

.....building our capacity

ACC.TION

NT Area Consultative Committee

Newsletter #3 October - December 2003

Projects Win Funding Assistance

A regional development strategy and physical infrastructure are the major outcomes of the first two successful Northern Territory applications for funding under Regional Partnerships.

Top End Regional Organisation of Councils (TOPROC) has been approved for funding of its Greater Darwin Regional Development Strategy project.

TOPROC incorporates Darwin City Council, Palmerston City

Council, Coomalie Community Government Council, Cox Peninsula Community Government Council, Litchfield Shire Council, Belyuen Community Government Council.

TOPROC will develop a **Greater Darwin Regional Development Strategy** which will help manage a number of large scale opportunities occurring in the area, in particular the Adelaide to Darwin railway, bringing gas on

shore to Wickham Point and the major upgrade of Darwin's port facilities.

Edith Farms Volunteer Bushfire Brigade is a not-for-profit community based organization. Regional partnerships funding has been approved for their Headquarters, which will serve as a base for fire control and emergency services in the area.

Visit by Chair & Executive Officer to Regions

Chair of the Northern Territory Area Consultative Committee Ken Cohalan and Executive Officer, Heather Sjoberg recently visited Gove, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

Valuable information about each region was gathered in preparation for writing the strategic regional plan for 2004-2007.

It was a pleasure to visit some of the projects which have received Regional Assistance program (RAP) funding, and to be presented with further exciting regional development proposals.

Ken and Heather were impressed by the commitment to community which was evident in each place, and are confident that the NTACC is well placed to provide useful support to the regions.

Special Events

Applications are now open for the **2004 Rural Women's Award**. Application forms are available at www.ruralwomensaward.gov.au or by calling Lucinda Royston on 02 6271 6411 or email ruralwomen@affa.gov.au.

The Eighth National Conference of **Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia (SEGRA)** will be held on 6-8 September 2004 in Alice Springs. An exciting program is being developed. Mark it in your diary now!

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Regional PARTNERSHIPS

On 1 July 2003, the Australian Government launched a new program to make it simpler for communities to get Government backing for their regional development ideas.

The new program integrates the Government's key regional development funding programs, including the former Regional Assistance Program (RAP), into a new streamlined regional partnerships program.

Regional Partnerships is based on a partnership approach, which enables local communities to develop their own priorities and then access government support to help make them a reality.

What type of projects will be considered for funding?

The new program focuses on four areas:

1. Strengthening growth and opportunities by investing in projects that reinforce and provide greater opportunities for economic and social participation in the community.
2. Improving access to services by investing in projects that, in a cost-effective and sustainable way, support communities to access services. Priority will be given to those communities in regional Australia with a population of less than 5000.
3. Supporting planning, by investing in projects that assist communities to identify and explore opportunities and to develop strategies for action.
4. Assisting structural adjustment for communities by investing in projects that assist specifically identified communities and regions to adjust to major economic, social and environmental changes.



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How to apply

Regional Partnerships guidelines and application form can be obtained through our website at www.ntacc.gov.au or at www.regionalpartnerships.gov.au.

Intending applicants should contact NTACC on 08 8941 7550 or by email at po@ntacc.com.au. Once you have completed your application with the assistance of NTACC, it can be lodged on-line and its progress tracked.



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What is the NT Area Consultative Committee's role?

The Northern Territory Area Consultative Committee (NTACC) will continue assisting applicants to develop good ideas into high quality projects by:

- identifying appropriate funding sources;
- linking project proponents with information and potential partners;
- providing support in preparing applications.

The NTACC can assist you to capitalise on local knowledge and resources, and to develop links between industry, government and communities.

NTACC also provides the Department of Transport and Regional Services with comments and a recommendation on your project. This is a key factor in the assessment process.

Involving the NTACC in the project development phase will reduce the assessment time, so it is in your best interests to consult with us early.

Who can apply for Regional Partnerships funding?

