \$21.3 million).

What have we done in the past?

- Aboriginal Hostels Limited currently has a capacity of 56 places for renal dialysis patients, 474 places for secondary education students, and 251 places for aged care.

When will the initiative conclude?

- The funding is ongoing.



Building an Indigenous workforce in government service delivery

PORTFOLIOS: EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS; ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S; EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING; ENVIRONMENT AND WATER RESOURCES; FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS; HEALTH AND AGEING

Why is this important?

- The Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) programme has often supported the delivery of government services.
- CDEP participants have been doing this work but have not been receiving the complementary benefits of normal employment arrangements.
- This initiative will convert CDEP positions into jobs and employees will receive wages and access to leave, superannuation and professional development.

Who will benefit?

Over the course of four years at least 825 jobs will be created across Australia in environmental and heritage protection, education, child care, night patrols in Indigenous communities and community care.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Government will provide \$97.2 million over four years for this initiative.
- The breakdown per department will be as follows:
 - \$8.6 million Attorney General's Department
 - \$15.0 million Department of Education, Science and Training
 - \$47.6 million Department of the Environment and Water Resources
 - \$1.0 million Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
 - \$16.5 million Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
 - \$8.5 million Department of Health and Ageing
- A total of \$65.9 million in CDEP programme savings will be redirected to partly fund this initiative. Of these savings, \$30 million will be delivered through Indigenous Employment Services reforms and \$35.9 million through the conversion of CDEP positions into long term jobs.
- The Australian Government will be seeking commitments from state, territory and local governments to properly fund jobs in areas of service delivery currently subsidised by CDEP.

What have we done in the past?

- In the 2006–07 Budget, \$20.5 million over four years was provided to create 130 full-time equivalent positions performing health worker duties in health care and substance abuse centres.

When will the initiative conclude?

- This will be an ongoing initiative.



Expanding employment pathways for Indigenous young people

PORTFOLIO: EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

Why is this important?

- The measure will remove some of the barriers that currently discourage Indigenous people from taking up tertiary study.
- Up to 4000 Indigenous students (1000 per annum) enrolled in a bridging or undergraduate course will be able to access financial assistance of \$4000 as a one-off payment to assist them with the costs associated with relocating from their remote or rural region to attend university. This assistance will be provided under the Indigenous Access Scholarships component of the measure and will be indexed annually.
- This measure will also fund an extra year of assistance for 700 Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships and 210 Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarships for Indigenous students undertaking higher education bridging courses.
- The enhanced independence criteria component of the measure will assist ABSTUDY students who have supported themselves through workforce participation for a specified period since leaving school.
- Extending the ABSTUDY Incidentals Allowance to students undertaking a bridging course at a higher education institution will encourage younger students to undertake preparatory studies and go on to further study.
- Extending Crisis and Bereavement payment to ABSTUDY recipients will allow students to access these payments, which are currently available to recipients of a social security pension or benefit, for the first time and help keep students engaged in education.

Who will benefit?

- The Indigenous Access Scholarships will benefit up to 1000 Indigenous students per annum, particularly those relocating from remote or rural regions of Australia, undertaking a bridging or undergraduate course at university.
- The additional Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships and Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarships component will benefit up to 910 Indigenous students undertaking a bridging course.
- Up to 1000 students who receive an Indigenous Access Scholarship are eligible for a Commonwealth Scholarship to support their education and accommodation costs while undertaking an undergraduate course at university.

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- The enhanced independence workforce criteria will benefit 170 ABSTUDY students who have supported themselves through paid work for periods of 18 months out of any two year period since leaving school.
- The Incidentals Allowance will now benefit 175 students under 18 years of age undertaking preparatory studies at a higher education institution.
- Crisis Payment will assist some 500 ABSTUDY recipients over the age of 16 who are experiencing financial hardship due to an unforeseen crisis. Bereavement Payment will be available to some 130 ABSTUDY recipients who in the event of the death of a partner will receive the deceased person's payment for a period of time.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Australian Government will provide \$32.8 million over four years.

What have we done in the past?

