OUTPUT GROUP 4

ADVOCACY SERVICES

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<td>4.1 PUBLIC AWARENESS &amp; EDUCATION</td>
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OUTCOMES

Enhanced social, political and economic participation and equity for Aboriginal people in the Central Land Council’s area as a result of the promotion, protection and advancement of their land rights, other rights and interests.
OUTPUT 4.1
PUBLIC AWARENESS & EDUCATION

The CLC informs its constituents and the wider public of issues of importance to Central Australian Aboriginal people and promotes their achievements and aspirations. Many sections of the CLC contribute to the production of a wide range of information and education materials and presentations. The CLC’s communications unit is often the first port of call for journalists and members of the public wishing to know more about contemporary Aboriginal culture and society in Central Australia.

The communications unit prioritised communications with Aboriginal people in remote communities and raised awareness of issues ranging from the successes of the CLC’s community development and ranger programs to proposals to store nuclear waste on Aboriginal land and ongoing attempts to undermine land rights. It kept the CLC’s elected members informed of matters of public interest that impact on their communities, managed media issues and produced web, print, radio and TV content.

The unit also organised the CLC’s first All Staff Day in July 2014 and prepared its 40th anniversary celebration in September 2015.

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Every hill got a story, the CLC’s long awaited oral history collection, was completed. The first comprehensive history of Central Australian Aboriginal people as told in their own words and languages will be published by Hardie Grant under its SBS Books imprint in August 2015.

The book contains the recollections of 127 eminent men and women from Central Australia and a foreword by filmmaker Rachel Perkins, the daughter of the CLC’s first chair. It also boasts hundreds of previously unpublished historical images. For a richer experience the book links to soundbites from the original interviews with the storytellers. These can be accessed at http://www.sbs.com.au/features/nitv/everyhill/. The CLC will launch Every hill got a story in September 2015 to mark its 40th anniversary.

A study guide for the book, aimed at primary and secondary students, will become available free of charge in August. Work has also begun on making the oral history interviews available as podcasts on the CLC website.
While the original oral history interviews are being returned to the storytellers and their immediate family, the CLC is seeking funding to support the upload of hundreds of hours of interviews to its digital archive at www.clc.ara-iritja.com so they can be accessed more widely (see below).

**Land Rights News and Council News**

Australia’s oldest Aboriginal-owned newspaper, *Land Rights News Central Australia*, maintained its circulation of 9,000. Print and online versions were produced in November 2014 and April 2015, coinciding with Council meetings. Distributed free of charge to remote NT communities and news agencies, the paper remains one of the few sources of accessible information and analysis of issues that matter to the CLC’s constituents. It aims to balance the relentlessly negative portrayal of Aboriginal people in the mainstream media with stories about their many achievements.

The CLC has also begun to distribute *Council News*, a large-format printed newsletter about decisions and discussions of the CLC delegates that is also available online.

**Website and social media**

The CLC website experienced significantly more visits than last financial year. New visitors accounted for over 70% of sessions. The site supports the CLC’s
increasingly active Facebook presence, and will undergo a major update during 2015–16.

**CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE**

No further records have been added to the CLC’s digital archive since October 2014, when funding for the part time digital archive officer position ran out. The popular online database puts over 13,000 historical and contemporary images and other recordings at the fingertips of CLC constituents with internet access, no matter how remotely they live. The archive plays a very important role in the repatriation of culturally significant records and transmission of knowledge between generations.

An application under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy for funding of the position was unsuccessful and a subsequent application to the ABA was not supported by the Minister. Without the position the archive is effectively on hold and the CLC is unable to continue uploading a large and growing backlog of culturally significant records. This puts these records at risk of loss and damage and keeps them out of reach of their rightful owners, Central Australian Aboriginal people.
The CLC has a statutory responsibility to ascertain, express and represent the wishes and the opinion of Aboriginal people living in the CLC area, and to protect the interests of Aboriginal people living in the area. To fulfil this responsibility the CLC identifies significant legislative and policy matters, consults with traditional owners and Aboriginal people to ascertain their views and establishes positions on significant policy issues through the Council and the Executive.

The CLC also works on a number of research projects to formulate policy positions and responses. From this basis the CLC is able to represent with a high degree of authority the Aboriginal views and aspirations on issues and engage with all levels of government and other stakeholders to ensure that Aboriginal interests are taken into account.

**PERFORMANCE**

The CLC made submissions to the Australian or NT governments on a variety of policy matters, including submissions and responses:

- to the Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee Inquiry on the Commonwealth Indigenous Advancement Strategy Tendering Processes
- to the COAG investigation into Indigenous land use and administration
- to the Hydraulic Fracturing Inquiry in the NT
- to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs regarding proposed changes to the ABA Advisory Committee representation and operation
- to the Forrest Creating Parity report
- on the proposed regulations in respect of s.28A delegated functions
- regarding the NT Government’s review of the Cemeteries Act (NT)
- regarding the NT Government’s draft bill to amend the Associations Act (NT).

