

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE
IN THE COMMUNITY

DATE.. 4 July 2002

TABLED: 4 July 2002

SUBMISSION NUMBER 0047

*Westem Aranda Families Against
Violence*

N.'taria & Tjuwanpa Councils Dept Health &
Community Services - Inhalant Abuse

FINAL REPORT FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECT:

FAMILIES AGAINST VIOLENCE PROJECT

INTRODUCTION:

Intjartnama Aboriginal Corporation is an out-station involved in the rehabilitation of persons engaged in substance abuse. It also acts as a safe haven for victims of family violence from near **by** Hermannsburg. This project while being auspiced and managed by Intjartnama Corporation has directed its attention to the needs of the Western Aranda people occupying the Hermannsburg community and the surrounding out-stations.

Intjartnama is an out-station, situated approx. 20km from Hermannsburg in the Western Aranda Region, approx. 120 km west of Alice Springs.

The Hermannsburg community and Western Aranda region is suffering from considerable family violence, caused by extensive substance abuse, mainly alcohol and petrol sniffing. It was the aim of this project to address and reduce such incidents, by the forming and carrying out a strategic plan, developed by the steering committee, involving families in the area and Central Australia. The project has been conducted by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal people, in a culturally appropriate way.

BACKGROUND

Intjartnama is an out-station approximately 120 km west of Alice Springs and about 20 km south east of Hermannsburg. The Cook family (twelve persons) live there permanently, as well as approximately eight to sixteen clients, constituting a floating population of approximately 30 people.

The out-station and the healing centre are considered remote area facilities, connected to generator produced services (electricity and water are generator <diesel> driven), has administrative and project support. Road grading services are provided by the Tjuwanpa Resource centre located close to Hermannsburg. The project has focused on the Hermannsburg and Western Aranda region, which consists of one large community, Hermannsburg, population between four hundred and nine hundred. The Western Aranda area being attended to has a population of approximately two thousand, mostly indigenous people.

Due to the extensive abuse of alcohol and petrol sniffing, which carries family violence in its wake, the number of incidents of family violence have been considerably above average, when compared to other communities.

There is a lack of resources (not enough police)(night patrol) to control the grog running and petrol sniffing activities in Hermannsburg and the Western Aranda region. Victims of family violence do not have a safe house or shelter they can turn to, nor do they have access to any counselling services. By encouraging Hermannsburg residents to do their own violence management, in a cultural appropriate way, incidents could be reduced and as a result of the pilot project, actually did reduce at that time.

The NT Government has undertaken initiatives over the last few years; however they concentrate on solving Aboriginal problems in a white law and order framework. Unless understanding is gained, and a two-way communication is established, there is little real help available for indigenous people. Government Funding bodies and Law and Order and Health departments have to recognise the significant differences that exist between the two cultures in the Northern Territory.

Fitting the necessary processes to control Family Violence into the framework of Aboriginal family dispute resolution techniques can provide real help.

Statistics, which reveal the problem in the Western Aranda area, are being collected informally and paint a bleak picture. We feel however, that the methodology of collection such information is lacking and has not been carefully developed. This might be an area that could be developed when the project is continued.

Stories

The inclusion of stories that happened might help paint a better picture for the department; however, individuals even if the names were left out would still be recognised if this document were to be made public. Such action is contrary to Aboriginal law and custom which tries to safeguard the identity of each individual where sensitive issues are concerned.

ACTIVITIES

The contract was signed on August 28 2001. The program began November 9, 2001 with the advertising for positions. Until the time of writing, the following actions have been taken:

Preparation

Research

Establishment of the project

Diplomatic discussions in remote areas, particularly by the facilitator Mrs. Alision Hunt., during normal cultural events over the summer period. It was recognised, that this preparation had to be sensitive, slow and diplomatically conducted, in order to commence more formal meetings at the end of the summer/cultural activity period. Consequently, the formal meetings began with:

Meeting at Herrmannsburg (N'taria) Woman's Centre 19 February. 2002

This meeting took place after two preliminary setting up meetings, formally conducted at Herrmannsburg (N'taria) and the Tjuwanpa out-station Resource Centre, which serves the out-stations surrounding Herrmannsburg. *Note: These are two somewhat politically distinct centres of Western Aranda activity.*

The February 10, minuted meeting of the Woman's Committee, following on from the meetings at N'taria and Tjuwanpa, is where the decision was ratified by the women, to go ahead and set up a committee to start to deal with matters of family violence.

The committee representatives were:

Mildred Inkamala, Mavis Melbunka, Lillie Roenfeldt, Ema Inkamala, Madon Swift, Belinda Tucker, Alice Ngalkin, Ena Williams, Roxanne Kenny, Eiva Cook, Patricia Melbunka and the facilitator Mrs. Alison Hunt.

Many other women including Mrs. Julie Smith the Centre Coordinator were around the centre while the meeting was going on and dropped in from time to time and also talked over matters during the lunch break. This was a very strong, clear and positive meeting. Many things were said and plans made. There was a feeling of hope. There was discussion about the right Aranda name for the project. "People's Peace" in Aranda was proposed by one of the committee members. Minutes of the meeting were taken by Dr. Craig San Roque.