- In the past the Australian Government has offered Commonwealth Learning Scholarships, consisting of Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships and Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarships. Although these are not Indigenous-specific scholarships, there is a 20% weighting to Indigenous people.

When will the initiative conclude?

- This funding will be ongoing.



Enhancing opportunities for employment and participation in remote communities

PORTFOLIOS: EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS; FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Why is this important?

- The Australian Government is committed to reducing welfare dependency and making unconditional welfare in remote communities a thing of the past.
- Active participation in work-related activities is the first step towards economic independence for income-support recipients living in remote areas.
- Many individuals living in the approximately 1200 remote communities and outstations do not benefit from the job preparation and placement services available to job seekers in other parts of Australia, because they are exempt from any activity testing to get their welfare payments.
- This measure will accelerate the lifting of Remote Area Exemptions from activity testing. All exemptions will be removed by 2010–11.
- The measure will ensure that people living in remote areas have access to training and other work-related activities that will improve their chances of gaining employment.

Who will benefit?

- All Indigenous people and their communities in remote areas that are currently exempt from activity testing will benefit.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Australian Government will provide an additional \$23.0 million over five years to speed up the work being undertaken in 2006–07.

What have we done in the past?

- \$18 million was provided in the 2006 Budget to support the removal of Remote Area Exemptions across Australia.
- Since July 2005, exemptions have been completely removed in 42 communities (plus 20 associated outstations). An additional 12 communities (plus 113 associated outstations) are in the process of having exemptions removed and consultations have commenced in a further 17 communities (plus 49 associated outstations).

When will the initiative conclude?

- This measure will conclude on 30 June 2011, when all Remote Area Exemptions will have been removed.



Improving accountability and increasing returns from Indigenous assets

PORTFOLIO: EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

Why is this important?

- There are a range of organisations and incorporated entities currently managing Indigenous-held assets and land, including Indigenous Community Trusts.
- Examples of Indigenous-held assets include portfolio investments, businesses and buildings.
- While there are some examples of good practice, generally Indigenous people are not benefiting significantly from assets and land being managed on their behalf.
- The measure will provide better access to economic development opportunities through building the skills of Indigenous people to more effectively manage these assets.
- The measure will:
 - support the development of best-practice models that promote transparency and accountability and increase returns, and possible regulatory change to improve the management of Indigenous assets
 - support the development of strategies to build capacity and educate trustees and beneficiaries to enable more Indigenous Australians to benefit from these assets.

Who will benefit?

- More effective asset management will enable Indigenous individuals, families and communities to use their existing assets to achieve economic independence.
- Increasing the awareness and understanding of the rights and responsibilities of trustees and beneficiaries will enable Indigenous people to make more informed choices about the use of their assets.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- Funds will be expended as follows:
 - development of best-practice models to increase Indigenous Community Trusts' transparency, accountability and economic outcomes (\$0.4 million)
 - implementation of improvements through a communications strategy, educational activities and possible legislative change (\$1.8 million over four years).

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What have we done in the past?

- The Australian Government has amended the Northern Territory Aboriginal Land Rights Act to make royalty associations more accountable and payments to individuals more transparent.
- We have also replaced the outdated Aboriginal Councils and Associations Act with a more rigorous and accountable legislative regime for Indigenous corporations.
- Preliminary research has been undertaken to analyse the nature of Indigenous Community Trusts and how they operate.
- This research identified shortcomings in the operation of trusts, including:
 - lack of transparency and accountability of trusts
 - lack of awareness and understanding of the rights and responsibilities of trustees and beneficiaries.

When will the initiative conclude?

- This measure will conclude on 30 June 2011.



Indigenous liaison pilot programme for the Family Court of Western Australia

PORTFOLIO: ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S

Why is this important?

- This pilot program will improve the delivery of family law services and access to justice for Indigenous families in Western Australia.
- The program will improve access to counselling and mediation for Indigenous families in conflict and improve family law services to Indigenous communities.
- The pilot program is needed to address serious issues of family breakdown in Indigenous families. This issue was reported on in the Western Australian Government's 2003 Gordon Inquiry, which highlighted an overrepresentation of Indigenous Australians in the criminal justice system.
- The funding will enable the Family Court of Western Australia to engage two Indigenous liaison officers to assist Indigenous families to access the court's services, assist in dispute resolution services, consult with indigenous communities and assist the court to tailor services when cultural issues are identified.