The CLC also contributed to the following Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT (APONT) submissions and responses:

- to the NT Legislative Assembly select committee on the prevalence, impacts and government responses to illicit use of the drug known as ‘ice’ in the NT
- to the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
- into the Social Services bill – Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment (2014 Budget Measures No.1) Bill 2014 Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment (2014 Budget Measures No.2) Bill 2014
- to the Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee Inquiry on the Commonwealth Indigenous Advancement Strategy Tendering Processes
- to the Stronger Futures review by the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights
- to the Standing Committee on Community Affairs on the Extent of Income Inequality in Australia
- on the review of the Welfare Act (McClure Submission)
- to the NT Government – Response to Six Month Review of the Alcohol Mandatory Treatment Act (NT)
- to the Australian Government’s 2014 Budget cuts
- to the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs Social Services and other legislation Amendment (2014 Budget Measures No. 1 & No.2).
As detailed in the last annual report, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs attempted to enact regulations pursuant to s.28A in 2013 and ultimately the Senate disallowed this regulation on 20 March 2014. Following disallowance of the proposed s.28A regulations, the Minister wrote to the CLC advising his intention to develop new regulations. An exposure draft was provided to the CLC in December 2014 for comment in January 2015. The CLC and NLC provided a joint response to the proposed regulation, and attended consultation meetings with the department. In March 2015 the Minister wrote to the land councils indicating a willingness to negotiate on key concerns with the s.28A provision. This move was strongly welcomed by the CLC and negotiations have commenced.

Tenure and leasing
In October 2014 COAG announced an investigation into Indigenous land tenure and administration. The CLC met several times with departmental and NT Government representatives to discuss this investigation, and also met with the Indigenous Expert Working Group in May 2015. A submission to the investigation was provided in June 2015. With the investigation not due to report until the end of 2015 it is expected that the CLC will meet again with the group.

The CLC’s submission emphasises the fact that the existing leasing provision of the Land Rights Act are effective and efficient, with almost 2,000 leases now in place in the CLC region. (A comprehensive report on leasing can be found on page 44.) The CLC also highlights the fact that focusing solely on tenure and communal title as the key barrier to economic development and individual home ownership has distracted focus from the other critical factors requiring urgent attention. The most pressing and ubiquitous barriers to economic development and home ownership on remote communities in the NT continue to be neglected. These include major power, water and sewerage constraints and serious limitations on available serviced land. They also include the high cost of construction, the quality of infrastructure, low average incomes, the caution of mortgage lenders and a range of other market factors.

Since 2010 the CLC has been advocating for an alternative whole-community leasing model which would provide a head lease to a community-based Aboriginal corporation rather than the Executive Director of Township Leasing. The negotiations in relation to Mutitjulu have provided a useful process for further developing this model. During this financial year there have been productive discussions with departmental officials to progress a community corporation leasing model.
The director attended a meeting on property rights coordinated by the Australian Human Rights Commission in Broome in May 2015. The meeting involved important discussions around economic development and native title issues. The CLC is committed to continuing discussions with this group.

**Muțitjulu Taskforce**

The CLC continues to participate in the Muțitjulu Taskforce, which is comprised of all levels of government, Parks Australia, Muțitjulu community members and the CLC, and also participates in the Taskforce tenure sub-committee. A Taskforce meeting was held on 1 October 2014, and participants agreed to commence formal negotiations over a possible tenure solution for Muțitjulu. The negotiation group met three times during the reporting period. Many key terms are now agreed and the tenure model for Muțitjulu is sufficiently progressed to commence formal consultations with traditional owners.

**Constitutional recognition and reform**

Through APONT, the CLC provided a submission to the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. A constitutional lawyer from the University of New South Wales attended the April 2015 Council meeting to provide advice to the Council regarding options and implications of Constitutional reform. Further work will be undertaken in 2015, with the CLC expected to be involved in high level meetings with other Indigenous leaders to progress national consensus in this issue.

**Aboriginal Peak Organisations (NT)**

APONT was formed in October 2010 and comprises the CLC, the NLC, the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the Northern Territory, the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service, and the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency. APONT capacity increased this year with the recruitment of three Aboriginal staff to co-ordinate policy and administrative efforts.

Work during this year included convening the Aboriginal Remote Housing Forum with Central Australian Affordable Housing Company and NT Shelter, ongoing work regarding the development of principles for NGOs working in remote areas, support to the Aboriginal Governance and Management program, and numerous submissions on critical issues.

**Aboriginals Benefit Account**

The CLC continued to support the work of the ABA Advisory Committee (ABAAC). Unfortunately during this reporting period senior staff were denied permission to attend and provide support at ABAAC meetings. The Minister for Indigenous Affairs wrote to the CLC regarding possible changes to the representation and operation of the ABAAC. This matter was considered by the Council and a response was provided to the Minister in September 2014.

**Small communities and homelands**

The CLC continues to lobby hard on the need to secure a sustainable future for small communities, outstations and homelands. New NT Government policy and funding guidelines came into place this financial year, and new data is now publicly available about funding levels and service providers. Officials from the NT Government attended the Executive meeting in February 2015 to provide an update on the implementation of the new arrangements and the survey being undertaken by the Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT). The CLC supported the CAT’s fieldwork survey with homeland residents.

**Aboriginal community governance**

The CLC’s Community Governance project secured a further 12 months funding from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and has continued to work with Lajamanu community, and particularly the Kurdiji group, to strengthen community governance. The project supports residents to develop community-supported solutions such as bi-monthly community safety meetings, and advocating for an integrated approach to diversionary and rehabilitation activities. Community members have also applied for Warlpiri royalty to fund two Warlpiri mentee positions. The Kurdiji group is also actively negotiating with the CLC and the Warnayaka Art Centre to transfer elements of the project to Warnayaka, with the longer-term aim of creating a completely locally controlled, sustainable organisation.