Entities registered under State or Commonwealth legislation can apply for Regional Partnerships funding, including

- Non-profit organizations
- Local government
- Community councils
- Co-operatives
- Associations
- Registered charities
- Private sector

Note: Exceptions are listed in the guidelines available from NTACC or at www.regionalpartnerships.gov.au.

Sample Assessment Criteria

1. Positive Outcomes

- Meets a demonstrated need or community demand; and/or
- Fills a market gap; and/or
- Adds value to existing resources, products or business; and/or
- Creates new economic/employment opportunities, including job creation; and/or
- Provides infrastructure that enhances economic/social opportunities; and/or
- Increases uptake or innovation, best practice or new technologies.
- Outcomes are consistent with project rationale.
- Outcomes are measurable.

2. Evidence of Partnerships and Support

- Co-funding in the order of 50% to 60%
- Cash contribution from industry bodies/major payers in the region – state/local government
- In-kind contribution – office space, mentoring, volunteer or CDEP labour

3. Project Viability

- Evidence that project outcomes will be sustainable beyond the funding period.
- Budget accurate, reasonable and consistent with plan, outcomes and output.
- No need for future Commonwealth funding to ensure sustainable outcomes.

4. Applicant Viability

May include:

- Previous successful project management experience
- Funding history



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Profiles

Kortlee Marshall Member of Committee (from September 2003 meeting)

Kortlee Marshall joined the Northern Territory Area Consultative Committee in September 2003 as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS) representative. Kortlee is the Senior Indigenous Policy Officer at ATSIS. His work is concerned with economic activities, employment, education, family, youth, children and women.

Kortlee is keen to provide relevant cultural advice to the Committee, and to applicants seeking funding. He supports the objectives of NTACC, which have synergies with ATSIS, and looks forward to working with like-minded people.

Prior to coming to Darwin, Kortlee had worked in Commonwealth Government Departments in Cairns, Brisbane, Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne.

Kortlee strives to ensure that services engage the stakeholder and provide outcomes that the stakeholder truly owns, and are therefore sustainable. He is enthusiastic about making a difference, and is of the view that this is already occurring.



Heather Sjoberg Executive Officer (commenced 9 September 2003)

Heather comes to the position of Executive Officer with significant breadth and depth of experience, in the government and non-government sector.

Heather taught in high schools in Darwin for many years and subsequently

worked as an educational leader and manager with the NT Department of Education. She also worked in Corporate Information and Services, Asian Relations and Trade and Police Fire and Emergency Services.

When she left the NT public service in 2001 she took up the position of Executive Officer with

General Practice Divisions NT, a position which she held until recently.

Mrs Sjoberg has Masters degrees in both Education and Business Administration, and was recently awarded a Fellowship in educational leadership.



National Food Industry Seminar

The National Food Industry Strategy (NFIS) is an industry-led company funded by the Australian Government to support Australia's food industry towards a sustainable and profitable role worldwide. The strategy is a blueprint for growth through increased investment in innovation, increased exports, and improved efficiency, productivity and skills development.

The NFIS will conduct an introductory workshop on food chain development **in Katherine on 23 March 2004**. It is a practical introduction to moving from value chain concepts to execution to achieve 'bottom line' benefit, using Australian case studies. It is aimed at managers in small and medium sized enterprises in food manufacturing or fresh produce, and either in the domestic or export market or both. Further details will be available closer to time. **Mark it in your diary now!**

Funding Sources

Finding an appropriate funding source can be difficult. The NTACC website has two pages which can help you. They are at:

<http://www.ntacc.com.au//govprograms.html>
<http://www.ntacc.com.au//funding.html>

Congrats to NTACC Members

Julie Newton, who is a member of the NTACC and on its Committee of Management, has been appointed Chair of the Katherine Regional Development Board. Craig Catchlove has been appointed to the Southern Regional Development Board and Dave Suter to the East Arnhem Regional Development Board. Congratulations go to each of these people and it is pleasing to see their ability to contribute to regional development acknowledged in this way. These appointments will contribute to existing linkages between NTACC and the Northern Territory Government in matters relating to regional development.



Julie Newton