There were 18 main issues talked about:

- A project like this has to be able to continue
- Request for follow up funding
- Need for safe places/refuge
- The Violence is connected to drunkenness, petrol sniffing and drug use.
- There are cycles in the violence connected to pay back
- There are many problems about law, justice and court.
- Herrmannsburg (N'taria) needs an **effective** night patrol
- There is a big question about Aboriginal and customary law.
- There are many family problems, solutions have to be found to sort them out.
- The family has to be treated as a group, not just one person as victim or offender.

- A need for Youth Workers exists.
- There is a need for discipline and self-control and responsibility.
- Meaningful activities for young people are needed so they don't act out of boredom.
- A community based council] dealing with family matters.
- The history and future of Hermannsburg.
- Schooling and Education.
- Involvement of Police and Clinic in a culturally appropriate way.
- A request to form a men's committee.

Meeting at Hermannsburg (N'taria) Woman's centre March 6. 2002

The complete committee was assembled again:

Mildred Inkamala, Mavis Melbunka, Lillie Roenfeldt, Ema Inkamata, Madon Swift, Belinda Tucker, Alice Ngalkin, Ena Williams, Roxanne Kenny, Eiva Cook, Patricia Melbunka and the facilitator Mrs. Alison Hunt.

Mrs. Heide Lex,. Admin officer of Intjartnama Aboriginal Community was there as an observer.

Minutes were taken **by** Dr. Craig San Roque and Mrs. Lex.

This was another very positive meeting, attended by at least another 30 women besides the committee.

Points of discussion were:

- How to keep going when funds for this setting-up project dry up.
- ATSIC Central Remote Regional Council had expressed an interest in the project and invited Mrs. Hunt to address the Titjikala (Mary Vale) meeting to be held on March 14.2002.
- Mrs. Alison Hunt also received good support from ATSIC meeting held in Katherine.
- The program needs to be run for Aboriginals by Aboriginals.
- Police were present and talked about the need of youth activities as well as education of police in cultural ways and practises. There is a need for education of Hermannsburg residents in white man's law. Police proposed a way of controlling access to women's money by known offenders, a possible implementation of a credit system to stop the circulation of cash into grog.
- There is a need for a larger police presence.
- Involvement of Hermannsburg residents in catching grog-runners by informing police after hours.
- A united show of all women at court, to stop the dropping of charges.
- A safe place of refuge was high on the agenda.
- Men from the community showed a definite interest in forming a committee.
- There was a lively discussion about needing to work together as a unit.
- Clinic workshops are needed to teach residents about the body and how it reacts to misuse.
- There was also discussion about tourist providing snifters with petrol.
- The women proposed and demonstrated a dispute resolution method, when two girls in dispute entered the meeting-

Meeting at Titjikala (Mary Vale) Council chambers with ATSIC Central Remote Regional Council
March 14.2002

ATSIC Central Remote Regional Council had taken an active interest in the project and invited Mrs. Alison Hunt to speak to them.

Present:

Clarry Robinya - Laramba (Napperby) - Chairperson

Philip Wilyuka - (Mary Vale) Titjikala - deputy chairperson

ATSIC Councillors:

Conrad Ratara - Hermannsburg region (N'tatia), David Doolan - Finke (Apatjula), Philip Coones - Imampa (Mt. Ebenezer), Efic Pattick - Harts Range, Dennis Williams - Yuendumu, Jasper - Titree, A TSIC staff.

Rhonda Loges - ATSIC - Alice Springs, Brenda - ATSIC - Alice Springs, L. Ross

Western Aranda Family Violence Program:

Alison Hunt - Facilitator

Heide Lex - Project-officer (intjartnama staff)

Committee:

Roxanne Kenny - Chairperson - Tjuwanpa Resource Centre,

Mildred Jnkamala - Hermannsburg (N'taria)

Other observers and staff:

Jane Rosalski - Womans Centre - Tjuwanpa

Points of discussion:

- Five men had joined the woman's committee, to sit with them on the next meeting Aphi 4. 2002
- Mrs. Alison Hunt gave an outline of how the program was started and how it was progressing and how it was funded
- A safety house in Hermannsburg is necessary.
- Workshops needed in getting to know the Law
- Workshops needed in getting to know the Body
- Funding was stressed again
- The fact that family violence has increased in the whole region was stressed.
- The family group needs to be treated as a unit.
- Jails are not the way to go with aboriginal people, the cultural way is the appropriate direction to go in. A return to the old Aboriginal ways was suggested.

- Elders in the communities are sick of the fighting that goes on.
- The setting up of a network to fight family Violence.
- Representatives from other communities, being: Titjikala, Fink, Imampa and Laramba were suggested.
- * Chairperson Clarry Robinya of ATSIC Central Remote Regional Council supports the project and is prepared to do so in writing.

Note: The ATSIC Central Remote Regional Council Titjikala (Mary Vale) (covering 500,000 square kilometres and bordering on three states, SA, WA & Queensland. There are around 10,500 indigenous people living in the Central Region.

Full text of this and all other meetings will be made available in the final report.