The CLC also supports APONT’s Governance and Management Program. This innovative program aims to strengthen and support Aboriginal organisations in the NT according to their needs and through workshops, demonstration sites, advice and referrals, and research. The CLC has provided representation on the program steering committee and has participated in workshops considering the future direction and structure of the program.

**Housing**

The appalling state of remote community housing and the failure of the remote housing management system is a significant concern for communities across our region. Many communities continue to raise issues regarding repairs and maintenance, tenancy management, problems with responses from their service providers, overcrowding, and the poor quality of renovations and contractor work.

The CLC played a key role in organising the APONT Remote Housing Forum in Darwin in March 2015. The
The CLC continues to advocate on housing matters, including through liaison with Territory Housing and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet officials. The CLC remains a member of the Central Australian Affordable Housing Company (CAAHC) and continues to seek avenues to diversify the remote housing sector. In addition, the CLC undertook an independent survey of 13 houses in Papunya community in March 2015 and has written to NT Department of Housing outlining maintenance and repair issues associated with all of the houses in the survey.

Substance misuse
The CLC continues to participate in meetings of the People’s Alcohol Action Collective and actively work towards the adoption of greater harm minimisation strategies in relation to alcohol, including supply reduction. The CLC also continues to focus on issues relating to alcohol through our contributions to the work of APONT.

The CLC continued to assist the residents of Lajamanu with the appeal against the proposed alcohol restrictions for Top Springs roadhouse. After conducting consultations the Licensing Commission handed down its decision on 17 July 2014. The CLC assisted Lajamanu community to understand the proposed restrictions, which came into force in August 2014. In late 2014, the NT Parliament passed the Licensing (Director General) Act and repealed the Northern Territory Licensing Commission Act, which provided for a multi-member Commission to hear licensing matters under a number of other Acts. The CLC has some concerns, particularly around community input in licensing decisions and reviews. A meeting was held with the new Director General to discuss the new role and possible concerns and to advocate for community involvement in a review scheduled for August 2015.

Telecommunications
The CLC continues to undertake strategic advocacy work on priority telecommunications matters. The CLC is a member of Australian Communications Consumer Action Network. The CLC is also a member of the Broadband for the Bush Alliance. The Alliance seeks to get a united front from the bush across a range of communications issues, but particularly with respect to the National Broadband Network and increasing mobile network coverage. The CLC plans to participate in 2015 Broadband Bush Forum in Darwin and has been actively involved in planning the Indigenous Focus Day as part of the Forum.

The CLC has collaborated with Swinburne University and the Centre for Appropriate Technology on a Home Internet Project. The fieldwork component of this research project was completed this year and the CLC has assisted in writing up the outcomes of the project and finalising the project report.

Enterprise review
During this period the CLC finalised a review into its approach to creating and supporting Indigenous enterprises. This work was funded by an Australian Government grant. The review is complete, and the CLC is now working on a strategy to guide future work.

School attendance
The CLC met repeatedly with Commonwealth officials to canvas how it can help to increase school attendance. The CLC has long supported a large number of Aboriginal Corporations benefiting from land use agreements, by assisting administration of their ORIC requirements regarding membership, financial administration and reporting. The Indigenous Affairs Minister is concerned about anecdotal evidence suggesting that the requirement for corporation members to travel vast distances to corporation meetings might cause children to miss school when such meetings occur during school term. He would prefer that all such meetings be held during school holidays. However, with a handful of CLC staff currently supporting 32 corporations annual general meeting and reporting requirements are not able to be met if meetings can only be scheduled during a short school holiday between terms 3 and 4. In addition, as these are private corporations the CLC is not in a position to impose meeting requirements where members object to holding meetings during school holidays. Regardless, the CLC actively discourages school children attending such meetings, including through formal meeting notices advising members not to bring their children. The CLC has requested school attendance data so it can better understand how distribution meetings and payments impact on school attendance. The CLC also strongly encourages school attendance through a range of education projects supported by its community development unit.
CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE AND CUSTOMARY PRACTICES

The CLC assisted traditional owners to access country in order for them to fulfill their cultural obligations, visit and maintain sacred sites, pass on cultural knowledge and undertake customary land management practices. While such opportunities are provided in association with a wide range of CLC activity, extended trips into seldom visited country are especially valued as they rejuvenate knowledge of more remote parts of the region. The CLC ranger groups continue to support traditional owners in undertaking such trips.

In addition to country visits conducted on IPAs, the CLC supported direct requests from traditional owners to travel elsewhere for such purposes. Examples of this kind of visit were trips to Yewerre ALT (Simpson Desert) to reconnect with country (on this visit a near-forgotten sacred site was relocated), to Ahakeye ALT to visit Yanginj and Merekerlangke sites, to Urrampinyi Iljtjiltjarri ALT (Tempe Downs) to visit Kulpi Mara and other sites, and to Haasts Bluff ALT (Kintore) to facilitate cultural interests with traditional owners.

The application and intergenerational transfer of Indigenous ecological knowledge held by senior traditional owners continues to be integrated into cultural and natural resource management activity conducted across the region. Senior owners’ participation in fire management, invasive species, biodiversity, community ranger and other programs provide opportunities to achieve significantly enhanced and multi-faceted outcomes from applying this highly valued but threatened body of knowledge.

