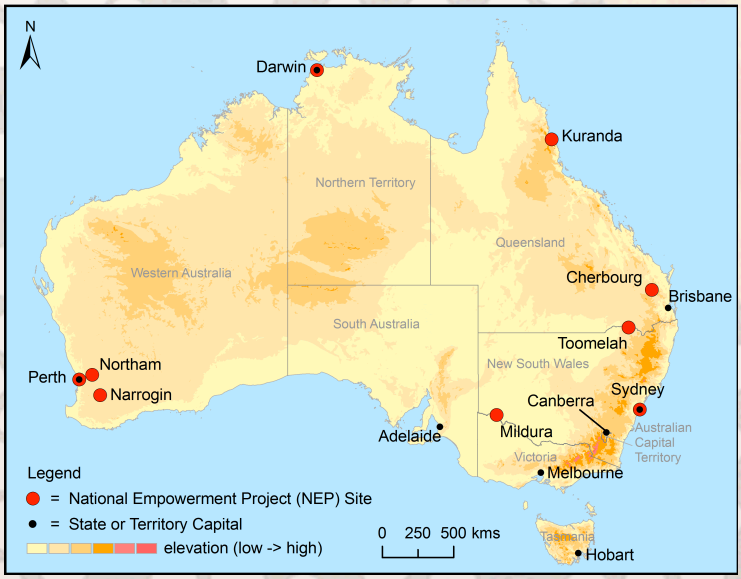
TOOMELAH COMMUNITY FEEDBACK 2013

Developing an Innovative, Empowerment and Leadership Program – Promoting Cultural, Social and Emotional Wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Where did we go?

The National Empowerment Project consulted widely with communities in 8 sites across the country – Perth, Narrogin, Northam/Toodyay, Kuranda, Cherbourg, Toomelah, Sydney and Mildura.



Based on the successful Kimberley Empowerment Project, this national project worked towards finding holistic, cultural and local relevant solutions to the crisis of cultural, social and emotional wellbeing and suicides in the community, building on the strengths within individuals, families and communities.

Communities were asked:

What are the Issues Confronting Individuals, Families and Communities?

This is what the community told us:

- Inadequacy of Services
- Substance Abuse
- Violence/Fighting in the Community
- Youth Issues
- Health/Mental Health
- Lack of Employment
- Boredom/Inactivity
- School Issues
- Discrimination/Racism
- Housing Issues

What makes Individuals, Families and Communities Stronger?

- A Focus on Culture
- Coming Together as a Community
- Improving Education/Knowledge
- Stopping the Feuding
- Improving Services/Programs
- More/Improved Leadership
- More Facilities/Activities

Preferred Cultural, Social and Emotional Wellbeing, Empowerment and Healing Programs

- Health and Healing
- Culture and Language
- Youth Focused Programs
- Education and Training
- Community Management
- Supporting Families

Barriers for Introducing Programs

- Other Commitments
- Feuding in the Community
- Shame/Lack of Confidence
- How the Program is Delivered
- Transport Issues

What do people want in a Program?

- Getting People Job Ready
- How the Program is Delivered
- Who Delivers the Program
- Where it is Delivered
- Interpersonal Relationships

Where to from here?

We will be relaying to government and relevant organisations, agencies and people that they need to hear the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and provide more resources to develop local programs that can help individuals, families and communities deal with and respond to the high levels of community distress, suicide and the many issues relating to cultural, social and emotional wellbeing.

The National Empowerment Project will assist to further develop a program for each of the 9 sites across the country that:

- responds to the different needs and issues identified by communities
- is well resourced and relevant to local issues
- respects and supports individuals, families and communities to empower and continue peoples journey of healing over the longer term.

We are about to assist in developing a cultural, social and emotional wellbeing program for each of the sites involved in the Project, and will continue to work with the communities to ensure that funds are sought and ongoing support is provided.

Project Team

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If you want more information or want to talk to someone about this project you can call 08 6488 6926 or visit our website http://nationalempowermentproject.org.au/

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