We are surprised and encouraged by the amount of positive support, which this project is receiving from the community at large and influential indigenous people.

Organisations that have been directly involved with the project:

Hermannsburg council

Hermannsburg Police

Hermannsburg Health Clinic

Hermannsburg Woman's Centre and Tjuwanpa Woman's Resource Centre

ATSIC Central Remote Regional Council Titjikala (Mary Vale)

ATSIC Regional Council Garrak Jarru (Kathedne)

ATSIC Regional Council Yapakudangu (Tennant Creek)

NT - Zone meetings

Talks given by Mrs. Alison Hunt to the ATSIC Councils:

ATSIC Central Remote Regional Council Titjikala (Mary Vale)

ATSIC Regional Council Garrak Jarru (Katherine)

ATSIC Regional Council Yapakudangu (Tennant Creek)

Mrs. Hunt talked about the aims and objectives of the project, gathering support from local Abodginal bodies to implement the program covering a large part in the Central Australian Region.

Networking with other groups:

Mrs. Alison Hunt, networked extensively with senior tribal elders and traditional owners, local council, police, health clinic, family groups and ATSIC representatives that could actively support the project.

Poster, Fliersi Artwork etc.

A flier inviting men to actively participate was produced.

Other points:

In the troubled and potentially dangerous circumstances in which this project is being developed, it has been essential for Mrs. Alison Hunt, in conjunction with Tribal Elders to proceed in a cautious manner. Much inter-family diplomacy is taking and took place. We do not take lightly the danger of

physical abuse, which people who support this program, might be subjected to. Bearing this in mind, it is remarkable that so much progress has been achieved over such a short period of time.

Meeting at Tjuwanpa Woman's centre March 27. 2002

Mildred Inkamala, Mavis Melbunka, Lillie Roenfeldt, Ema Inkamala, Madon Swift, Belinda Tucker, Alice Ngalkin, Ena Williams, Roxanne Kenny, Ruth Cook, Chdstine Cameron, L.J. Spencer, AJfie Inkamala, Edvlin Rontji, Kenny Windley, Conrad Ratara, Rontji Senior, Ralph Melbunka, Cari Inkamala, Mark Inkamala.

Dr. Craig San Roque took minutes.

This was another very positive meeting, attended by at least another 30 men and women not on the committee.

This meeting was however different, as nine men had also joined the previous committee of women only.

Alison Hunt opened the meeting. She welcomed the men and for their benefit spoke a little about the reason for the project and it's history. She gave a report on the Titjikala ATSIC meeting, from the week before, saying how ATSIC had given backing and would help support funding applications to carry on. Suggestions were made about linking Ipolarra, Intjartnama, N'taria & Tjuwanpa and other out-stations to support youth activities and opportunities for the Western Aranda area.

Points of discussion were:

- Family Violence and Youth program link-up
- Need of a refuge and mutual support
- Interview of A. H. on ABC radio, regarding the project
- Revival of Night Patrol under the control of the committee
- Interest by Norforce (army reserve) to provide cadetships
- Alternative activities for young people
- Need of a strong committee
- Youth violence is associated with alcohol and sniffing
- Invitation of other communities after the Western Aranda region has experienced a reduction in violence
- Workshops on Law and Order under the full control of Aboriginal people
- Examples of violence eruption and control
- The need for a full time position to concentrate on the eradication of violence
- Planning of sports activities
- Planning of a NAIDOC event for Tjuwanpa and the out-stations

The meeting worked around four strong ideas.

- 1) Tjuwanpa, the out-stations and N'taria had to stick together about preventing family violence.
- 2) Youth projects had to get off the ground and started
- 3) Get the Night Patrol going again, with the management of fuel and vehicles in the hands of the committee
- 4) The celebration of NAIDOC would bring people together and give them something to look forward to

The meeting finished after lunch at about **13:00**

Meeting at Tjuwanpa Woman's Centre April 5. 2002

Mildred Inkamala, Mavis Melbunka, Lillie Roenfeldt, Ema Inkamala, Madon Swift, Vivian Mened, Eppana Namatjira, Alice Ngalkin, Ena Williams, Roxanne Kenny, Ruth Cook, Narina Ragett, L.J. Spencer, Alfle Inkamala, Edwin Rontji, Kenny Windley, Conrad Ratara, Gilbert Forbes Ralf Melbunka, Car] Inkamala, Mark Inkamala.

The meeting was commenced by Mrs. Alison Hunt at: 12:00 noon. Mrs. Lex recorded the minutes.

Mavis Melbunka opened the meeting with a prayer in language

Mrs. Hunt thanked the committee for coming at short notice, just prior to the visit of the Minister of Aboriginal and Torres Straight fsidanders, the Hon.

Phillip Raddock and stressed the opportunity this would present to lobby the Minister for future funding.

She also thanked ATSIC, Central Regional Council for providing the opportunity to meet with the Minister.

She asked Mrs. Lex to read the letter to the committee (**see Appendix 1**)

Mr. Conrad Ratara (ATSIC councillor) was authorised to pledge the support of the ATSIC council.

Mrs. Hunt mentioned, that the Aboriginal **Affairs** Minister **of** Central Australia, Dr. Peter Toyne was also in support of the program.