Who will benefit?

- The program will benefit Indigenous families undergoing family breakdown, or engaged in family dispute, and those involved in the family law process.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Australian Government will provide funding of \$0.7 million over four years to the Family Court of Western Australia.

What have we done in the past?

- There has not previously been a service of this kind, specifically for Indigenous families, available in the Family Court of Western Australia.

When will the initiative conclude?

- This funding will terminate on 30 June 2010, with comprehensive evaluation being undertaken in the third year.



Digitisation of Indigenous cultural resources – Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

PORTFOLIO: EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

Why is this important?

- AIATSIS is the custodian of a unique and irreplaceable cultural and historical resource collection. The archived collection of fragile and deteriorating audiovisual (film, photographs and audio) materials held by AIATSIS is at substantial risk of loss through decomposition.
- This measure will ensure the digitisation of the remaining 18,000 hours of the most 'at risk' and vulnerable material.
- It will provide access to Indigenous materials through digitised recording of material to promote knowledge and understanding of Indigenous cultures, past and present.

Who will benefit?

- All Australians, particularly Indigenous people, including school children, educators and researchers. It will also allow AIATSIS to provide access to Indigenous communities nationwide via the Internet and in CD ROM format.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Australian Government will provide an additional \$10.2 million over three years.

What have we done in the past?

- The Australian Government provided \$12.1 million in the 2005–06 Budget to digitally preserve 40 per cent (16,000 hours) of the most 'at risk' fragile and deteriorating audiovisual materials.

When will the initiative conclude?

- This funding will conclude on 30 June 2011 when preservation of the entire collection is completed.



Continuation of the Cape York Digital Network

PORTFOLIO: FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Why is this important?

- Remote Indigenous communities lack communication infrastructure.
- The Cape York Digital Network was funded by the Australian Government to provide communications services in Cape York communities in 2001.
- This new initiative provides funding for existing online access centres which will continue to provide support for users and build communications capacity in communities.

Who will benefit?

- The online access centres are located in six sites at Hopevale, Napranum, Umagico, Coen, Injinoo and Lockhart River.
- Benefits to these communities include: increased access to commercial and government services provided online; increased technology awareness and IT skills in communities; direct employment of community staff; and increased opportunities for economic development and participation.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Australian Government will provide \$2.2 million over four years.

What have we done in the past?

- The Australian Government has funded the establishment of the Cape York Digital Network and the services it provides to Indigenous communities in Cape York since 2001.

When will the initiative conclude?

- The funding will conclude on 30 June 2011.



Extension of the Return of Indigenous Cultural Property Programme

PORTFOLIO: COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS

Why is this important?

- The return of Indigenous cultural property to the traditional custodians and places of rest is extremely important to Indigenous communities and the Australian Government.
- This initiative will continue Australian Government funding to the Return of Indigenous Cultural Property (RICP) Programme.
- It is estimated that the eight major Australian museums participating in the current RICP Programme collectively hold 7070 ancestral remains and 11,448 secret-sacred objects.

Who will benefit?

- The domestic repatriation of Australian Indigenous ancestral remains and secret or sacred objects from the collections of the eight major museums will benefit the communities of origin.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Australian Government will continue this programme by providing a further \$4.7 million over four years.

What have we done in the past?

- The RICP Programme commenced in 1999–2000. The Australian Government contributed \$1.5 million over three years with matched funding from the states and territories.

When will the initiative conclude?

- This is an ongoing initiative.



Establishing quality health standards

PORTFOLIO: HEALTH AND AGEING

Why is this important?

- Around 200 Indigenous health services currently provide more than 1.6 million episodes of care annually. It is important that these services are of the highest quality.
- The majority of Indigenous health services are not yet fully accredited against Australian health care standards.
- This initiative will ensure Indigenous health services have upgraded buildings and clinics, patient information and management systems, staff training, and management support to enable them to meet Australian health care standards.

Who will benefit?

