

This Week @ LGANT

Newsletter



5th December 08

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COAG Delivers for the NT

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has agreed to an additional \$4 billion to help close the housing, health and employment gap for Indigenous Australians.

The National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing will mean up to 4200 new houses and 4800 major upgrades to existing houses in remote communities.

Funded by the Australian Government, the remote Indigenous housing reform package will be delivered in partnership with State and Territory Governments and will include:

- A requirement that new and existing housing assets be held under secure tenure, including long-term leases;
- economic development opportunities through increased local training and employment for Indigenous people in construction and housing management;
- an ongoing maintenance and repairs program; and
- access to affordable accommodation options in regional centres to support employment, education, training opportunities and access to support services in regional areas of high unemployment.

Work on the program will start in early 2009.

COAG has also agreed to provide \$400 million over 2 years for social housing and \$800 million over four years in new homelessness initiatives – a total package of \$1.2 billion in additional funding.

Indigenous Health

COAG has agreed to invest \$1.6 billion over four years in Indigenous health to tackle chronic disease in Indigenous communities.

The funding includes an \$805 million Australian Government commitment to deliver more health professionals to Indigenous communities, expand health services, and help tackle chronic diseases.

Around \$470 million will be provided to chronic disease management, \$171 million to increase the capacity of frontline primary care workforce and \$161 million to tackle the key risks for chronic disease, including smoking.

Jobs and Indigenous Economic Participation

The Australian Government will invest \$172.7 million over five years and the States and Territories \$56.2 million to help up to 13,000 Indigenous Australians find and keep a job.

This additional funding will help meet our target of halving the employment gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

Remote Service Delivery

The Australian Government and the States and Territories will invest \$291 million over six years to better coordinate early childhood, health, housing and welfare services in remote communities.

This funding, including a \$154 million commitment from the Australian Government, will enable Governments to put in place-coordinated service delivery in 26 key communities across remote Australia.

Applications Invited for Rudd Government's \$3.2 Million Emergency Volunteer Support Fund

Attorney-General Robert McClelland has today officially opened applications for this year's National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund, urging interested parties to seek Government funding.

"Australia's emergency volunteers number up to half a million people and provide an invaluable service to the community every year. This \$3.2 million fund provides vital support to help volunteer organisations to improve recruitment, retention and training initiatives," said Mr McClelland.

"The Rudd Government recognises that emergency volunteers give freely of their time to protect the lives and property of others and deserve to be supported in this way."

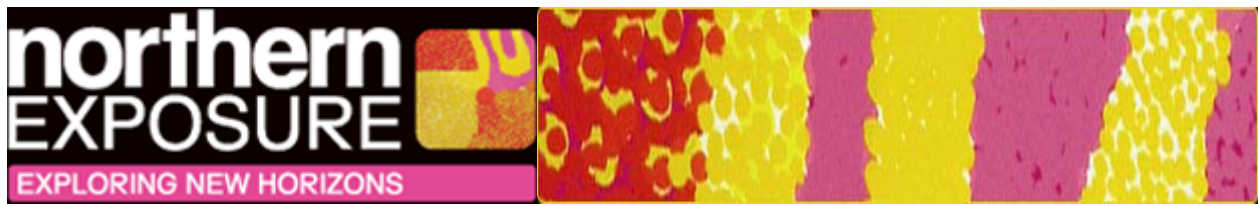
Over 778 projects have been funded through the program to a total value in excess of \$18.5 million.

"I encourage all eligible emergency volunteer organisations to make applications to this fund. The money will help to build and train their pool of talented people to be ready for the whole range of possible emergencies," said Mr McClelland.

Applications for funding through the initiative in 2009/10 will close on 6 March 2009.

Details of the program, including Guidelines, Application Forms and Applicant Guides can be found on the Emergency Management Australia website:

www.ema.gov.au/communityengagement



Planning Institute of Australia 2009 National Congress 29 March - 1 April 2009 Darwin Convention Centre, Australia

Over 500 planners, educators, officials and students will come together in Darwin for the Planning Institute of Australia 2009 National Congress. Will you be there?

Darwin is a fast paced, multicultural city and is the meeting place for the 2009 National Congress 'Northern Exposure – exploring new horizons'. We invite you to join us as we explore the latest planning solutions around Australia and look at transit oriented developments, governance and regulatory reform, climate change and extreme weather, cyber cities, intelligent and green buildings, economics of development, social inclusion, infrastructure and much much more.

Our site tours will showcase Darwin and the Northern Territory and will include major infrastructure projects, CBD developments, Aboriginal culture and rural aquaculture incorporating significant rural subdivisions.

The Congress is being held at the new Darwin Convention Centre from 30 March – 2 April 2009.