Two regional-scale projects with a central focus on the use and maintenance of Indigenous ecological
knowledge were supported in this period. One, the Yerrampe (Honey Ant) Storyline Project, aimed at embedding related cultural knowledge in actions to address environmental threats to affiliated sites sweeping from Ti Tree to Docker River. The project progressed through traditional owner planning meetings at Docker River, Papunya and Ti Tree, and mapping of Honey Ant sites near Mount Liebig (Haasts Bluff ALT), Akwerpl (Bushy Park PL) and more widely across the Anmatyerr region. Another such project built on the momentum established by the Territory Natural Resource Management–funded Medicinal Plant Species Use and Management in Eastern Central Australia Workshop, which continued to support women to maintain cultural knowledge and practice related to valued bush medicines across this region. Feedback from participating communities on bush medicine harvesting protocols was collated for workshops planned with the Akeyulerre Healing Centre in Alice Springs and women from Plenty Region communities to further review the protocols and their application in an enterprise context.

Workshops with a more localised Indigenous ecological knowledge focus were facilitated in Lajamanu with senior traditional owners to develop a program for the inter-generational transfer of traditional tracking knowledge and to maintain skills in the production of palya (resin used in making spears and other tools).

Significant outcomes were also achieved by the near completion of the IHP-funded Reinvigorating Warumungu and Warlmanpa Women’s Cultural Heritage project, which is dedicated to maintaining critical cultural knowledge held by senior Aboriginal women for two prominent songlines in the Tennant Creek area. Actions towards this project included the development and installation of a community access computer to hold repatriated and newly recorded cultural material under access protocols and procedures set by senior women, and the participation of approximately 80 Warumungu and Warlmanpa traditional owners in related ceremonies held at Kunjarra (Devils Pebbles) in September 2014. As well as improving access to 15 songline sites through on-ground works, the project also produced a DVD for public distribution. The DVD won Best Culture Video at the National Indigenous Remote Media Festival.

Cultural heritage protection

A CLC cultural heritage management working group made progress in establishing an organisational cultural heritage program. It finalised operational guidelines to better integrate the efforts of the anthropology and land management sections. The program will provide an overarching framework for supporting traditional owners in the protection of both the tangible and intangible cultural values of their country in a co-ordinated and equitable manner.

The physical protection and management of sacred sites and other places of cultural and historical significance to Aboriginal people continues to be a core CLC priority. Many such features are vulnerable to direct development pressures or subject to environmental threats, visitor impacts and other forces of deterioration. In addition to established sacred site clearance procedures, traditional owners are also assisted to undertake restorative or maintenance actions themselves through assisted site visits and participation in related physical works.

Numerous actions of this nature were undertaken or initiated in 2014–15, including:

- nomination of the Little Flower Mission site for inclusion on the NT Heritage Register at the direction of traditional owners (Aletherre ALT)
- assessment of visitor impacts on a women’s site and protection measures required (Andado Station)
- facilitation of traditional owner visits to the Puna Kura and Manantitja rock art sites to consider site management matters (Angas Downs IPA)
- review implementation of the Nganju cultural heritage management plan (Anningie Station)
- review of plans to erect a protective fence around Anyemperre (Atneeye ALT)
- support for traditional owners in discussions with Inkerreke Outstation Resource Centre regarding their proposal to maintain and enhance the Jay Creek cemetery (Iwupataka ALT)
- completion of Stage 2 repair and restoration works on the former Tempe Downs homestead complex under an NT Heritage Grant and submitted a further application to fund Stage 3 of the original homestead restoration (Urrampinyi Iljiljarri ALT).

Aboriginal ceremonial activities and funerals

The CLC receives funding from the ABA to support Aboriginal families with the high cost of funerals and to support important ceremonial activity. The ABA funds represent a contribution towards costs, but families are still expected to contribute their own funds towards these activities. Funds are allocated according to very strict guidelines. This year the CLC assisted 194 families with funeral expenses. The following communities were assisted with resources to support summer ceremonial activities:

- Region 1: Ntaria, Titjikala, Wallace Rockhole, Alice Springs
- Region 2: Docker River, Areyonga, Wanmarra
• Region 3: Kalkarindji, Lajamanu,
• Region 4: Willowra, Yuendumu, Nyirripi, Wilora
• Region 5: Kintore, Papunya, Mount Liebig, Haasts Bluff
• Region 6: Tennant Creek, Alekerange, Imangara, Mungkarta
• Region 7: Arlparrpa, Ampilatawatja, Antaringinye,
• Region 8: Engawala, Mulga Bore, Mount Eaglebeak, Atitjere, Foxalls Well,
• Region 9: Ti Tree, Mount Allen, Laramba, Alyuen

Women’s Law and Culture meeting
The Women’s Law and Culture meeting is an important annual event, which this year was funded by grants from the ABA. The meeting was held at Papunya in September 2014 and was attended by approximately 230 women.

Anthropology services
The CLC’s anthropology section conducted research towards or issued advice in 241 instances for the maintenance of Aboriginal culture and heritage, including the issue of 145 sacred site clearance certificates. Of the 241 instances, 18 were related to exploration and mining activity on Aboriginal land, 15 related to exploration and mining activity on native title lands, 52 for telecommunications infrastructure, 77 for community infrastructure, four for roadworks, 17 for various land management activities, five for investigation of site damage allegations, and five for a range of other purposes including repatriation.

The CLC responded to 48 requests from clients for genealogical information, and performed other duties to maintain and improve genealogical and other anthropological information held by the CLC.

The number of occasions on which advice was provided is substantially higher than in previous years, representing a significant increase in telecommunications infrastructure jobs processed, a doubling of requests for genealogical information as compared to the 2013–14 financial year, and a
concerted effort at reporting towards the end of the financial year.

