



About Cape York Partnerships
for Welfare Reform

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Message from Director, Noel Pearson



Our people in Cape York share a common history. We were connected and related to each other in the days before Europeans came. When our grandparents and great grandparents were rounded up after 1897 and put into missions, we became isolated from our relatives and friends across Cape York for many years.

It was really only in the 1990s that our people came together to get organised about critical issues affecting our people: land rights, community development, economic development, social problems, health and education.

Cape York Partnerships for Welfare Reform is one of a number of strong organisations that have done good work on behalf of our people. In the last 10 years we have made some major advancement, especially in relation to the recognition of the land rights of our people.

But our best and most important work lies ahead of us – solving our social problems through the development of a real economy for our families and communities.

I hope this booklet provides you with a valuable oversight of Cape York Partnerships and helps you to become familiar with the structure and what we are trying to achieve as part of our commitment to the Welfare Reform agenda.

Noel

Message from Directors, Rose Manzini, Gummi Fridriksson and Bernardine Denigan



If you are reading this, it is because you are involved in our organisation as an employee, volunteer, secondee or partner. This information booklet will provide you with an overview of Cape York Partnerships – our purpose, our people, our projects and our partners.

But don't stop there. Talk to our people and the people who we support in Cape York. Only then will you obtain a true reflection of the great work that CYP does in communities and our many successes.

We hope you find this booklet informative.

Rose, Gummi and Bernardine

History of Cape York Partnerships

In 1999, Noel Pearson began drawing attention to the devastating consequences of welfare dependency on his people in Cape York. At the heart of this social tragedy, was decades of ill-conceived and poorly-funded social and economic policies which over-emphasised passive service delivery and, instead of improving the prospects of these peoples, had pushed them into an entirely welfare-dependent class.

Pearson believed action was required to rebuild cultural norms and reestablish indigenous authority through the development of partnerships between Indigenous people, governments and the private sector, and by harnessing individual, family and community capability development through engagement and participation.

In 1999, the three key regional Cape York organisations – Balkanu, Cape York Land Council and Apunipima – all confirmed their commitment to pursuing Noel’s ideas.

In late 1999, 400 Cape York Aboriginal leaders gathered at the Wujal Wujal Land and Health Summit to discuss the partnerships concepts. Elders presented the *Kaban* to the Premier requesting support for their commitment to improve the plight of all Cape York Aboriginal people. Premier Beattie confirmed his Government’s commitment to the partnership and agreed to fund an organisation led by Pearson to develop partnerships initiatives.

In May 2000, the Cape York Partnerships office opened with support from the Queensland Government. The team began meeting with community members and leaders to ensure that they were adequately informed of the opportunities the partnership project offered. In 2000, Aurukun, Mossman Gorge and Coen, endorsed a Family Income Management trial for their communities. Coen was also established as the trial site for the education research project, Computer Culture.

In 2002, CYP proposed an inquiry be undertaken into the problems associated with alcohol abuse in Indigenous communities. This led to the Cape York Justice Study by Justice Tony Fitzgerald whose report prompted the Queensland Government to legislate for alcohol management in Queensland’s Indigenous communities. CYP assisted the Aurukun community to establish its alcohol management plan with significant success.

In 2004, CYP worked with regional leaders, Griffith University and the State and Federal Governments to form the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership (CYI) to champion reform and innovation in Indigenous and social welfare policies. CYP began to collaborate with CYI to articulate what has become known as the Cape York Agenda - to ensure Cape York people can “have the capabilities to choose lives they have reason to value”.

In 2006, CYP and CYI worked together to begin design on the Welfare Reform Project. This project aims to rebuild social norms and promote engagement in the real economy. CYP is currently implementing four projects in the Welfare Reform trial.

In 2008, CYP commenced significant restructuring and organisation development in response to its rapid growth. This process is still underway.

Cape York Partnerships for Welfare Reform

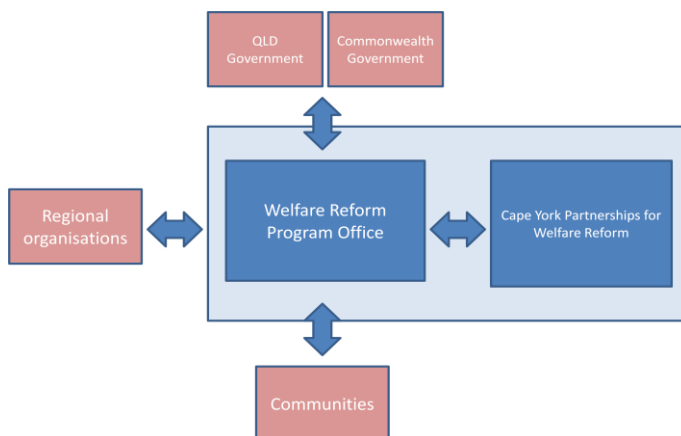
Cape York Partnerships for Welfare Reform is a community development organisation aimed at ensuring the people of Cape York Peninsula have the capabilities to chose lives they have reason to value.

