

(Attachment B to COAG Communique dated 25 June 2004)

## **NATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF PRINCIPLES FOR DELIVERING SERVICES TO INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS**

All jurisdictions are committed to achieving better outcomes for indigenous Australians, improving the delivery of services, building greater opportunities and helping indigenous families and individuals to become self-sufficient. To this end, and in delivering services to indigenous people, COAG agreed to national framework of principles for delivering services to indigenous Australians.

### **Sharing responsibility**

- Committing to cooperative approaches on policy and service delivery between agencies, at all levels of government and maintaining and strengthening government effort to address indigenous disadvantage.
- Building partnerships with indigenous communities and organisations based on shared responsibilities and mutual obligations.
- Committing to indigenous participation at all levels and a willingness to engage with representatives, adopting flexible approaches and providing adequate resources to support capacity at the local and regional levels.
- Committing to cooperation between jurisdictions on native title, consistent with Commonwealth native title legislation.

### **Harnessing the mainstream**

- Ensuring that indigenous-specific and mainstream programmes and services are complementary.
- Lifting the performance of programs and services by:
  - reducing bureaucratic red tape;
  - increasing flexibility of funding (mainstream and indigenous-specific) wherever practicable;
  - demonstrating improved access for indigenous people;
  - maintaining a focus on regional areas and local communities and outcomes; and
  - identifying and working together on priority issues.
- Supporting indigenous communities to harness the engagement of corporate, non-government and philanthropic sectors.

### **Streamlining service delivery**

- Delivering services and programmes that are appropriate, coordinated, flexible and avoid duplication:
  - including fostering opportunities for indigenous delivered services.
- Addressing jurisdictional overlap and rationalising government interaction with indigenous communities:
  - negotiating bi-lateral agreements that provide for one level of government having primary responsibility for particular service delivery, or where jurisdictions continue to have overlapping responsibilities, that services would be delivered in accordance with an agreed coherent approach.

- Maximising the effectiveness of action at the local and regional level through whole-of-government(s) responses.
- Recognising the need for services to take account of local circumstances and be informed by appropriate consultations and negotiations with local representatives.

### **Establishing transparency and accountability**

- Strengthening the accountability of governments for the effectiveness of their programmes and services through regular performance review, evaluation and reporting.
- Ensuring the accountability of organisations for the government funds that they administer on behalf of indigenous people.
- Tasking the Productivity Commission to continue to measure the effect of the COAG commitment through the jointly-agreed set of indicators.

### **Developing a learning framework**

- Sharing information and experience about what is working and what is not.
- Striving for best practice in the delivery of services to indigenous people, families and communities.

### **Focussing on priority areas**

- Tackling agreed priority issues, including those identified in the *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Report*:
  - early childhood development and growth; early school engagement and performance, positive childhood and transition to adulthood; substance use and misuse; functional and resilient families and communities; effective environmental health systems; and, economic participation and development.

Within this National Framework appropriate consultation and delivery arrangements will be agreed between the Commonwealth and individual States and Territories.

**(ATTACHMENT C to COAG Communique dated 25 June 2004)**

**NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PREVENTING FAMILY VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES**

All jurisdictions agree that preventing family violence and child abuse in indigenous families is a priority for action that requires a national effort.

Jurisdictions will work cooperatively to improve how they engage with each other and with indigenous communities to prevent family violence and child abuse in indigenous families. Jurisdictions will formalise their cooperation through bi-lateral arrangements between the Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments.

Jurisdictions' action to prevent family violence and child abuse in indigenous families will be based on the following principles:

*Safety*

1. Everyone has a right to be safe from family violence and abuse.

*Partnerships*

2. Preventing family violence and child abuse in indigenous families is best achieved by families, communities, community organisations and different levels of government working together as partners.

*Support*

3. Preventing family violence and child abuse in indigenous families relies on strong leadership from governments and indigenous community leaders and sustainable resourcing.

*Strong, resilient families*

4. Successful strategies to prevent family violence and child abuse in indigenous families enable indigenous people to take control of their lives, regain responsibility for their families and communities and to enhance individual and family wellbeing.

*Local solutions*

5. Successful strategies to prevent family violence and child abuse in indigenous families are flexible, work across jurisdictional and administrative boundaries, enable communities and governments to work together in new and innovative ways and enable local indigenous communities to set priorities and work with governments to develop solutions and implement them.

*Address the cause*

6. Successful strategies to prevent family violence and child abuse in indigenous families address the underlying causes of violence and abuse, including alcohol and drug abuse, generational disadvantage, poverty and unemployment.

**National Indigenous Council –Terms of Reference**

The National Indigenous Council will:

1. Provide expert advice to the Australian Government on how to improve outcomes for Indigenous Australians in the development and implementation of policy affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
2. Provide expert advice to Government on how to improve programme and service delivery outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people including maximising the effective interaction of mainstream and Indigenous-specific programmes and services;
3. Provide advice on Indigenous Australians' views on the acceptance and effectiveness of Australian Government and State and Territory Government programmes;
4. Provide advice on the appropriateness of policy and programme options being considered to address identified needs;
5. Provide advice to government on national funding priorities;
6. Alert government to current and emerging policy, programme and service delivery issues;
7. Promote constructive dialogue and engagement between government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and organisations;
8. Provide advice on specific matters referred to it by the Minister; and
9. Report to the Minister as appropriate on the NIC's activities and achievements.

It is also expected that the NIC will use its contacts and networks to assist consultation.

**Advice will not be sought from the NIC on specific funding proposals or specific planning or programme matters related to individual communities or regions.**

## Indigenous Coordination Centres: Queensland Region

### OIPC State Office and Urban ICC contact information

To be diverted to the nearest ICC in your state call **1800 079 098**, with the exception of **Nhulunbuy - 1800 089 148**, **Kalgoorlie - 1800 193 357** and **Kununurra - 1800 193 348**.

#### OIPC State Office

**Manager:** Di Hawgood  
Level 13, AXA Building  
144 Edward St  
BRISBANE QLD 4000  
PO Box 2472, Brisbane QLD 4001  
**Tel:** 07 3006 4800  
**Fax:** 07 3221 4359

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#### Urban ICC - Brisbane

**Manager:** Tricia Button  
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BRISBANE QLD 4001  
Level 12, AXA Building  
144 Edward St  
BRISBANE 4000  
**Tel:** 07 3006 4800  
**Fax:** 07 3221 4359  
**Free call:** 1800 079 098

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### Regional Office Contact Information

#### Cairns and Cape York are co-located

**Manager:** Mike Fordham  
PO Box 1599  
CAIRNS QLD 4870  
Level 2, 111 Grafton St  
CAIRNS QLD 4870  
**Tel:** 07 4048 8600  
**Fax:** 07 4048 8633  
**Free call:** 1800 079 098

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#### Mt Isa

**Manager:** Pat Williamson (acting)  
PO Box 2416  
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## Rockhampton

**Manager:** Noelene McCormick  
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## Roma

**Manager:** Judith Cross  
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## Townsville

**Manager:** Anne-Marie Roberts  
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TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810  
Level 4, 235 Stanley Place  
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810  
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