The CLC dedicated time and resources to the repatriation of sacred objects, from its own collection and from museums around the country. Some progress was made in relation to significant collections held in museums in Germany. An ABA grant was approved to assist traditional owners to travel to Germany in the 2015–16 financial year to directly appeal to German officials and curators responsible for these collections.

The CLC is a partner in an ARC grant application for the repatriation of cultural information throughout the CLC region. The project was awarded ARC funding. Applications made to support this project to the Indigenous Advancement Strategy and the ABA were unsuccessful. The CLC continues to support the project as best it can, given its importance for communities in the CLC region.

The CLC also contributed to the Willowra mapping project, a community-led initiative to record and map sacred sites along the length of the Lander River from the Mount Denison and Coniston pastoral leases in the south to Lake Surprise in the north. These sites were then painted onto a large canvas map housed in the Willowra Learning Centre. The project aims to bring people together around the transfer of traditional knowledge and is funded by traditional owners through the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT). During the 2014–15 year work continued on the second phase of the project, with two visits to Willowra by a consultant and CLC anthropology staff. Both trips elicited strong engagement from traditional owners. A further visit is planned for later in 2015 to finalise the recording of site information.

In May and June of 2015 the CLC was involved in a project for the North East Gas Interconnector pipeline involving the NT Government and a number of commercial proponents. The CLC successfully negotiated survey agreements to deal with land access and sacred site protection for survey purposes towards a submission of a final proposal by the companies involved. The CLC further secured funding from the NT Government for a project management position within the CLC to progress the on-ground work required. This work is expected to continue into the 2015–16 financial year.
OUTPUT 4.4
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

Facilitate targeted Aboriginal community development initiatives as appropriate with the traditional owners and other clients of the land councils.

Aboriginal people in Central Australia are using their own assets to drive social, cultural and economic development. With strong leadership from the organisation’s Council, they are working together to plan, implement and evaluate projects that benefit people at a regional, community and outstation level. Aboriginal groups are doing this through comprehensively facilitated community development processes, which have been shown to be an effective engagement strategy in Aboriginal development.

With meaningful local participation at its core, these processes are achieving social, cultural and economic outcomes, as well as building individual and collective capacity, self-reliance, good governance and stronger communities.

Skilled staff in the CLC community development program work with Aboriginal people who direct their resources to projects that both maintain their Aboriginal identity, language, culture and connection to country, and strengthen their capacity to participate in mainstream Australia by improving health, education and employment outcomes.

The four objectives of the program are:

1. Maximise opportunities for Aboriginal engagement, ownership and control, particularly in relation to the management of resources that belong to them.
2. Generate outcomes which benefit Aboriginal people and are valued by them, including social, cultural and economic outcomes.
3. Build an evidence base for the CLC’s community development approach and the value it has for contributing to Aboriginal capabilities.
4. Share lessons learned with other government and non-government agencies.

Since its commencement in 2005, the program has expanded significantly and is now active in all communities in the CLC’s region, as well as in numerous outstations plus some communities in South Australia and Western Australia. It has grown from two to seven major regional projects, plus a growing number of smaller projects.

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<td>Uluru Rent Money Project</td>
<td>Put rent paid to relevant traditional owners towards a range of sustainable initiatives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) Project</td>
<td>Use mining royalties for sustainable education, training and employment benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Tanami Dialysis Support Service Project</td>
<td>Support dialysis facilities in remote communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) Project</td>
<td>Support nine communities to apply ‘affected area’ monies from mining towards broad community benefit</td>
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<tr>
<td>NT Parks Rent Money Project</td>
<td>Put rent paid to relevant traditional owners towards a range of sustainable initiatives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Lease Money Project</td>
<td>Use rent paid for community leases for a diverse range of development activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twin Bonanza Project</td>
<td>Use gold mining royalties to achieve the development aspirations of the traditional owner group</td>
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Three additional projects were progressed, including the Nolan’s Bore Mine Project and the Rover Mine Project. Both involve traditional owners directing mining exploration compensation to community benefit rather than individual distribution. For the first time a group of traditional owners whose corporation (Wangarri-Kari Aboriginal Corporation) is winding up following mine closure are applying investment income to community benefit with support from the CLC.
with traditional owner governance groups. This resulted in $1.8 million being approved by these groups for 40 new community benefit projects. This compares with 29 meetings in the previous year and $339,480 being allocated to eight projects. In another example of increased outputs, 13 projects funded with community lease money were completed, compared with four the previous year.

The program saw an increase in the number of projects focused on education outcomes, including school attendance, and Aboriginal training and employment. This can be partly attributed to the work done by the CLC to publish two editions of Community Development News each year, which showcases a diverse range of successful projects. It is clear that participants are reading about the education, employment and training initiatives of other groups involved in the program and drawing on this information in their own planning and decision making.

Significantly, more Aboriginal groups chose to forgo individual distributions to work with the CLC to direct their income to lasting community benefit. The ongoing and growing demand from CLC constituents for the program is the most obvious indicator that the program is achieving real benefits for Aboriginal people. In its 2014 annual independent monitoring of the program by La Trobe University (Monitoring Report on the Central Land Council Community Development Program, La Trobe University, Melbourne), the author found that:

In line with the increased number of projects there has clearly been a considerable rise in the benefits for Aboriginal people throughout Central Australia, generated by their own resources. These benefits are wide ranging and include those for health, education, employment and cultural and social well-being. It is clear that the benefits are often very important for people.