The organisation enables reform by building innovative partnerships between indigenous individuals and families, government and the philanthropic and corporate sectors.

The organisation was formed in 1999 through an agreement between the Australian and Queensland Governments and regional Indigenous organisations. This began a period of project design, development, trial and implementation.

In late 2008, upon consideration of the relationship between the Cape York Partnerships reform concepts and the organisations implementing them, the Welfare Reform Program Office joined with Cape York Partnerships to form Cape York Partnerships for Welfare Reform.

Our organisation carries a major responsibility for the implementation of a reform agenda with funding, legislative and political support from the Queensland and Australian Governments. This comprehensive agenda will determine the social and economic future of Cape York communities.



Our Mission, Vision and Values

Our Mission

Our mission is to enable and lead reform by building innovative partnerships between Indigenous individuals and families, government and the philanthropic and corporate sector.

Our Vision

The people of Cape York Peninsula will have the capabilities to choose a life that they have reason to value.

Our Values

Personal Responsibility

We take and expect personal responsibility.

Belief

We respect and believe in the potential of all people.

Reform

We build reform partnerships.

Excellence

We will be an exemplary organisation.

Every Child

We believe that every child is special and deserves a good future.

Regional Cape York Indigenous Organisations

A group of Cape York Indigenous leaders, with support from partners including the Queensland state and Australian governments, philanthropic, industry and business, have formed a number of regional Cape York organisations which are collectively working towards the Cape York agenda. The following regional organisations support the Cape York Agenda and the Welfare Reform trial.

Cape York Institute

Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership is a public policy organisation operating through the Griffith University that champions reform and innovation in Indigenous and social welfare policies. The Institute is governed by representatives from business and government and Indigenous leaders including Professor Marcia Langton, Noel Pearson and Tanya Major.

Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation

Balkanu is an economic development corporation established to support economic opportunities across the region. Operations focus on establishing and managing business hubs throughout the region to work with individuals and families to assist them to establish small business enterprise. The organisation also works with traditional owners throughout the region to support their expectations for their traditional lands.

Cape York Land Council

Cape York Land Council is a Native Title Representative Body under the *Native Title Act 1993* (established in 1990 to serve the Aboriginal communities and traditional owners of Cape York). The Council helps traditional owners gain recognition of their native title rights through negotiations and court action and represents communities in negotiations with resource companies.

Indigenous Enterprise Partnerships

Indigenous Enterprise Partnerships is a not-for-profit organisation established to channel corporate and philanthropic resources into indigenous development. IEP has developed a holistic approach linking education, health, IT, youth and economic development and ensures that resources are matched to needs and that the partnership works effectively for all participants.

Apunipima Cape York Health

Apunipima is the lead agency representing a holistic approach to health issues of Cape York communities and is committed to working with the mainstream health system to coordinate improved health service delivery.

Apunipima is dedicated to preventative health care development through the adoption of the 'River of Life' philosophy, utilising consultation and advocacy for the health needs of Cape York communities in partnership with key stakeholders.

Cape York Partnerships Business Units and Projects

Corporate Services Unit

The Corporate Services Unit is the central management and administration of CYP which supports the units and projects with a range of corporate services. These include administration, finance and contract management, project management, human resources, information technology, media and communications.

Every Child is Special Education Unit

Every Child is Special (ECIS) Education Unit is a research and development unit aimed at reforming Indigenous education by building student, family and community demand for high expectation, high quality education through family engagement and mutual accountability. The unit has a 'No Excuses!' approach to achieving better education supply and develops collaborative education partnerships to improve education supply and enable 'demand' participation in education.

The major focus of the unit in 2008 is the education projects it has developed to support Welfare Reform being MULTILIT in Cape York Schools, Attendance Case Management Framework and Student Education Trusts.

MULTILIT in Cape York Schools

MULTILIT^[1] in Cape York Schools (MCYS) is a partnership project between Cape York Partnerships (CYP), Every Child is Special (ECIS) and MULTILIT, a proven form of literacy instruction for low progress students. MCYS is designed to embed sustainable high quality literacy instruction across a school and improve student literacy outcomes.

