



Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara

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APY PRESS RELEASE

At its meeting at Umuwa, in South Australia, today 8/11/2017, the APY Executive Board resolved to issue the following press release in response to publications in the Adelaide Advertiser and enquiries from other newspaper publications.

Legal proceedings

- The release and publication of details of proceedings presently before the Supreme Court and SACAT to the media is improper.
- APY has been required to respond over the last 2 years to a series of attacks that can best be described as “lawfare” by disaffected individuals.
- The manipulation of indigenous affairs by individuals seeking to further their own ends is a common theme throughout indigenous land councils in Australia.
- The proceedings brought by APY are required to bring an end to this type of manipulation.
- The articles posted in the Adelaide Advertiser are inflammatory and repeats inaccurate, vexatious and mischievous information peddled by these individuals.
- The allegation that APY is wasting resources on litigation is absurd.
- In fact, APY has been required to engage legal representation *in response to* numerous applications to various authorities, courts and tribunals by disaffected individuals in response to numerous applications launched in *a concerted vendetta to unseat accountability and probity on the APY lands* – all of which have failed to succeed.
- APY has, on considered legal advice, initiated proceedings in order to seek clarity on its FOI position and the proper procedures around FOI applications.

Manager Stakeholder Engagement

- The article is offensive as it fails to do justice to the important role Tania King plays in her position as Manager of Stakeholder Engagement. Tania is an experienced manager and administrator and brings skills critical to the operation of APY.
- Indigenous landholders are required to have a high degree of capacity around engagement with Commonwealth and State Government services. The Manager for Stakeholder Engagement ensures stakeholders are engaged to deliver programs and services that are endorsed by Executive and communication managed.

Employment of couples in remote intercultural work

- Every member of the APY staff is important and critical to the development, accountability and delivery of the APY services and programs. They are the reason we are improving our governance across all areas;
- In remote Central Australia, it is desirable to employ couples as the work is isolated and challenging. Tania and Richard King have been working as a team in these conditions. APY has improved in governance, financial accountability and project management because of their recruitment;
- It is an efficient and smart way to bring highly skilled people to the remote parts of Australia where they can be most effective, and their invaluable skills can change people's lives for the better;

Respect for the Board

- This news cycle is particularly disappointing for the members of the highly functioning APY Executive Board, whose operation was recently the subject of approval from the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations who attended their last meeting.
- This Board is doing very well and is looking forward to taking the organisation into the future.
- Recent achievements of the APY Executive Board demonstrate the Board's ongoing capacity and commitment to working effectively for Anangu, as well as the effective working relationship between the Executive Board and its General Manager Richard King, Director of Administration Rex Tjami, and its Manager of Stakeholder Engagement Tania King.

On behalf of the APY Executive Board of Management



Mr Frank Young
APY Land Chairperson