



PO Box 403 or 1 Irvine Street
TENNANT CREEK NT 0861
ICN: 283 ABN: 97329483372
Telephone: (08) 8962 2633
Facsimile: (08) 8962 3280

Select Committee on a Northern Territory Harm Reduction Strategy for Addictive Behaviours

Monday 5th November 2018 – Karguru Room, Barkly Education Centre, Tennant Creek

Anyinginyi Aboriginal Health Corporation response

Presented by the Cultural Facilitators and Piliyintinji-Ki staff.

Problem statement

Tennant Creek is the regional Centre for the Barkly Region. The administration of government services is currently its main economic function since the demise of the mining industry and mechanisation of the pastoral industry. Tourism is not strong apart from through traffic. About two-thirds of its 1536 Aboriginal inhabitants are unemployed (2016 Census). Poverty is widespread with its associated unemployment, low income and social problems. Substance abuse problems are mainly excessive alcohol consumption and gunja consumption, these two often in combination. Ice is infiltrating the town but not yet widespread. Alcohol and gunja associated violence and health problems are paramount.

The overall cost of government services (including justice and correctional services) in response to this problem complex is immense. This is the daily problem front for Piliyintinji-Ki workers who are dealing with both townspeople and bush people but also experience these problems from within their own families, destabilising their own employment.

Problem Summary in dot points:

- Lack of Housing is the number 1 priority in Tennant Creek
- Unemployment
- Poverty
- Social problems
- Alcohol abuse
- Gunja abuse
- Alcohol violence widespread
- Wide range of health problems from alcohol and gunja
- Mental health problems, suicide, self-harming
- Kidney, liver, heart, diabetes and FASD
- Violence includes spouse assault, same gender violence
- Inter-group violence
- Sexual assault, paedophilia, child neglect
- Lateral violence (effects governance)
- Economic violence ('humbugging', demanding)
- Made worse when bush communities visit
- Fights and houses damaged, tenants evicted
- Over-crowding

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NT TABLED DOCUMENTS

Committee: AAB
Paper No: 1 Date: 5/11/18
Tabled By: Anyinginyi
Signed: [Signature]

- Cost is immense

Main message

Anyinginyi Health's works within a Cultural Framework that includes recognition, knowledge and compliance with,

- Local Cultural Protocols,
- Language,
- Aboriginal kinship systems to engage with clients,
- Awareness of Cultural practices, and,
- Understanding and adherence to Cultural Security and Safety.

Anyinginyi has adopted a cultural framework as a baseline for working with Aboriginal people.

Within this framework, Anyinginyi designs and delivers services, through Piliyintinji-Ki Stronger Families, that work with Aboriginal staff and families to put measures in place to reduce harm.

As part of its cultural framework, Anyinginyi looks forward to the co-ordination role that the Cultural Authority Group will play in program implementation. Anyinginyi has had a key role in fostering in this Group in the community governance gap left after the winding down of the Council of Elders and Respected Persons (CERP) in 2013.

Piliyintinji-Ki Stronger Families staff are transitioning to a Case Management model where client needs are identified, documented and individualised plans are developed to address identified social and community needs.

Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation internal referral system facilitates easy access to services and programs delivered by Public Health, Health Centre, Men's Health Clinic, Sports and Recreation and Allied Health. Stronger Families are also developing and strengthening relationships with relevant external agencies to ensure that the identified needs of the clients are met.

Addressing the committee's areas of inquiry

Key points (3.1, 3.3, and 3.8)

3.1 Medical response and ongoing treatment

Anyinginyi will submit a detailed medical report providing clinic data on Anyinginyi's response to particular problems in the Barkly region.

3.3 The adoption of culturally relevant health and education interventions

- Piliyintinji-Ki Stronger Families section is a culturally safe place
- Piliyintinji-Ki Stronger Families operates separate in-house men's and women's programs as well as outreach for families in their homes.
- Women's and Men's programs occur in the Centre's and off site.

3.8 Support for affected families and communities

- Anyinginyi operates with a cross-agency combined approach to harm reduction
- Piliyintinji-Ki Stronger Families provides practical support to families during sorry business and young men ceremonies.

Women's and Men's Centre programs include:

Outreach

Piliyintinji-Ki Stronger Families (PSF) have commenced discussions with leaders in the Tennant Creek Community Living Areas (CLAs) to further develop the delivery of services and programs in the CLAs. The leaders were supportive of the proposal. PSF will discuss with the Leadership group ideas on how the services and programs will be delivered.

- supporting clients to attend appointments with clinic,
- Centrelink and other services,
- collecting firewood for elders,
- advocating for clients with other services
- Supporting clients with Families meetings at home regarding issues
- Family Violence – help with DVOs,

Targeted Education

- legal
- health
- relationships
- financial
- Alcohol and other drugs

Bringing Them Home

- stolen generation,
- relationships,
- loss of identity,
- grief and loss,
- intergenerational trauma

Cultural activities

- NAIDOC
- cultural activities offsite
- Camping trips and bush trip hunting by gathering bush medicines and bush tucker.
- talks to family about safety and do up safety plans and

- family strengthening,
- self-care

Healthy Lifestyles

- Sport & Rec visits,
- nutrition and healthy cooking,
- hygiene,
- onsite health checks,
- physio visits

Life Skills

- talks on building self-esteem,
- library visits,
- learning cooking skills,
- budgeting,
- parenting skills,
- Grow Well

Alcohol and Other Drugs

- talks on prevention and interventions,
- BRADAAG or other mob coming to talk,
- self-care strategies

Social and Emotional Wellbeing

- bush medicine program,
- supporting clients to deal with emotions/grief and loss by going to counselling,
- yarning circles

Challenges

Many Aboriginal families in the Barkly Region are living with multiple and complex mental and physical health needs often without adequate and appropriate support

- Piliyintinji-Ki has limited resources to address the widespread poverty and associated disadvantage in the community
- Community Support Workers are critical to the outreach program however they are also part of the community and therefore subject to the impacts of disadvantage in their own families
- In this context, Anyinginyi has distinctive and extreme challenges for developing strategies for harm reduction.