**PERFORMANCE**

The CLC has continued to be highly effective in the delivery of its community development and the achievement of lasting community benefit outcomes. The evidence for this is the number of community consultations, the number of community benefit initiatives planned and funded, and the amount of Aboriginal people’s money directed via the program into social, cultural and economic projects. It is also supported by the independent monitoring of the program, which again shows the positive value Aboriginal participants place on the tangible and intangible community development outcomes they achieve with the CLC’s support.

This year, for the NT Parks Rent Money Project, the CLC held 51 planning and decision-making meetings

Until now, such investments were generally distributed to individuals.

Two new projects were also initiated in response to continued demand from new traditional owner groups for support from the CLC.

**PROCESS**

The CLC supports Aboriginal groups to prioritise and develop projects and identify partner organisations that are able to carry out the projects. Once endorsed by the group, the CLC Executive reviews the consultation process and signs off on completed project plans and funding allocations. The CLC negotiates comprehensive funding agreements before partner organisations deliver projects. The CLC then plays an active role in contract and project management to ensure the effective delivery of projects in line with Aboriginal priorities.
WARLPRI EDUCATION AND TRAINING TRUST (WETT)

Newmont Asia Pacific pays mining royalties for its operations in the Tanami region to Kurra Aboriginal Corporation (Kurra). Kurra is the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) Trustee and the CLC is Kurra’s agent, with responsibility for administering WETT. WETT uses some of Kurra’s royalties to improve education and training outcomes for Warlpiri people. The CLC consults Warlpiri people to identify their education and training priorities and then facilitates the development of projects, with input from relevant project partners. These projects are further developed by the WETT Advisory Committee, which now includes 12 representatives from the Warlpiri-patu-kurlangu-Jaru Association (the peak Warlpiri education body), one representative each from the CLC and Newmont Asia Pacific, and one independent member with expertise in education and remote schooling. Projects are then recommended for funding to the Kurra WETT directors and, if approved, the project partners implement them.

The CLC (partly through two WETT-funded positions but also with extensive support from other CLC staff) continued to support the WETT governance groups, Warlpiri-speaking communities and partner organisations to successfully implement and further develop WETT’s four regional programs.

Key outcomes

The WETT Advisory Committee held two well-attended community information nights (in Lajamanu and Yuendumu) to provide Warlpiri with an opportunity to hear about WETT projects and to provide feedback and ideas to the WETT Advisory Committee. Kurra WETT directors approved funding for a comprehensive independent evaluation of the WETT Youth and Media program. This program is being implemented through a long-term partnership with the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation (WYDAC). The final report will identify the successes of the program and recommend ways to strengthen its ongoing implementation drawing on detailed program data and extensive interviews with Warlpiri youth, families and community stakeholders.

Kurra WETT directors also funded Stage 2 of an innovative cultural mapping project based at the Willowra Learning Centre. The project is being run smaller regional groups in the coming months with their proposals to be presented for the broader group to consider in late 2015.
through the CLC anthropology unit and is working with local family groups to map significant sites and stories along the Lander River.

**WETT Early Childhood program**
The WETT Early Childhood program successfully transitioned to a new phase after a review by WETT, the CLC and World Vision Australia (WVA) led to a decision for WVA to fully fund and implement the program across the four communities in the Tanami region. WETT’s focus is now on the Willowra Early Childhood Centre and local playgroup, which is being managed by the Batchelor Institute, with some support from WVA. This recognises the key role WETT and Batchelor Institute continue to play in ensuring the success and sustainability of the WETT and ABA-funded Willowra Early Childhood and Learning Community Centre.

The Kurra WETT directors funded an action research project to explore the content of the program and aspects that might be used by other early childhood programs in the Tanami. The research documents the unique two-way learning approach which has made the playgroup very popular for local parents and their young children, and is effectively supporting local women to work and gain accredited early childhood training. The research will examine methods of learning and the centre’s approach to play, healthy eating, transition to school, and the integration of Warlpiri language and culture.

**WETT Country Visit program**
Warlpiri speakers consider it critical to successful educational outcomes that senior people in remote
WETT School Support program

The WETT School Support program provided funds for 62 students (up from 36 in 2013–14) from Willowra, Lajamanu, Yuendumu and Nyirrpi to go on interstate school excursions and experience life outside Central Australia. The program also funded nine local Aboriginal teachers and elders to accompany them. The trips to Cairns, Canberra, Sydney and Victoria provided significant learning opportunities and were a great incentive for students to attend school regularly. Twenty-two students, more than double the number in 2013–14, received support from WETT to attend boarding schools in the NT, WA and Victoria. The program funded family visits, school excursions and camps, equipment, school uniforms and extra tuition.

WETT Youth and Media program

The WETT Youth and Media program, delivered in partnership with the WYDAC and supported by PAW Media, continued to consolidate its focus on training and employment pathways. Reporting across the four Warlpiri communities for the July to December period demonstrates that there continues to be a high level of community engagement in the program. Local Aboriginal boards are actively involved in the governance and implementation of the program in each location. A diverse range of training and education activities continue to be extremely well attended by Warlpiri youth looking to gain ongoing employment in their communities. In addition, many hours of positive youth diversionary activities were delivered to hundreds of young people who otherwise have limited access to sport and recreation activities.