Mrs. Lex spoke of the very real possibility that further funding might **be** forthcoming from the Commonwealth.

The following points were under discussion:

- Funding for a Woman's Refuge, Youth Refuge
- Inviting representatives of funding bodies
- Need for vehicles
- Need for band and music equipment to support youth

- Defining a list of needs to be presented to the Commonwealth and the NT Government.

- * Workshops in bush-medicine, to educate young women
- Overnight event organised in May by N'tada health clinic

- Grog being the issue of breaking down the family unit
- Men offering their tribal lands and their skills to involve young people in Law and Order, Sports, Health and emphasis on the damage that substance abuse can cause. They offered to become role models.
- Preventative effects of visits to hospitals and patients who suffer the ill effects of substance abuse.
- Necessity of promoting pride in culture

- Involvements of experts from therapeutic groups
- The need for transport for all activities
- Legal incorporation of The Western Aranda Families against Violence group

The group had an enjoyable BBQ at Tjuwanpa Woman's Centre. At least 20 other woman and children attended the meeting besides the committee.

The meeting was closed after lunch at **13:00** by Mrs. A. Hunt.

Meeting with Hon. Phillip Ruddock at N'taria (Hermannsburg) Woman's Centre.

April 6, 2001

Meeting commenced **11:45 am**

Mrs. Lex recorded the minutes.

Mrs. Hunt thanked the Minister for his time, and also thanked ATSIC and Commissioner Anderson for their support. She asked the Minister to give this project top priority, mentioning all the labour and hard work that had gone into forming and maintaining the committee and it's work. She emphasised the need of Aboriginal people to take charge and be in charge of their own programs and the difficulty in negotiating with senior Elders.

Mrs. Hunt placed emphasis on a great need in the area to receive aid to combat the problems facing the community regarding substance abuse and the subsequent violence.

Mrs. Hunt related the experience of the previous night. She went out in the company of three other people, the project officer and two Tjuwanpa residents using her own vehicle, and taking some sandwiches to the sniffers. She related her conversation with the sniffers, and their plea for help.

She noted that the pilot project was at its end due to lack of funds. She emphasised the need for further and immediate funding to continue the program.

The following points were mentioned:

- Health worker involvement and workshops to deal with preventative methods and education.
- Police Involvement in Law and Order Workshops. Two-way workshops, meaning education for Police in local law and custom as well as the education of local residents in constitutional law.
- The need for cultural education for the preservation and maintenance of local culture.

The following conversation took place between Mrs. Hunt and the Minister

Mrs. Hunt:

With the police, we **Will** have a law and order workshop and we also have cultural events. We will take our youth out and go hunting and do ceremonies to occupy them and deal with the problems.

Handing over our culture and life style and teach them what sniffing is doing to them. We have few elders left, they support us and they want to see something happen - we need help and action.

In other comminutes and towns, like Alice Springs, you see much more support given, well and good like Alice Springs.

Remote areas like here in Hermannsburg, we are the expert in our own rights, we can not do it without funding, this community and committee has visions of how they want to see it. This is not going to be quick fix, it is very complex, you are doing with violence. I myself have a dangerous job, because I don't know when I get speared or hit with a nulanuila. I can't clock off, I am answerable to community leaders and elders, they watch what we do, we need to give feedback. It is a very hard and sensitive and dangerous work to be able to carry out this job. All we ask, is that you give us full support for this program.

Minister: - What is the Western Aranda program and what does it mean?

A.Hunt:

Western Aranda are a tribe, the area starts west of Alice Spring, it includes Hermannsburg, it expands to other communities. At the Titjikala meeting, requested by Central Remote Regional Council, they asked for their people to come to our committee meetings. They wanted to know how we got men and women together.

Mr. G. William, President of N'tada council had the following to say:: Communities close by like Arionga community, can be included in the Western Aranda program. He also mentioned that there was a lack of funding for qualified people.

Mrs. Alison Hunt, who had provided the Minister with the interim report to the Commonwealth mentioned, that the report would answer his question and give him an idea what was happening as it incorporates communities and outstations.

Commissioner Anderson then talked about the portfolio Mrs. Hunt was given for ATSIC Alice Springs. The commissioner explained how she got Mrs. Hunt to deal with the issues in the remote communities as well. Mrs. Hunt has taken the initiative, to create the venue for people to do something in all the communities, rather than having someone else do it for them.

Minister: (flicking through report) wanted to know how many payments we have received: He was informed by Mrs. Lex, that only the first payment had actually come through and how Intjartnama had provided bridging funding for the time being.

Mr. G. William - They need a night patrol to work together

Minister: You talk about safe places, are there no safe places yet?

Mrs. Alison Hunt: We want a family house not just women but for the community.

Minister: You have lots of places for everyone - do you need another place?

Mrs. Hunt: We have to have a place, where men and women can meet.

Women centres are for women only, they are not a refuge for men. When you deal with sensitive issues, you have to have a place for families to meet.

We have a Woman's Centre in N'tada and Tjuwanpa. We have a long-term vision. Where can we bring people? In some of the other centres, they have other functions. We are looking for a place, somewhere in the community. We have so far been meeting under the trees.