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities will benefit from high quality and better managed Indigenous health services that are accredited against the same standards as mainstream health services.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Australian Government will provide \$36.9 million over four years.

What have we done in the past?

- In 2006–07, the Australian Government provided \$385 million to Indigenous primary health services. This initiative will ensure that government funding is used to deliver quality health services.

When will the initiative conclude?

- The initiative will be reviewed in the 2011–12 Budget.



Continuing the National Illicit Drug Strategy – Indigenous Community Initiative

PORTFOLIO: HEALTH AND AGEING

Why is this important?

- The National Illicit Drug Strategy – Indigenous Community Initiative assists Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to develop local solutions to substance abuse issues, such as drug and alcohol abuse, that often contribute to violence.
- Although Indigenous Australians are less likely to drink alcohol than non-Indigenous people, those who do drink are more likely to do so at high levels.
- This initiative will fund a variety of projects to provide evidence-based Indigenous-specific treatment guidelines, together with alcohol awareness products and other resources to better enable Indigenous communities to tackle the misuse of alcohol and other drugs.

Who will benefit?

- This measure is specifically targeted at Indigenous Australians and will reduce the harm caused by alcohol and other drugs, including the harm caused to victims of crime and family violence.
- Indigenous Australians will benefit through the development of projects and resources that underpin service delivery, such as treatment guidelines and workforce development as well as comprehensive implementation of the Alcohol Treatment Guidelines for Indigenous Australians.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Government will provide \$14.6 million over four years.

What have we done in the past?

- In 2006–07 the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Substance Use Programme provided \$19.1 million to support 70 substance use treatment and rehabilitation services across Australia.
- In July 2006 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) announced a comprehensive funding package over four years to address issues of violence and abuse in Indigenous communities. Funding of up to \$49.6 million over four years will be provided for additional drug and alcohol treatment and rehabilitation services in regional and remote Indigenous communities. Implementation of this measure is scheduled to commence in June 2007.

When will the initiative conclude?

- This is an ongoing initiative.



Family centred primary health care

PORTFOLIO: HEALTH AND AGEING

Why is this important?

- Primary health care is critical in overcoming Indigenous health problems.
- This measure will support better access to primary health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities in rural and remote areas through funding for:
 - up to 45 additional health professionals to enhance existing Indigenous primary health care service delivery
 - new and upgraded buildings and clinics in six rural and remote areas across Australia
 - business management training for 100 Indigenous health service managers.

Who will benefit?

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and individuals will benefit from improved access to comprehensive primary health care services.
- 100 Indigenous health service managers will benefit from training to improve the business management of the services they run.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Government will provide \$38.2 million over four years.

What have we done in the past?

- Since 1996, Indigenous health funding has increased by over \$260 million—a real increase of more than 170%. This increased funding has been delivered mostly through the Primary Health Care Access Programme (PHCAP). Since 2003–04 this programme has funded over 200 additional health professionals (General Practitioners, nurses and Aboriginal Health Workers) and 220 additional other service and support positions (including other health workers, patient transport drivers, child/youth workers, etc.), as well as the associated capital infrastructure.

When will the initiative conclude?

- This is an ongoing initiative.



COAG work skills vouchers

PORTFOLIO: EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

Why is this important?

- This measure will fund projects to attract, engage and support more Indigenous adults in regional and remote communities to take up training through the *Work Skills Voucher* programme.
- Work Skills Vouchers worth up to \$3000 are now available to interested Australians aged 25 and over who do not have Year 12 or a Certificate level II qualification. The vouchers can assist with the costs of studying Year 12 or equivalent courses, accredited literacy and numeracy courses and approved vocational Certificate level II qualifications.
- In regional and remote areas there is often little or no choice in training providers and additional strategies are needed to cater for specialised needs, high delivery costs, low demand in terms of student numbers and, in some cases, inadequate infrastructure. This funding will be used to improve access to training providers by helping to address these issues.
- This measure will complement the existing *Work Skills Voucher* programme by providing Indigenous adults with the training and support required to be able to access a work skills voucher.

Who will benefit?