WETT Learning Community Centre program

WETT funds the Learning Community Centre program in partnership with Batchelor Institute in Lajamanu, Nyirrpi, Willowra and Yuendumu.

Willowra residents see their learning centre as a valuable and neutral learning place, which is highly significant given the ongoing community conflict. A new training co-ordinator was employed in 2015 and is supporting training in video production, foundation literacy and numeracy, community services certificate training and early childhood electives. The centre also employs two local Aboriginal staff.

The Nyirrpi centre provides an important educational and civic space for the local community. It is well used for both formal training and personal business with educational elements, such as internet banking and downloading content. A new training co-ordinator was employed in 2015 and has provided training in cooking and sewing with foundation literacy and numeracy, as well as certificate training in business communities participate in the education system. With the support of the Tanami IPA and local elders Nyirrpi, Willowra and Lajamanu schools between them conducted many country visits to sites, including Piccaninny Bore and Talbot Well.

Learning to surf in Sydney was one reward for good school attendance and leadership for these students from Ntaria (Hermannsburg).
studies. The centre also employs one local Aboriginal worker who supports training.

The Lajamanu centre continues to open for informal community computer access for banking, emailing and the internet. After two recruitment rounds a new full-time training co-ordinator has not yet been recruited; however, a local Yapa staff member has been employed by Batchelor Institute to open the centre and look at ways to develop opportunities for culture and language learning in the centre.

A full-time training co-ordinator and a local Warlpiri training co-worker have been employed at the new Yuendumu Learning Centre. In 2015 they started training in community services with foundation literacy and numeracy, as well as school-based traineeships. The centre is also being used for a range of art and craft activities and computer access for banking, internet and emailing.

**TANAMI DIALYSIS SUPPORT PROJECT**

The CLC oversees the implementation of the Tanami Dialysis Support Service Project on behalf of Kurra. It also monitors funding agreements and reports regularly to Kurra. Managed by Western Desert Dialysis, the project provides much needed health services to kidney patients in Yuendumu, Lajamanu and surrounding communities and outstations. It also supports Warlpiri-speaking patients in Alice Springs, Katherine and Darwin. Figures are only available for the July to December 2014 period; however, they indicate an increased use of the service from previous years.

In the first six months of the period, Yuendumu dialysis unit supported 18 patients to return to Yuendumu for long visits on dialysis and provided 407 dialysis sessions. The facility has been expanded to four chairs and now with three nursing staff can support between six and nine dialysis patients at a time. Twenty-six Yuendumu renal patients and their families were also provided with social support.

In the same period the Lajamanu dialysis unit employed two nursing staff and the two available dialysis chairs supported 44 renal patients to return home for long visits on dialysis, with a total of 332 individual dialysis sessions. Since opening in 2013 the Lajamanu facility has supported a total of 97 respite trips to Lajamanu.

This total of 62 Warlpiri dialysis patients who were able to return home between July and December 2014 because of this project is a significant increase on the 43 who were supported in the previous 12-month period.

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**THE GRANITES MINE AFFECTED AREA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION (GMAAAC) PROJECT**

GMAAAC continues to invest half of its income and apply all remaining ‘affected area’ monies from the Granites gold mine to community benefit, in accordance with the corporation’s rules. The CLC implements comprehensive community development processes to facilitate this. At the same time it builds strong Aboriginal governance. Staff further strengthened the governance of GMAAAC through the successful completion of elections for the nine GMAAAC community committees. Each committee then elected a number of representatives to serve as GMAAAC directors. This election process, which is conducted every three years, creates a significant additional amount of work for the CLC.

CLC staff worked closely with the nine GMAAAC communities to develop subprojects and support committees with the difficult task of deciding how to allocate available funds. GMAAAC initiatives improve housing, health, education, essential services, employment and training, as well as promoting Aboriginal self-management.

In 2014, GMAAAC received no direct income from the Granites mine due to the mining company not recording any profits. As a result communities had a relatively limited amount of income from investment.
Boydon Campbell, Kearnie Malbunka, Kristoff Ratara, Edrick Coulthard, Cliffy Raggett and Mark Inkamala from Ntaria (Hermannsburg) upgraded their historic cemetery with funds from Ntaria’s community lease income.

Michael Mahoney and Greg Turner working on the five-year lease money-funded church at Alpurrurulam.
interest ($878,817) to spend on community projects. In the first half of 2015 Tanami community development program officers facilitated six GMAAAC committee meetings and six community meetings, which resulted in a total of 24 new projects being planned and funded.

Communities primarily funded a consistent set of priority projects such as men’s and women’s sport, funeral, sorry and ceremony. The Lajamanu committee drew on funds set aside in previous years and was also able to support the local arts centre, pay elders to participate in the local Milpirri cultural festival, and fund transport for the local Baptist Church. Balgo purchased band equipment and Tanami Downs funded some infrastructure repairs at their outstation.

The CLC continued to support the implementation of the 52 projects funded in 2011, 2012 and 2013 that are still in progress. This included the processing of payments, working with recipients to ensure submission of reports and financial acquittals, and supporting the nine GMAAAC committees to review project outcomes and hold project partners to account.

Greater mine profits in 2015 have seen a sharp increase in GMAAAC income to $2,714,989. The nine communities and committees have started planning for a new round of projects.

**NT PARKS RENT MONEY PROJECT**

The NT Parks Rent Money Project involves the traditional owners of 16 national parks and reserves across the CLC region, which were previously handed back to traditional owners by the NT Government and are under joint management arrangements. These traditional owner groups are using all the park rent and income they get from the NT Government for community benefit projects.