So head north with us and allow yourself to explore new horizons – you will be amazed at what you discover! For further information: **Planning Institute of Australia 2009 National Congress - Northern Exposure: exploring new horizons**

Information Hotline for Councils to Apply for \$300 Million Regional & Local Community Infrastructure Program

The Rudd Government has launched the official Information Line to help councils and shires apply for funding through the new Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (RLCIP).

Last week, the Government announced \$300 million to support local economies and jobs and help councils build and refurbish community infrastructure such as swimming pools, sports grounds, community centres, libraries and town halls.

All councils and shires will benefit from the new program.

The Information Line number is **1800 005 494**.

It will operate from 9am-5pm (AES) Monday-Friday to assist local governments with:

- accessing funding under the RLCIP;
- acquiring guidelines for the RLCIP; and
- understanding and completing the application form for the RLCIP Strategic Projects.

Applications for the \$50 million Strategic Projects are due on 23 December 2008.

Councils have until 30 January 2009 to take up their offer of funding under the \$250 million allocation.

Guidelines and funding allocations for the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program are available at: www.infrastructure.gov.au/local/rlcip_guidelines.aspx



Local government sector prepares for next week's Constitutional Summit

Representatives from councils across Australia will meet in Melbourne next week to decide on their preferred model of constitutional recognition for local government.

Achieving formal recognition of local government in the constitution has long been an objective of the Australian Local Government Association. The ALGA has convened the Local Government Constitutional Summit from December 8 to 11 in consultation with state and territory local government associations.

The summit delegates will have the job of selecting the model for constitutional recognition that best reflects the interests of local government and is most likely to win support from state and federal governments, and the community.

The model adopted will be referred to the ALGA Board and will form the basis for future discussions with the Federal Government on steps to advance constitutional recognition for local government.

In the lead-up to the summit, a national experts forum was held in Canberra in August this year to prepare cases for four potential models of recognition. The models are:

- pure symbolic recognition of local government in the constitution;
- recognising the institution of local government;
- protecting or strengthening the financial position of local government; and
- giving the power to make laws with respect to local government to the Commonwealth.

Symbolic recognition would involve mentioning the role local government plays in the Australian community in the constitution - the recognition could be inserted in any preamble to the constitution.

Recognising the institution of local government deals with the express recognition of the sector and its functions in the constitution.

Protecting or strengthening local government's financial position in the constitution revolves around the way in which payments are made to the sector. Local government currently receives Financial Assistance Grants from the Commonwealth, but the payments are made as grants via the states because of doubt about the legal ability of the Commonwealth to make direct payments to local government.

Giving power to the Commonwealth to make laws with respect to local government deals with the scenario of the Commonwealth making a Local Government Act that would govern how councils are formed and removed, and that also detail the powers and functions of local government.

For further information about the Local Government Constitutional Summit, which will serve as this year's National General Assembly of Local Government, visit the ALGA's website [here](#).



More than 100 positions are offered on LGJobs each week.

Each issue of the weekly LGJobs email service reaches more than 13,200 middle and senior managers within every council in Australia. It is a fast, effective way for councils to advertise their higher level positions, and get quick results at an inexpensive cost. The cost for an advertisement is only \$180 plus GST. Please go to www.lgjobs.com.au to see this week's listings.

Positions are advertised in the weekly email document sent directly to the desktop of potential applicants, every Friday, as well as being placed on our website which has more than 9,000 hits per day. All positions are advertised on the website until the closing date.

If you want to utilize this unique service, please email copy to blake.duggin@halledit.com.au or telephone (03) 8534 5012 and we will be able to include it in the next edition.

LGJobs is produced by people committed to Local Government. The Local Government Team at Hallmark Editions produce LG Jobs and LG News, as well as *Councillor* magazine, *Council Manager* magazine and *Public Works Engineering Journal*. Hallmark Editions is a financial supporter of a number of important local government initiatives by the ALGA and state local government associations.

Report Card on the Education Revolution

The next chapter of the Labor's Education Revolution was announced at COAG over the weekend.

The Computers in Schools initiative has been particularly beneficial in Lingiari, with 30 schools successful in the first round of funding.

In addition, substantial money has also been allocated to Charles Darwin University and the Batchelor Institute, with each receiving \$1.3 million and \$400,000 respectively for major capital works.

The COAG plan demonstrates that this government is serious about delivering the foundations for long-term education reform.

Lingiari schools successful under the first round of Nation Secondary School Computer Fund

St Joseph's College
Thamarrurr Catholic School
Ltyentye Apurte Community Education Centre
Xavier Community Education Centre
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College
Lajamanu CEC
Yuendumu CEC
Anzac Hill High School
Papunya School
Ti Tree School
Utopia School
Alekarenge CEC
Willowra School
Ampilatwatja School
Finke School
Tennant Creek High School
Angurugu CEC
Manningrida CEC
Ngukurr CEC
Gunbalanya CEC
Shepherdson College
Alcoota School
Alpurrurulam School
Jilkminggan School
Laramba
Mt Allan School
Nganmariyange School
Ntaria School
Yiririnya School
Nyangatjatjara College

Outstation Consultations to Continue

The Northern Territory Government is continuing to consult with the community and representatives from outstations to develop a comprehensive Outstation Policy.