- Indigenous adults in regional and remote areas will benefit directly and there will be a flow-on benefit to local communities and labour markets.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Australian Government will provide \$21.4 million over four years with Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory contributing matched funding.

What have we done in the past?

- This is a new initiative specifically targeted to assist Indigenous adults in regional and remote areas to access and successfully complete *Works Skills Voucher* training.
- It will also deliver more resources into Australia's education and training system and engender greater competition in the training market in regional and remote areas, thereby improving the access of Indigenous people in those areas.

When will the initiative conclude?

- The Government has approved funding for the programme until June 2011.



Implementation of Australian Remote Indigenous Accommodation (ARIA) Programme

PORTFOLIO: FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Why is this important?

- The Australian Government will implement a significant strategy of major reforms to help fix the Indigenous housing problem particularly in remote Australia.
- Adequate housing is essential for decent health, education, employment and community safety outcomes.
- Many Indigenous Australians, particularly in remote Australia, suffer from unacceptable levels of substandard housing, overcrowding and homelessness.
- Despite spending many billions of dollars through ATSIC's Community Housing and Infrastructure Programme (CHIP), little progress has been made.
- The recently released ABS Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey (2001–06) showed that despite spending well over \$1 billion in the last five years:
 - Indigenous housing stock increased only marginally (by 471 or 2 per cent) to 21,758
 - the proportion of the housing stock needing major repairs increased from 19 per cent to 23 per cent.
- The survey adds weight to the findings of the review of the old ATSIC CHIP programme undertaken by PricewaterhouseCoopers that showed that the program had failed Indigenous Australians.
- From 2008–09 the CHIP will be abolished and replaced by a new expanded Australian Remote Indigenous Accommodation (ARIA) Programme.
- Additional Australian Government funds will be used to construct new houses and repair and upgrade existing houses in remote locations across Australia.
- ARIA will also provide assistance for Indigenous people to directly purchase new homes or to lease-purchase a home.
- Funding for Indigenous public housing will continue under the Aboriginal Rental Housing Program (ARHP), which is part of the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement. ARHP is currently used by State and Territory Governments for Indigenous housing mainly in urban and regional locations.

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Who will benefit?

- Indigenous Australians, particularly those living in remote locations, will benefit from better housing which will improve health, housing, education and other outcomes.
- The Australian Government will make sure that its investment in housing in remote communities will lead to more opportunities for local Indigenous people to be trained and employed in the construction of new housing and in repair and maintenance.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Government will provide \$293.6 million in new funds in the 2007–08 Budget, over and above the current level of Indigenous housing funding of around \$380 million per year.
- State and Territory Governments will be encouraged to increase their funding commitments.
- Subject to the success of this reform package and the cooperation of State and Territory Governments and local community people the Australian Government will consider increasing expenditure further.
- Australian Government funding for the Aboriginal Rental Housing Programme (ARHP) will continue.

What have we done in the past?

- CHIP and ARHP currently receive government funding of over \$380 million per annum. These funds are channelled through bilateral Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Agreements between the Commonwealth and States.
- The CHIP Review (2006) found that the 'housing needs of Indigenous Australians in remote areas have not been well served and the interests and expectations of taxpayers not met'. The Review also found that CHIP in its current form contributes to 'confusion, complex administration and poor outcomes and accountability of government funded housing, infrastructure and municipal services.'
- The ATSIC CHIP programme failed Indigenous Australians and has not produced value for money.

When will the initiative conclude?

- This is a seven year strategy commencing in 2007–08.



Foundations for Indigenous welfare reform

PORTFOLIO: FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Why is this important?

- The Australian Government is committed to reducing passive welfare, which has had a major negative impact on social and economic development in many Indigenous communities.
- In partnership with the Hopevale community in Cape York the Government will lay the foundations for welfare reform through combinations of stronger obligations on residents and incentives that encourage civic and individual responsibility.
- The agreement will aim to establish an economic base and change behaviour by strengthening obligations under normal public housing tenancy arrangements, improving the condition of existing houses and introducing home ownership in Hopevale.
- New tenancy agreements will be negotiated with residents and they will participate in Financial Income Management (FIM) and commit to maintain houses and yards.
- The Australian Government will provide funding for home improvements, financial income management, develop and service house lots for home ownership on freehold land, provide access to the Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) home ownership programme and establish a business precinct in Hopevale.