The 2014–15 year was busy but productive for the project. Fifty-one planning and decision-making meetings were held with traditional owners and their governance groups. This resulted in $1.8 million being approved by groups for 40 new community benefit projects. The number of projects and money allocated to projects has increased dramatically from the previous financial year. This is due partly to the regionalisation of the program, allowing more resources to be applied.

Twenty-nine of these projects focus on upgrading outstation infrastructure to enable traditional owners to access and maintain their homelands. Almost 100% of these projects include local Aboriginal employment and training in their implementation. This means traditional owners are also benefitting via employment and training outcomes. This contributes to the sustainability of these initiatives as local people have the skills necessary to repair and maintain the infrastructure they have worked to install.

The traditional owners of Yeperenye/Emily and Jessie Gap are seeking to increase tourism in their region. They have used some of their park rent money to install picnic tables at Emily Gap and to create an app to allow an interactive cultural experience for tourists and locals alike. Traditional owners will also be employed in the delivery of both of these projects.

**COMMUNITY LEASE MONEY PROJECT**

The CLC’s largest community development project, the Community Lease Money project, invests rent and compensation payments for the compulsory five-year leases taken out during the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) and income from other leases for community benefit in 31 locations across the CLC region. Projects planned and prioritised by Aboriginal people are now being implemented in many communities as a result of the decisions made by traditional owners and the Council in 2012 and 2013.

The third year of this major regional project saw CLC staff supporting community and working groups...
with project planning and effective governance. Notably, the community of Haasts Bluff completed allocation of all funds to their prioritised community projects and will continue to support and monitor the implementation of these projects, which are expected to finish in June 2017. Laramba community has similarly allocated its funds to date, but has the opportunity to continue community planning with future lease income allocated to community benefit.

Consultations were conducted at 78 community and working group meetings. Funding decisions were made for 58 projects, totalling $3,345,584 across 25 communities. Implementation of projects has started in most communities, and the CLC entered into a further 87 funding agreements. Thirteen projects were completed, including a church renovation in Areyonga and a pre-feasibility study for a local Aboriginal enterprise in Kalkarindji.

Communities developed and funded projects with a broad range of cultural, economic and social outcomes. Local Aboriginal employment remains a key priority in most project plans and features in many construction projects. Enterprise development has blossomed this financial year with Yuendumu investing in the careful design of the Yuendumu Outstation Resource Centre and setting aside start-up funds to establish a locally controlled organisation.

Many communities have invested their lease money in initiatives such as music studios, church infrastructure and sports facility upgrades. Aboriginal groups also continue to support education and school attendance through initiatives such as school excursions and childcare/school transport.

**TWIN BONANZA PROJECT**

A detailed project plan has been developed for the Twin Bonanza Project following a decision by the traditional owners that 25% of future royalties from a new gold mine in the Tanami will be allocated to lasting community benefit. This plan sets out a strategy for rolling out this project taking into account that most members of the group live in the far north-west Tanami Desert in WA, and additional staff resources have not been secured by the CLC to support this implementation.

One round of consultations was completed in this period to assist the group to start planning and prioritising its community benefit ideas. It is anticipated that once royalties start being paid in the next financial year there will be increased activity and outcomes associated with this project.

**OTHER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

Demand for community development support from the CLC continued to grow, with two new groups deciding to allocate their income towards lasting community benefit.

The Ilarte traditional owners, from the Sandover region north-east of Alice Springs, allocated over half of their mining exploration compensation payments towards community benefit projects. The money, from oil and gas exploration, allowed the group to allocate $30,000 to set up a funeral support project and $269,416 for community benefit projects at the Urlampe outstation. The funeral project is due to start in late 2015 and will include local Aboriginal employment and training.

Owners from the Loves Creek region east of Alice Springs combined a number of their income streams and allocated a minimum of $77,500 each year to community benefit projects. The CLC is setting up governance arrangements for this group to start planning its first community benefit projects.

The CLC worked with three other traditional owner groups in developing community benefit projects using mining exploration and investment income. The Nolan’s Bore group implemented its first eight projects in funeral support, outstation improvements, sport and recreation, and early childhood. The Wangarri-Kari Aboriginal Corporation allocated its community benefit funds towards the construction of shelters to support ceremonial business, while the traditional owners for...
the proposed Rover Mine and Aryen Community Living Area completed two infrastructure projects and a road grading project to allow their families to spend more time on traditional country.

The CLC held 12 planning and decision-making meetings with traditional owners to facilitate these new projects. This resulted in $672,543 being approved for 12 new community benefit projects.

The CLC also undertook consultations with residents of 18 outstations and community living areas to address unresolved expenditure of remaining monies in the Railway Community Development Fund, a compensation fund arising from the construction of the Alice Springs to Darwin Railway.

Elsewhere, traditional owners were helped with outstation infrastructure, such as those at Jarra Jarra (Karlantijpa South ALT), to conduct research and site searches for registered bores and to install signage on access roads. At Sandy Blight (Pinpirnga) and Yuwalki, Nguman (Haasts Bluff ALT), quotes for water supply infrastructure were commissioned, and at Murtalki (Warumungu ALT) advice regarding water supply infrastructure repairs was sought.

The anthropology section prepared two traditional owner identifications and contributed to consultations. The section also assisted with advice on meetings where required, and provided sacred site clearance certificates for a number of projects.