

## Report of the Stronger Communities for Children (SCfC) committee meeting:

### An Opportunity for Evaluation of Government Engagement

*This report was dictated by Ian Gumbula of Gumbula Consultancies in Ngukurr to Jennifer Macdonald at CDU.*

**What:** SCfC committee meeting

**Where:** Ngukurr

**Date:** June 2017

The items for REC-IER were presented by the team, including the questions they are asking the community. Ian told the board about the interviews that have taken place with TO's, elders and community members. He told them the team had been to the LA meeting and the results of the evaluation would be available later in the year.

On the minutes it shows that there were questions raised by both Daphne Daniels and Bobby Nungamajbarr, one about the sports program and the other one about a cultural program at the school. It's good that community members are asking questions in the meeting.

#### *Sports program*

A munanga (non-Indigenous person) has been employed by the SCfC to work as the director of sports in Ngukurr and he presented to the meeting. His project works with the school to promote attendance for the secondary age students. He's coordinating before and after school sports activities and rewarding school attendance.

#### *Comments:*

- Bobby asked why the SCfC didn't go through the local sports coordinator, Lenny Wilfred, to get him to run the sports programs or sports activities, or at least to let him know what the activities are that the new person will be running
- Lenny runs the football in Ngukurr and the new person should contact Lenny to talk about that
- Communication between the SCfC and Lenny as the local sports coordinator could be improved

#### *Cultural program at the Ngukurr School*

Bobby asked for the SCfC program to put together a language program in the community where different moiety groups could go and learn from each other. Daphne and Marlene agreed that there should be a space for the community to learn from and support each other. The elders of the community are leading this recommendation. The board agreed that they'd like to see it happen. The action arising was to talk to the Ngukurr School about the possibility of a cultural language program in the school. Ian was asked to talk to the community and Bobby was asked to talk to elders.

#### *Comments:*

- The SCfC should be getting a lot of support for social and cultural programs, to get young people occupied, not just football and basketball.

#### *Comments from Ngukurr Researchers:*

Important agenda items were not discussed with either the chairperson or the board members. This should have happened a week before the meeting was due.

This committee held a meeting where they presented to the members of the committee. This was useful, but only inasmuch as it communicated to the members. The rest of the Ngukurr community

was not informed about what happened in the meeting, or what happens with the SCfC board or program.

These meetings are just for the sake of the program, not the community. The community is just being asked to participate in what the government has already decided, as opposed to being in control to make decisions for their own community.

People have been talking about Stronger Communities for Children (SCfC) and that they're not being developed within each community. The model and what is rolled out in each community is broadly applied to all communities, without the process involving Local Decision Making, or ground up development of the programs.

*Attendees:*

Daphne Daniels

Bobby Nungamajbarr

Marlene Andrews

Other SCfC committee members

*Research team:*

Ian Gumbula

Mercy Gumbula

Gwen Rami