Mavis Melbunka: We want our own woman's safe house - we don't like to see our women taken into Atice Springs.

There are family breakaway problems happening. Children go just stray. Children run away, we try and get this up and running so we can all get involved to help our families with their problems. We don't want to go to Alice - we want to set up our programs here. Mr.G. William - mentioned that the Minister had to visit the Pottery.

Minister Suggested to talk to Senator Amanda Vanstone about this and tell her to come to have a look, states he will ask Amanda if she would like to come herself.

Mr.G. William: suggests, that Commissioner Anderson to accompany Senator Amanda Vanstone on her visit to Hermannsburg.

Commissioner Anderson: spoke to Mrs. Hunt in language

Mrs.Alison Hunt: All the money and resources are being put into big towns. People did not want to touch Hermannsburg, it is a good community, and we have history and culture.

Minister: Yes, you have everything here.

Commissioner Anderson: Youth are crying out for support.

Mrs. Hunt: They have round table youth forums, which is all well and good, the action is all happened in town but not here.

Commissioner Anderson: Can Amanda visit here **specifically** to talk about domestic violence?

Minister: I will **ask her, and thank you, I appreciate the time you have all given me.**

Mr.G. William: Thank you

Mrs. Alison Hunt - next time you visit Minister, we will be show casing our work for you.

Mrs. Hunt was invited to come to lunch with the Minister and further discussions took place with department members and Commissioner Anderson.

Meeting, held a N'taria council (Hennannsburg) **May 9. 2002**

Present at the meeting were:

Commissioner Alison Anderson, President N'taria Council Gus Williams, Facilitator Alison Hunt, President Tjuwanpa Resource Centre, Alison Hunt,

Atsic Councilor Conrad Ratara.

Mildred Inkamala, Mavis Melbunka, Ema Inkamala, Alice Ngalkin, Kenny Windley, Ruth Cook, L.J. Spencer, Alfie Inkamala, Joseph Rontji Senior, Cari Inkamala, Les Smith, Edward???

Gus opened the meeting, **welcomed** the commissioner and **all** in attendance.

Alison Hunt **advised that the purpose of the meeting was a follow on from** previous meetings and to **get** an up date on **any progress**.

Suggestions were made by persons present to form a group known as Domestic Violence/Night Patrol. This group would come under the present council (N'taria Council) and be controlled by an elected council of residents from Hermannsburg and Tjuwanpa. The council would have to approve who worked on the night patrol section and who the supervisors would be of both sections. It was suggested that ATSiC would fund the supervisor and programs would be run under an approved activity which could be then considered for funding under night patrol and other sources that have been approached.

N'taria council agreed to supply a venue for the group being Lot 2, which is the original cell block compound. N'taria would also supply a demountable to be used for an office, whereas the cell block has already toilets, showers and running water. The compound has a 3-meter high fence with double gates. The value of this contribution is about **\$50,000**. The ex night patrol vehicle would be used, being a dual cab Ute. The cage from this vehicle would be removed. Tjuwanpa would consider to supply their present night patrol vehicle which would have the cage secured on it and a transfer of assets from Tjuwanpa to N'taria for the purpose of this project.

The old N'taria Night Patrol vehicle (once the cage is removed) would then be used by the supervisor/coordinator of this program.

Commissioner Anderson suggested that this project become linked with the Juvenile Diversion Program that the NT Government launched last year. If this does come under the JDP funding would also come from the NT Government. The Sgt. Of Police stationed at N'taria would have to become involved also. It was suggested that Km Davies from Alice Springs JDP be invited to the next meeting.

It was also suggested that a Steering Committee be formed to coordinate this program and take it over from where Alison Hunt has taken it. After a general discussion it was agreed that all persons present would like to nominate for the steering committee. It was also suggested that representatives from West Side, East Side, Middle East, Sand Hill and North Camp, Tjuwanpa and out lying areas be considered for the steering committee.

Alison Hunt advised that the next meeting be held at the Woman's Cultural Centre, 1 pm on 14/5/2002. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect a steering committee and set about the next step to make this project successful.

Final FAV Meeting, held at N'taria Women's Centre, May 14, 2002

Mrs. Alison Hunt opened the meeting at 13:00, after the committee and interested observers from the Hermannsburg community had lunch. At least 40 people participated in lunch.

Mrs. Heide Lex minuted the meeting.

Mr. David Schoiz from OATSIH sent apologies.

Committee members present were:

Ema Inkamala - N'taria Health, Roxanne Kenny - Chairperson, Tjuwanpa Resorce Centre, Mildred Inkamala, Mavis Malbunka, Ena Williams, Gwen Inkamala, Eiva Cook

Ralf Malbunka, Cad Inkamala, Edward Romppi, Josef Romppi Sr. Gilbert Forbse, Kenny Windley
Lloyd Spencer, **Affie** Inkamala, Nathan Williams.

There were also two representatives from the Hermannsburg Police present, as well as Dr. Diana from the Health Clinic, Les Smith and Gus William from N'tada Council.