Who will benefit?

- The 1500 strong community of Hopevale will have the opportunity to benefit from better housing and home ownership and increasing economic activity.
- New standards of behaviour will emerge and school attendance will increase as a result of this initiative.
- Other Indigenous communities will benefit from lessons learnt as a result of this agreement.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Australian Government will commit \$10 million in 2006–07 from existing resources in the Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs portfolio, with additional funding available from IBA through its home ownership programme.

What have we done in the past?

- This initiative builds on other programmes that aim to address passive welfare, the reformed CDEP scheme, removal of Remote Area Exemptions from the income support activity test and the FIM programme.

When will the initiative conclude?

- The agreement will be for an initial two-year period commencing in 2006–07.



Illegal foreign fishing – Indigenous rangers trial

PORTFOLIO: ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S (Australian Customs Service)

Why is this important?

- Illegal fishing poses serious biosecurity risks, depletes Australia's fish stocks and degrades marine protected areas.
- The Indigenous Rangers Pilot Programme will test the ability to detect and respond to illegal foreign fishing vessel incursions through cooperative programmes with Indigenous communities set up by the Western Australian and Northern Territory Governments.
- Indigenous rangers will patrol the remote coasts of Western Australia and the Northern Territory increasing the surveillance and apprehension of illegal foreign fishers.

Who will benefit?

- The Bardi-Jawi Community (WA) and Bawinanga Community (NT) will benefit from this Government initiative. Two rangers in each community will be employed and provided with training and equipment to patrol the Australian coastline. The Indigenous rangers will strengthen Customs' ability to detect and respond to illegal foreign fishing vessel incursions.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Government will provide \$623,000 in 2006–07 to pilot the Indigenous Rangers Pilot Programme.

What have we done in the past?

- The Australian Government has made a major investment to tackle illegal foreign fishing in Australian waters.

When will the initiative conclude?

- The Indigenous Rangers Pilot Programme will conclude at the end of 2006–07. If the programme is successful, the Government will consider further funding to allow the programme to continue.



Expansion of playgroups for Indigenous families

PORTFOLIO: FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Why is this important?

- Playgroups provide parents, grandparents and caregivers with opportunities to share ideas and experiences while their children interact and further develop their social skills through play. Supported playgroups provide additional assistance for vulnerable families in areas such as parenting, health, safety and wellbeing.
- The Australian Government will expand access to playgroups for vulnerable Indigenous families by increasing the number of supported playgroups and further strengthen the effectiveness of the nine existing Intensive Support Playgroups. This builds on the Government's plan for Indigenous children.

Who will benefit?

- Over 6000 Indigenous children and their parents and caregivers will benefit from access to expanded playgroup services. Benefits include improved access to play-based early childhood development opportunities and improved parenting support for Indigenous families.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Australian Government will provide \$13.8 million over four years.

What have we done in the past?

- This measure builds on the Government's overall Playgroups Programme, which delivers \$22.5 million over four years to support over 100,000 families across Australia using Community, Supported and Intensive Supported Playgroups.

When will the initiative conclude?

- This is an ongoing initiative.



Improved access to child care and early childhood services

PORTFOLIO: FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Why is this important?

- This builds on the Government's plan for Indigenous children by expanding the number of quality services in regional and remote areas.
- Access to child care and early childhood services improves 'school-readiness' and ensures children get the best possible start in life. This is particularly important for Indigenous children who experience poorer life outcomes than non-Indigenous children. Indigenous early childhood development is one of three priority areas identified by the Ministerial Taskforce on Indigenous Affairs.
- The Australian Government will create 20 new Innovative Child Care Service Hubs in regional and remote communities with high Indigenous populations. The new Innovative Child Care Service Hubs will provide not only child care but also additional services for families and children aged 0–5 at one location.

Who will benefit?

- The new Child Care Hubs will provide access to child care for 700 additional children in regional and remote communities. Support for existing services will improve the quality of care provided to approximately 840 children and enable their families to claim Child Care Benefit.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Australian Government will provide \$23.5 million over four years.