MCYS establishes a MULTILIT tutorial centre in a school to develop sustainable quality literacy teaching. Activity involves training quality MULTILIT teachers, providing direct support to low progress readers, embedding the MULTILIT methodology in regular classrooms, and operating a reading club for parents to read with their child and engage in their learning.

Attendance Case Management Framework

The Attendance Case Management Framework (ACMF) aims to establish a community wide expectation of 100% school attendance. Attendance Case Managers work with students, parents, schools and the broader community to set and meet the expectation of 100 per cent attendance.

The project is underpinned by a belief that tackling student attendance problems requires intensive work with students (to positively reinforce 100% attendance), parents (to ensure their child attends school), schools (to ensure they supply education for the full school day) and the community (to create a 100% attendance expectation as a social norm).

Attendance Case Managers are based in schools in each Welfare Reform trial community and visit parents if a student is late or absent from school, makes referrals to services, supports

^[1] Making Up Lost Time in Literacy

parents in meeting their obligations and engages with all community partners and service providers.

Student Education Trusts (SETs)

Student Education Trusts (SETs) enables parents to financially support their child's education and development from 'birth to graduation'. SETs works with parents and families to manage funds to meet their child's education needs.

SETs also work with education and child development services to set appropriate expectations of a child's needs with families and works with education material suppliers to improve family access to educational goods and services.

Social Responsibility Unit

The Social Responsibility Unit is a research and development unit which aims to rebuild healthy, responsible and prosperous individuals, families and communities, rebuild social norms and restore Indigenous Authority.

The major focus of the unit in 2008 is its projects it has developed to support Welfare Reform being Family Income Management and Agreed Budgets.

Family Income Management

Family Income Management (FIM) is a voluntary service designed to support individuals and families, with the education, information and ongoing support needed to manage their money and meet their obligations.

FIM supports individuals and families to manage money for basic material needs, build capabilities through financial literacy and build assets through saving and disciplined money management.

Agreed Budgets

The Family Responsibilities Commission (FRC) uses Agreed Budgets as part of the compulsory 'case plan' under the FRC legislation for people who come before the commission. The case plan contains a compulsory referral to Family Income Management (FIM) together with the Agreed Budget to be implemented by FIM.

FIM works with an individual to determine the Agreed Budget which must include duration (eg 6 months), proportion (eg 50%), and what the managed proportion should be spent on (eg rent, food). Where FIM identifies a failure on behalf of the person to adhere to the Agreed Budget, the FRC is notified and further action will be undertaken by the FRC.

Economic Opportunity Unit

The Economic Opportunity Unit is a research and development unit that aims to support individual engagement in the real economy by creating opportunities for individuals to be employed in normalised employment environments, making communities more business friendly, supporting mobility for employment and providing business support mechanisms. The major focus of the unit for 2008 is the Work Placement Scheme.

Work Placement Scheme

The Work Placement Scheme facilitates employment opportunities for Indigenous people by placing them in full time employment and providing ongoing support to ensure they can live independently. The Scheme aims to remove the current dependence and negative impact of welfare programs, encouraging self reliance and responsibility and assisting participants to become satisfied, productive and respected members of their local and broader communities.

The project recruits workers from remote northern Australia and brokers employment opportunities outside of the region in industries with worker shortages. The program provides extensive support for these workers via housing, meals and training to assist them in living independently.

Cape York Partnerships sites

Hope Vale FIM Office	C/- Hope Vale Post Office, Hope Vale 4871 Phone: 07 4060 9399 Fax: 07 4060 9388
Aurukun FIM Office	608 Muttich Street, Aurukun 4871 Phone: 07 4060 6848 Fax: 07 4060 6055
Napranum FIM Office	PO Box Weipa 4874 Phone: Fax:
Mossman FIM Office	PO Box 171, Mossman QLD 4871 Phone: 07 4098 1305 Fax: 07 4098 1834
Coen FIM Office	C/- Post Office, Coen 4871 Phone: 07 4060 1159 Fax: 07 4060 1195
Cooktown FIM Office	PO Box 588, Cooktown 4871 Phone: 07 406 96738 Fax: 07 406 99737
Lockhart River FIM	C/- Post Office, Lockhart River 4871 Phone: 0740 609339
CYP Office – Cairns	PMB 1, Cairns TAFE, Newton Street, Cairns Q 4870 Phone: 07 4042 7200 Fax: 07 4051 3556