Mrs. Hunt emphasised the need of being able to tie various programs together to achieve maximum results. This includes the community at large, including Intjartnama. She presented a beautiful diagram and prepared **by** her daughter Cathy (**Appendix 2 & 3**), that presented the linking of programs in an appropriate Aboriginal **way**, therefore being very meaningful to all present. Mrs. Hunt moved through the diagram explaining the importance of each aspect and group.

The questions raised were:

How do we do it?

Where are we going?

Need for total commitment.

If the community does not work together nothing will happen. Aboriginal people must be in total control of the program. There would be an opportunity for employment, but at the same time there is a need for voluntary services.

The last meeting, which was able to disburse sitting fees, was on Apdi Stll. All subsequent meetings presided over by Mrs. Hunt were already voluntary and at the personal expense of Mrs. Hunt and the committee members.

It **was** mentioned that if **we** were in an election **mode**, that local Government members **would certainly put their energy behind this project**. As this **is** not the **case** at present, it is **solely** driven **by** the commitment **of** the committee **members**.

The two-way exchange between white community members, e.g. police and law enforcement and health workers is of utmost importance. Police pledged their support for Night patrol participants. Hermannsburg needs the help of Government and the help of its residents to reinforce the family unit.

Mrs. Eiva Cook praised the efforts of the local police force for their efforts in controlling and dispersing what could have been a violent confrontation on the previous weekend.

The need of Elders to be involved was emphasised. Tribal Elders must recognise their involvement and their importance in bringing about positive results.

Mrs. Hunt reiterated that the community has to really work hard to achieve the desired outcome. She made a point of the fact, that the younger generation is different to the old and that a different approach is needed and respect between all members of the community.

It was mentioned to start each meeting with a prayer.

Liaison was suggested with the inhabitants of 'wet' communities, in order to stop alcohol being brought in through those areas. There is a need for the occupants of wet areas to reassess their position to stay wet. If they stay that way, they need to pledge support for the dry areas. It was mentioned that at present there are few people running grog, but they do need to be stopped.

Mrs. Hunt was sure, that step by step, positive results could be achieved.

Mr. Les Smith from N'tada council spoke on the present revamping of the Health program at N'taria and the fact, that funding for a local medical doctor might be in doubt. These issues must be resolved. A meeting on Thursday May 16th would shed light on the matter.

Mrs. Hunt mentioned that she will talk on ABC radio and that ATSIC commissioner Alison Anderson was lobbying for Government support in Darwin.

Mrs. Gus Williamson, president, N'taria council emphasised that in order for the program to be successful, participants must not always look for payment but be willing to make voluntary contributions.

Mrs. Hunt gave details on how this has been happening over the past few **weeks** on her part and on the part **of** the committee.

Mr. Les Smith praised the efforts of Brian and Nelita Cook in securing funding for the Hermannsburg **Night** Patrol in the amount **of \$5,000**.

Police Officer Gary Smith mentioned that Hermannsburg police would support the Night patrol 120%. He also stated that he would get in touch with the Juvenile Diversion Unit in Alice Springs to find out what part they could play. It was mentioned, that young people could be brought out to Intjartnama or other camps.

The final and general consensus was that 'Full Commitment' was vital and necessary.

Mrs. Hunt closed the meeting at **14:30 pm**.

Other activities:

April 5 - Night Patrol and encounter **with** Petrol Sniffers

April 5 - Clean up of Fink River drinking camp

Deliverables:

All milestones as set out in Schedule 2 have been delivered, this final report, being the last one.

Two flow-charts (Appendix 2 & 3) were used by Mrs. Alison Hunt to demonstrate the link-up of programs and the vision for the future. These are concept diagrams of the strategies. They are planning documents and are or have been, converted into a canvas painting in traditional Aboriginal format. These documents are not to be used without the consent of the committee. A copy of these charts has been sent to OATSIH, NT Health & The Chief Minister.

Outcomes:

- Meeting were held according to customary law
- At the first two meeting a committee of 10 women was established
- During subsequent meetings influential men also voiced a desire to be on the committee and this was achieved. This shift from advocating for separate gender meeting, towards a mixed gender meeting is a notable milestone.
- Families and clan groups never represented a united front, do so now. The issue of family violence has a destructive affect on the family unit. It is for this reason that the people of Hermannsburg and of the Western Aranda Region are beginning to speak with one voice on this issue and to support each other in making the family unit strong again. Committee members are insisting that only a strong family unit can form the backbone of a strong community response to family violence.
- It was accepted that Aboriginal people have to take controls of their own lives and take responsibility for what goes on at home and in the community. Self-determination is of vital importance.
- The enthusiasm that the committee showed spilled over to a large part of the Hermannsburg population and also the various Government departments that supply services there.
- Police, Health and Council have pledged involvement and N'ta(ia council has provided a building and a vehicle to contribute to the project, to the value of approx. \$50,000. Tjuwanpa resource centre has also committed a vehicle.
- ATSIC Commissioner Alison Anderson is actively lobbying for additional funding. It has been agreed that the existing resources at the substance abuse centre at Intjartnama will be utilised for rehabilitation.
- At the final meeting On May **14th**, Mr. Alison Hunt presented a type of flow chart, which depicted in an understandable manner, the link-up of various programs and services and the vision of what the next steps would entail, and the hopeful outcome.