Indigenous Policy Minister Marion Scrymgour said the first meeting was held yesterday in Darwin and is being followed with a meeting in Alice Springs today.

Ms Scrymgour has appointed respected Indigenous leader Pat Dodson to lead the engagement process across the Territory.

Together with department staff Pat Dodson will hold 17 meetings over the next two weeks across the Territory. The representative organisations of the 457 funded Territory outstations have been contacted and invited to attend the meetings.

There has been a comprehensive campaign through letters, emails, posters, radio advertising and phone calls to ensure people living on outstations are aware of the meetings.

The Government is also assisting outstation representatives with travel arrangements to ensure as many people as possible meet to discuss and develop the Outstations Policy.

Following this consultation process an Outstations Policy will be drafted and further consultation will be carried out before the policy is implemented.



Welcome to the Official Website for Outback Calling Ltd - Your Portal to the Outback

We invite you to explore this site to learn more about Outback Calling Ltd, the Outback Calling Campaign, associated projects and Rural, Regional and Remote Australia - its opportunities, unique features, events, activities, projects and achievements.

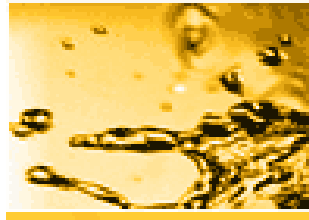
By entering this 'Outback Portal' you can have rural and regional Australia at your fingertips in seconds through links to... numerous Outback destinations just waiting to be explored; rural, regional and remote communities; Outback organisations;

Government Departments and sites; Australiana informational sites and so forth – providing information for everything from general fact finding including fascinating facts about Australia, it's history and much, much more to comprehensive trip planning, investment opportunities, relocation information for those considering a 'tree change' etc.

Featured in the 'Outback Portal', are many ways that individuals, communities, groups and organisations can be directly involved in the ongoing 'Outback Calling' process. Included in these is the registration of events, activities and projects to be included on our official Outback National Calendar and a warm invitation is extended to become part of this never ending "Outback Exposition" accessible to city and country Australians and visitors from overseas.

As we progress, expand and develop, so too will this website, and we invite you to stay in touch with us by logging on at regular intervals and joining us by going Outback Online through this, your Portal to the Outback.

To view a brochure on Outback Calling Limited go to :
http://www.outbackcalling.com/userfiles/file/OBC_final_draft1.pdf



UTS SCIENCE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Contaminated Site Assessment, Remediation and Management: A Series of Short Courses for Environmental Professionals

Contaminated site assessment is a complex field of environmental management requiring the expertise and experience in diverse disciplines. There is an increasing demand for environmental professionals in this area, Contaminated Site Assessment, Remediation and Management (CSARM).

Department of Environmental Sciences at UTS, with contributions from NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) and industry consultants, has developed a short course of eight modules to help environmental professionals update their specific area of expertise, extend their knowledge base and network with colleagues in industry and government.

The series commences in February 2009. Presenters include UTS Science and Engineering academics, DECC and CSIRO officers, industry practitioners, and experts in environmental law. Each stand-alone module will run over three days, comprising a mixture of seminars, field trips and laboratory sessions.

The series will provide a comprehensive approach to CSARM through a flexible and interactive learning program addressing:

- CSARM legislative framework for professional practice
- Guidelines, measures and their application
- Site sampling strategy and report writing
- Contaminated site assessment processes
- Principles of risk factors, human and ecological toxicology, soil science and hydrogeology
- Application of environmental chemistry in site & risk assessment
- Contemporary approaches to remediation

The courses are specifically designed for:

- Environmental professionals
- Contaminated site consultants
- Environmental engineers
- Environmental officers in government and industry
- Science and engineering graduates interested in entering this field

Completion of all modules may count towards a tertiary qualification or industry accreditation. Details for first two modules:

Module A: Essentials for CSARM Professionals
Thursday 5th February – Saturday 6th February at UTS
Module B: Planning Effective Site Assessment
Thursday 30th April – 2nd May 2009

For program and registration details, or to download a flyer go to www.science.uts.edu.au
For all enquiries or to be put on our mailing list for further updates please contact Marea Martlew on 61 2 9514 1766 or Marea.Martlew@uts.edu.au

4TH AUSTRALIAN ROAD ENGINEERING & MAINTENANCE CONFERENCE 2009

- **February 17 - 18, 2009**
- **The Sebel Albert Park, Melbourne**

The 4th Australian Road Engineering & Maintenance Conference 2009 will see senior managers and leading practitioners and consultants in the road and pavements sector present up-to-the-minute, highly relevant and practical information to assist road managers and engineers to perform their roles in an increasingly complex road environment.

