

Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory

An alliance of the CLC, NLC, CAALAS, NAAJA and AMSANT

Mr. Andrew Forrest
Chair of the Forrest Review
Employment Review Taskforce
Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
PO Box 6500
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Via e-mail to: indigenousjobsandtrainingreview@pmc.gov.au

26 September 2014

Dear Mr. Forrest,

Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory (APO NT) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Forrest Review. APO NT also thanks the taskforce for granting an extension for submission.

APO NT is an alliance between the Northern Land Council (NLC), Central Land Council (CLC), Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT), North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) and Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service (CAALAS). APO NT endorses the recommendations made by NAAJA, NLC and the CLC to this review.

The Forrest Review 'Creating Parity' was broad and covered a wide range of issues that affect Aboriginal people in the NT. The report itself was largely ideological and APO NT found it difficult to ascertain how these measures will hit the ground. Although APO NT supports some of the recommendations made, with respect to early childhood in particular, there are a number of recommendations that will significantly impact Aboriginal people in a negative way. APO NT are also deeply concerned by the premise underlying much of this report that remote community residents need to move away from their community and traditional country in order to obtain employment and participate in the mainstream economy. APO NT are also concerned that Aboriginal organisations are not recognised for their ability to employ large numbers of Aboriginal people and the investments that should be made into those organisations to retain and continue to employ Aboriginal people. APO NT also feels that the recommendations to welfare reform are premature and urges the Taskforce to wait for the recommendations of the McClure Review to be published.

APO NT have found that in the past, what does work in the Northern Territory is community involvement and engagement, adequate resourcing and planned comprehensive approaches; respect for language and culture; working together; development of social capital; recognising

underlying social determinants; commitment to doing projects with, not for Aboriginal people; creative collaboration; and understanding that issues are complex and contextual. A one size fits all, does not work in the Northern Territory.

APO NT wishes to make this submission publically available. If you wish to discuss any of the above in further detail, please contact Brionee Noonan by phone on (08) 8944 6672 or via e-mail to researchofficer.apont@amsant.org.au for further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Paterson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Paterson
CEO
AMSANT, for:

David Ross Director CLC	Priscilla Collins CEO NAAJA	John Paterson CEO AMSANT	Patricia Miller CEO CAALAS	Joe Morrison CEO NLC
-------------------------------	-----------------------------------	--------------------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------