- As there are no more funds at the moment, activity is limited, but two more meetings have been held where no sitting fees were paid. The program facilitator and Intjartnama staff have contributed on a voluntary basis and are trying to secure bhdging funding from other sources.
- On May 31", OATSIH was also approached and asked to contribute short term funding.

Evaluation:

The main aim of the program was to bring together the people, establish a mood of cooperation, make a plan and begin taking action.

We achieved what we set out to do, in fact more than we expected. Independent persons from the NT Government office of Central Australia, as well as Commissioner Alison Anderson, have congratulated Mrs. Hunt on the success of the program. There is a general movement of support for this project from many local people and agencies. Ms. Kerry Leneham, ministerial policy officer for the Minister for Central Australia and the Attorney General, stated, that this project was ahead of the game. This indicated a general support for the project and gives us confidence to request funding and implement the strategies immediately. It is crucial that there should not be a gap in the continuity of the project, and the confidence of the WA Aranda people in their own committee should be strongly supported.

If part of the evaluation has to do with the degree of community support, then at the moment, this project does have the full support of the community. The support includes the two main councils of Hermannsburg and Tjuwanpa, as indicated by the financial commitments stated in the minutes and under outcome.

We do want to share our success with other Aboriginal communities. We have already had such a request from ATSIC Central Remote Regional Council. They have asked us to go and share our approach and consolidation methods. We suggest that this is a second part of the project. We can not be available to help other communities, until the Western Aranda region is happy with the progress and until we have funding to support the facilitator in her diplomatic consultative work with Aboriginal families and community members.

Dr. Craig SanRoque, lecturing in cultural psychology (University of Western Sydney) is quoted as saying:

... The success of this project has been due to careful and sensitive diplomatic work by Mrs. Hunt supported by members of her family. The family consultation is an essential part of the method. The care of relationships and the subtlety of negotiation, is an element that must not be underestimated. This is part of the cultural psychology of such a project, being conducted in remote indigenous areas.

Alison Hunt
Facilitator
May 31st 2002

Heide Lex
Project officer

Appendices:

Appendix 1 = Letter to Hon. Phillip Ruddock

Appendix 2 = Link-up of Programs (diagram)

Appendix 3 = Vision of Western Aranda Family Violence Committee

Appendix 4 = Methods and Strategies & Recommendations

Appendix 5 = List of Committee Members

Appendix 6 = Letter to Senator Vanstone

Appendix 7 = Letter to Peter Toyne

Appendix 8 = Letter to John Elferink

Appendix 9 = Letter to Paul Scott

Appendix 10 = Pictures of Committee and Activities

The Hon Philip Ruddock MP
Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Reconciliation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra, 2600

Re: Western Aranda Family **Violence** Program Funding

5th April 2002

Dear Minister,

We are writing to you in relation to the Western Aranda Family Violence Program pilot project, that was commenced late last year.

The project was very successful and has received support from many people living in remote areas on Aranda Land in Central Australia. Support has come from diverse areas like ATSIC Remote Regional Council, local communities, out-stations, health authorities and local police.

The program has reached the people on the ground where such programs should be targeted. Because the program has been driven by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal people, the program has delivered what it set out to deliver. Those of us who helped organise the program and implement it have been delighted with the response from people in the bush.

Nevertheless, as this was a pilot program it has run out of money. As a person who has worked in Central Australia for many years in this sort of area, I know that this program will be missed even though it has only been operating for such a short time. The delivery of the program was appropriate and reached the people who were in turn happy to receive it.

We urge you in the strongest terms to turn a benevolent eye upon a program that will expand into the future in terms of the people it reaches. If you choose to assist us we will make sure that the program expands to tackle the problems of indigenous youth in Central Australia. It would be such a shame to see a successful program that reaches so many people fail to continue. Much more will be achieved by the dedicated Aboriginal people who deliver the service.

Yours truly,

Alison Hunt

Methods and Strategies used by the Facilitator Mrs. Alison Hunt for the Family Against Violence Project in Central Australia:

Methods:

Mrs. Hunt went through a consultation process with communities, family groups, individuals and organisations including ATSIC, networking in the Central Australian Region.

Hermannsburg (N'taria) council as well as Tjuwanpa council were consulted to initiate the program and keep it going, by utilising local facilities and recruiting women with a keen interest in seeing family violence resolved.

Networking with the local women and men resulted in the formation of a steering committee. Other local women and men also turn up to watch and listen to the committee in progress, confirming total support.

Tjuwanpa (*Homelands Resourm Centres Hermannsburg area*) Woman's Resource Centre and Hermannsburg (N'taria) Woman's Resource Centre were consulted and **asked** to participate in the program.

The Health Clinic of Hermannsburg was also invited to participate, as they often treat the victims of family violence. They are willing to conduct workshops on health issues.

