

## **Report of the Yugul Mangi Board 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:** Yugul Mangi Board Meeting

**Where:** Multipurpose Room, Guluman Centre, Ngukurr

**Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017

The research team presented to the meeting. The board was happy with the way researchers and Ian are doing their research and talking to organisations who are directly servicing the community. They expressed their support for the research team and their desire to assist the research in every way possible. The research team talked to Yugul Mangi about how it's important for people in community to get their message to government and it's helpful for government to see people's faces to make sure what is being reported is true. Yugul Mangi agreed to the meeting being recorded.

Bobby spoke saying he feels that government are not listening to communities but just following their own policies. The CEO, Bill Blakely, gave a brief statement that the government has back-tracked on its pre-election commitment to maintain the Community Champions Program. He feels it is a short sighted change that pits all NT communities against each other for limited funding and the allocation of \$2m to all Indigenous Communities in the NT for economic development is a disgrace.

### ***Comments from Ngukurr Researchers:***

Yugul Mangi made comments about what they would like to say to the government, on behalf of the community and as an organisation that is representative of the seven clan groups.

- YM needs government to support more regional funding for economic development.
- Government needs to give projects and contracts that deal with local remote Aboriginal communities to local Aboriginal corporations.
- Government needs to consult with community leadership and organisations with regard to any current or new programs or services coming to the community.



*Photo taken by Ian Gumbula of the Yugul Mangi Board Meeting*

### ***Attendees:***

Bobby Nungamajbarr

Bill Blakely (CEO)

Walter Rogers

Grace Daniels

Michael Thompson

Priscilla Dixon

Regina Rogers

Martin Schlesinger (Yugul Mangi Business Manager)

Outback Stores

### ***Research team:***

Ian Gumbula

Gwen Rami

Mercy Gumbula