

Government Coordination & Innovation

ISSUES Raised/Discussed

- **Interagency consultation mechanisms**
- **Formal commitment to working across agencies through the COAG process, but achieving coordination is difficult despite formal process.**
- **Data and information collection and coordination**
- **DCDSCA & LGANT training for governance. NTHCS training for governance, NLC training for governance, NT Attorney General's with ORAC also doing training. Many community organisations also. Potential for collaboration.**
- **Coordinating role required for the development of an Indigenous employment strategy.**
- **Training is ongoing and needs to take place after every AGM and for new members.**
- **Katherine nominated (by Kalano) as one of the Indigenous Employment Strategy.**
- **Funding body requirements in relation to statistics and reports often not coordinated with what organisations do/can produce. Importance of base line data. Difficulty of coordinating local, state/Territory and commonwealth agencies, and the getting cooperation. Important not to reinvent the wheel, possibly set up a data clearing house, and train local people to contribute.**
- **Need for collaborative approach with Land Councils**
- **DEET also producing 'community control' course – 4-5 year roll out.**
- **Accelerated numeracy and literacy must accompany governance training**
- **If serious about transferring decision making, there must be a move towards pooled funding.**
- **More integration of delivery of services to remote areas is needed.**

- Organisations need opportunities to learn what is going on and about where to get support and assistance from.
- COAG process still imposes a package of services
- Did the concerns about 'governance' come from the communities, or has it come done from the institutions? What thought is there about the 'trauma' communities feel from this pressure?
- A 'funding calendar' through NTCOSS or LGANT covering all funding available to organisations.
- Also a need for staff to be trained in governance, ethics, etc.
- The system wants 'governance' from the institutional perspective. The communities have their own understanding of governance. What is being done to bring the two perspectives together.
- Definition of accountability needs to be broadened beyond financial to governance and involve reciprocal accountability of agencies.
- Community engagement process needs to be more interactive. This also requires transparency from agencies. Need the opportunity to comment on the process, not just the content.
- Engagement as a process of negotiation.
- Cross-agency coordination is hard and requires a culture change.
- Inadequate preparation of agency staff.
- How do we simplify cross agency involvement.
- Thumurrurr is a COAG trial and not necessarily a model for the Territory.
- All agencies need to sing the same tune – part of this is same approach to data.
- Commonwealth committed to 'place based' approach but not necessarily regional approach.
- Lack of capacity at community/regional level to manage programs in the community/human services areas.
- Pooling of resources gets all the agencies 'singing the same tune'. Move away from submissions to a needs basis. Target what we do in a practical way.

- **Agencies ‘dropping in’ and pushing separate programs is disrespectful and confusing to communities.**
- **Communities don’t know how to interact with agencies because agencies are continually shifting the goal posts.**
- **Pooling of funds and move to system of ‘user choice’ in services.**
- **Need to analyse the impacts of the current system (eg. interactions with multiple agencies) and proposed changes (eg. new fads) have on communities, to determine how the system can be modified to better match the needs and culture of communities.**
- **Governments need to better explain the values, assumptions, concepts and processes underpinning policies and project initiatives, and there should be some comparative analysis with the Indigenous perspective on these issues.**
- **Important that ‘outcomes’ at community level are continually emphasised and measured, because ‘outcomes’ for agencies are subject to political cycles, etc.**
- **Need process to identify, give recognition to and reward best practice in governance.**
- **Move to pooled funding, and possibly for whole of community services, should be mandated. Start with Wadeye.**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. Analysis/research of the non-Indigenous system and the impact on communities including comparative studies of the values of the system and communities in conjunction with governance, to inform government coordination on governance.**
- 2. Pooled funding should be mandatory starting with Wadeye and emerging regional authorities**