Hermannsburg Police are also involved and attended meetings and pledged their support for the program. They are aware of the ongoing problems, but need the support of the community to combat grog running activity and petrol sniffing, which is a primary cause of Family Violence. They also support ongoing youth activity and workshops on law and order. Sargent Garry Smith of Hermannsburg (N'taria) police supports processes that deal in a culturally appropriate manner with violence offenders.

During the first meeting the committee voiced their concerns and related their visions on how the problems should be tackled and solved.

Mrs. Alison Hunt was also invited to speak to the ATSIC Central Remote Regional Council in Titjikala (Mary Vale). Prior to this meeting Mrs. Hunt also

delivered a presentation on the Western Aranda Family Violence Program at Katherine ATSIC NT-Zone meeting late in February 2002.

This pilot project is gathering support and encouragement from the ATSIC Central Remote Regional Council, which is of primary importance, as Aboriginal communities have not spoken with one voice in the past. ATSIC Central Remote Regional

Council, have requested that the program **be** expanded to include members from other communities.

Strategies:

- 1.) Self-management and self-determination. Responsibility **by** Aboriginal **people** making decisions and bringing **changes** for Aboriginal **people**, run **by** Aboriginal **people**, according to traditional custom **and law**, to promote **well being and** pride in culture, country and **self**.
- 2.) Both men and women and communities have to be involved to gain unanimous support to make the project work.
- 3.) Financial support from Government Departments to fund rehabilitation, prevention and education programs, to educate families and communities to promote awareness of a healthy life style.
- 4.) Support from authorities such as Police, Health Units and Councils will insure that training programs can be arranged and implemented.
- 5.) Formation of family committees, to **develop** realistic projects enabling communities to **be** self-managing and self-supporting.

Recommendations for the Western Aranda Family Violence Program by the committee.

- 1.) Aboriginal **people** must implement strategies and policies in a culturally appropriate manner, resulting in self-management and self-determination.

- 2.) By empowering and respecting and observing aboriginal traditional custom, an outcome of reduced and eventual elimination of violence can be achieved.
- 3.) Establishment of an ongoing night Patrol.
- 4.) Permanent Youth-worker from the Western Aranda region.
- 5.) Professional support from Health- and Education departments.
- 6.) No matter what the size of the program, large or small, the committee must make all decisions affecting it.
- 7.) Ongoing funding is urgently needed for this program to continue.

LIST OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Erna Inkamala - N'taria Health

Marion Swift - N'taria Health

Roxanne Kenny - Chairperson, Tjuwanpa Resorce Centre

Mildred Inkamala

Mavis Malbunka

Lillie Roenfeldt

Alice Ngalkin

Ena Williams

Gwen Inkamala

Eiva Cook

Conrad Ratara

Ralf Malbunka

Cad Inkamala

Edward Rompji

Gilbert Forbse

Kenny Windley

Lloyd Spencer

Alfie Inkamala

Nathan Williams

Intjartnama Aboriginal Corporation

PO Box 1833 Alice Springs NT 0871

Phone/Fax: (08) 8953 2567

Email: intiartnamaOocta4.net.au

April 15, 2002

To Senator Vanstone

Re: Families Against Violence Project

Dear Senator

We have had a very successful pilot project funded by your department. The committee that was established is eager to continue their work, unfortunately the project is now on hold, awaiting further action by your department.

Please consider to move swiftly; please don't let this be yet another project that gives people hope and then fizzles out to nothing.

The committee wants to act and resolve the huge problems caused **by** family violence, before more Aboriginal lives are lost.

Please give this project **your** urgent attention.

Thanking you, and hoping to hear from you **very** soon

Sincerely

Alison Hunt

Project Facilitator on **behalf of** the

Western Aranda against Family Violence committee

WESTERN ARANDA FAMILY AGAINST VIOLENCE
COMMITTEE

Project Facilitator: Mrs. Alison Hunt

April 12, 2002

Peter Toyne
Minister for Central Australia

Dear Minister,

Thank you for supporting our project.

We hope you can assist us in securing ongoing funding through your portfolio, as this is a very special project, set up by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal people. The funding for the pilot project has ceased and it is imperative that we are able to continue our work, reducing the domestic violence and petrol sniffing in the Western Aranda region.

Enclosed please find a copy of the documents handed to the Hon. Philip Ruddock on Saturday April 6th, 2002,

Would please be so kind and pass this information on to the Chief Minister, Clair Martin.

I look forward to closely working with you in the near future. We will extend an invitation to you and your department for our next meeting. -

Sincerely,

Alison Hunt
On behalf of the Western Aranda
Family Against Violence Committee
8952 2473
Fax 8953 2567

WESTERN ARANDA FAMILY AGAINST VIOLENCE
COMMITTEE

Project Facilitator. Mm. Alison Hunt

April 11. 2002

John Eftrink, **MLA**
Alice Springs

Dear John

Thank you for supporting our project.

We hope you can assist us in securing ongoing funding in the future and lobby the relevant ministers on our behalf, as this is a very special project, set up by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal people.

Enclosed please find a copy of the documents handed to the Hon. Philip Ruddock on Saturday April e, 2002.

I look forward to closely working with you in the near future.

Alison Hunt
On behalf of the Western Aranda
Against Violence Committee
8952 2473
Fax 8953 2567