

URBAN AND REGIONAL STRATEGY – PORT AUGUSTA INITIATIVE

CLOSING THE GAP IN PORT AUGUSTA

Aboriginal Community Engagement Group

Summary of Local Action Agreement: Please read the full document at www.aceg.org.au

Plan for October 2013 - 30 June 2014

“If you want to go quick, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together”.

The Aboriginal Community Engagement Group (ACEG) is helping government and non-government agencies to respond better to the needs of Aboriginal people. Port Augusta’s Aboriginal population is steadily growing and now is the time for us all to get it right. The challenges will not just disappear.

In partnership with community and all governments, ACEG aims to bring about positive change for the Aboriginal people of Port Augusta.



‘ How can you or your organisation help ACEG achieve this change?’ Call us on 8641 9135

1 • Governance and Leadership

What we want:

Members of the Aboriginal Community are resilient, visible, proud and respected in Port Augusta. They are leaders in government and across the Port Augusta community. They participate in decision making around service delivery, program and policy making that affects them.

- 1.1 Support the Aboriginal Community Engagement Group to continue to develop as an overarching group able to engage with Aboriginal community, governments and other Port Augusta people.
- 1.2 All governments re-commit for five years to work as long term partners with the Aboriginal community and each other to build the governance of the Aboriginal community and improve services (to be confirmed).
- 1.3 Develop a model for a Port Augusta Aboriginal Community Centre.
- 1.4 Support Aboriginal community representatives to be at the table for real decision making in services that affect them and to obtain the knowledge and experience to lead and govern committees, government services and businesses.
- 1.5 Develop and publish an easy to read Port Augusta guide to services and programs available to Aboriginal people.
- 1.6 Work with all government and non-government agencies and local businesses to increase employment for Aboriginal people.

2 • Safe communities

What we want:

Aboriginal people feel safe living in Port Augusta. They do not experience domestic, family or community violence. They enjoy healthy relationships. They are supported to access services for drugs and alcohol, gambling and mental health. The community is unified and strong.

- 2.1 Provide opportunities and activities for all young people that they want and need.
- 2.2 Develop more support for young people at risk of offending or who are in detention.
- 2.3 Inform Aboriginal people about where they can go to be safe or get help with problems – no matter how big they seem.
- 2.5 Provide more ways community members and elders can help reduce harm from alcohol, drugs and gambling.
- 2.6 Help everyone in the community to do something to reduce violence.

3 • Healthy homes

What we want:

All Aboriginal people have access to suitable housing where they can safely raise their families and live in the community. They are able to own their own homes. They understand their rights and obligations as homeowners and tenants. They feel able to go to housing related services and are satisfied with the service when they attend.

- 3.1 Establish a Port Augusta Aboriginal Housing Advisory Group to work with Housing SA.
- 3.2 Enable more Aboriginal people in Port Augusta to buy and look after their own home.
- 3.3 Aboriginal community members and housing providers work together to shape local housing policies and procedures that are clear and support tenants to maintain their property.
- 3.4 Provide housing options for Aboriginal people who are homeless and/or in transition between city and/or remote community accommodation.

4 • Learning (early childhood and schooling)

What we want:

Aboriginal children and young people succeed at school. They have equal access to early childhood development and care services. Parents and community support their children to go to school. Education leads to real opportunities for Aboriginal young people to future pathways of work and study.

- 4.1 Increase Aboriginal parent and community involvement in teaching all kids and teachers about Aboriginal history, language and culture.
- 4.2 Support families with very young kids to learn more about how their activities improve their learning and health in school and for life.
- 4.3 Investigate different ways to help parents ensure kids go to and stay at school.
- 4.4 Preschools, early childhood centres and schools work with health and other agencies to provide therapy or support that may be needed to improve learning and development.
- 4.5 Advocate for individual learning plans to be in place and online for every student.
- 4.6 Develop a network of mentors to support each child through school and to the next step of learning or work.

“Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results”. *Albert Einstein*