What have we done in the past?

- The Government supports Indigenous families with access to child care and a range of children's services. These include Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services, JET Creches, mobile services and Indigenous playgroups. The Government's \$490 million Stronger Families and Communities Strategy and the Indigenous Children's Programme deliver programmes aimed at improving children's outcomes by better access to services.

When will the initiative conclude?

- This is an ongoing initiative.



Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children – continuation

PORTFOLIO: FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Why is this important?

- Data on early childhood development gathered over an extended period of time is needed to inform policy decision-making.
- The Australian Government will conduct a targeted longitudinal survey every two years from 2008 to 2011. The survey will collect data on Indigenous babies under 12 months and four to five year old Indigenous children from 1650 families in 11 areas covering urban, regional and remote communities.
- Findings from the 1650 families in the study will assist in understanding 'what works', for example in preventing children entering state care, strengthening the role fathers play with their children and addressing problems that lead to poor parenting.

Who will benefit?

- The measure will deepen our understanding of the pathways between early childhood experience and later life outcomes for Indigenous children living in selected remote, regional and urban centres and lead to better informed policy responses.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Australian Government will provide \$8.9 million in new funding over four years to support the \$12.0 million study.

What have we done in the past?

- The Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children will build on the work completed to date. The study has developed from an extensive process of engagement and consultation with the Indigenous community. The feasibility of different research approaches has also been tested in remote, regional and urban areas with partnering organisations and other research institutions, resulting in a number of publications.

When will the initiative conclude?

- This is an ongoing initiative.



Centrelink access sites – continuation of funding

PORTFOLIO: HUMAN SERVICES

Why is this important?

- Centrelink agents help to improve services to Indigenous customers and communities in rural and remote Australia.
- Since 2003, the 50 agent sites have provided around 56,000 customer interactions, and facilitated around 120,000 telephone calls related to government services per year.

Who will benefit?

- The measure will benefit families and individuals in need of Centrelink assistance, particularly Indigenous communities and individuals in rural and remote communities.
- Many of the agent sites are the only Australian Government service located in these remote communities.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Government will provide \$12.5 million over four years.

What have we done in the past?

- In the 2003 Budget the Federal Government provided four year funding for an extra 50 agent sites.

When will the initiative conclude?

- This measure is ongoing.



Continuation of funding for Indigenous social and economic research

PORTFOLIO: FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Why is this important?

- There are still significant gaps in the knowledge base for Indigenous Affairs and an increasing amount of data being developed that requires robust analysis.
- This research will enable the Australian Government to develop sound evidence-based policy and programmes across a broad realm of social and economic areas and will contribute to the development of new policies and programmes and reassessment of existing approaches.

Who will benefit?

- All Australians, especially Indigenous Australians, will benefit from research outcomes that facilitate better targeted Indigenous policy and programmes.
- Indigenous research has sensitive issues requiring specialised expertise that differs from research undertaken in the broader population.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Government will provide funding of \$0.8 million over four years.

What have we done in the past?

- This initiative provides a continuing platform for social and economic Indigenous research undertaken over the past four years where issues such as capacity building, service delivery, decentralisation and governance in regional and remote Aboriginal communities were explored.
- This measure differs from the last measure in that the funding will be used to broaden the scope of the research and provide an opportunity for a range of providers to undertake both short- and long-term social policy research on Indigenous issues.

When will the initiative conclude?

- This funding will lapse on 30 June 2011.



Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) programme – continuation of funding

PORTFOLIO: EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

Why is this important?

- The successful *Working for Families* provided additional places in the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) programme for activities to prevent and address family violence and substance misuse problems in Indigenous communities.
- Important community activities include new night patrols, new police aids and support for women's shelters. The skills that participants acquire can lead to unsubsidised employment.

Who will benefit?

- The initiative provides an additional 1000 CDEP places to benefit participants and reduce the incidence of family violence and substance abuse.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Government will provide \$50.7 million over four years.

What have we done in the past?

- This initiative forms part of the family violence strategy launched by the Australian Government in 2003.

When will the initiative conclude?

- This measure is ongoing.