The conference program is very flexible with a choice of a speaking stream or workshops on each day. Delegates may freely swap between both streams.

Sustainable Practices and the Environment will feature strongly on the program. The conference will feature case studies and discussion about topics including major roads, local roads, traffic areas, residential streets, rural roads, footpaths and road reserves.

Key conference topics are:

- Achieving Sustainability on Road Infrastructure Projects.
- Road Practices for a Sustainable Future.
- Road Maintenance.
- Road Project Case Studies.
- Pavements and Good Paving Practices.
- Working Under Traffic.
- Bituminous Surfacing Workshop.
- Landscape Workshop (Landscape architects/outdoor staff).

For further information about this event, including how to register to attend, visit www.halledit.com.au/roads09 or contact Denise McQueen at Hallmark Conferences + Events by phoning (03) 8534 5021 or email denise.mcqueen@halledit.com.au

THIS WEEK IN BUSINESS TERRITORY

NT GOVERNMENT HELPS TO BRING BROADBAND TO ARNHEM LAND

CHIEF MINISTER Paul Henderson welcomed the completion of work to lay the fibre optic cable that will connect some of the most remote communities in the Territory to high speed broadband.

NT has nation's strongest growth

NEW ABS figures released show economic growth in the Northern Territory is leading the nation.

New airline to fly Darwin/Timor Leste

DILI-BASED Timor Air and Brisbane-based Australian airline SkyAirWorld announced that they had entered into an agreement heralding the creation of Timor Air as the new national carrier for the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

Business opportunities with INPEX

TERRITORY companies are being urged to register their interest in working on the INPEX gas project.

Darwin Iron ore wharf to be demolished

A \$6.4 MILLION tender has been awarded to demolish the old Iron Ore Wharf and associated facilities at Fort Hill as part of the ongoing development of the Darwin Waterfront Precinct.

Minister Sherry to Meet with Key Indigenous Leaders on Financial Literacy Issues & Programs

Senator Nick Sherry, Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law, Mr Paul Clitheroe chairman of the Australian Financial Literacy Board and ASIC Commissioner Jeremy Cooper, will travel to Far North Queensland and the Northern Territory next week to hold a series of meetings with key Indigenous leaders and service providers on financial literacy.

"The Rudd Government wants to develop an understanding of the specific and differing needs of the Indigenous communities of Far North Queensland and the Northern Territory when it comes to developing our approach to financial literacy."

"This includes building relationships with key Indigenous leaders and stimulating frank and

productive discussions on current programs and future directions.”

“The Government has set a target of closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous employment within the next decade – and improving financial literacy is critical to achieving and sustaining that goal.”

“Financially literate people also have far better chance of making sound financial decisions in a complex world,” Minister Sherry said.

In Cairns, Minister Sherry, Mr Clitheroe and Mr Cooper will:

- meet with representatives of the Cape York Institute, Indigenous Enterprise Partnerships and Cape York Partnerships director Noel Pearson on financial literacy issues;
- visit Djarragun College to exchange views on existing financial literacy programs and their relevance to indigenous youth;
- meet with Cape York Partnership (CYP) representatives at Mossman Gorge to discuss a joint project between the Government, Westpac and the CYP, focusing on Family Income Management; and
- meet with Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network and Commonwealth Bank representatives to discuss their successful partnership.

In the Northern Territory, Minister Sherry, Mr Clitheroe and Mr Cooper will:

- travel to Groote Eyelandt, meet community leaders and visit the new traditional Credit Union with National Australia Bank Australian CEO, Mr Ahmed Fahour to discuss the success of the project;
- visit Elcho Island’s Money Business Office, which supports money management and education partnerships between the Government and ANZ Bank; and
- visit financial counsellors at the Tangentyrre Council near Alice Springs to listen to their views on financial literacy issues.



Implementation Forums for New Community Services Training Package Forums – Register Now

Find out about major changes and shifts since the CHC02 Training Package and gain an industry perspective on why best practice implementation of these changes is essential for the Community Services industry. You can now register for these one-day Implementation Forums across all States and Territories for only \$420 inc GST. [More](#)

2009 LGMA National Congress & Business Expo- Darwin



Local Government ... Creating our future is the theme for the 2009 LGMA National Congress & Business expo. It will explore topical themes of culture, country and earth and provide delegates with a truly unique experience where our sector looks at the future and what may be possible.

The 2009 congress will attract high calibre presenters from Australia and around the world to explore how we may go about creating our future.

LGMA invites all prospective presenters to express their interest in participating in the Darwin '09 – culture, country and earth, prospective presenters should nominate their congress topic and provide a brief synopsis of their presentation by 31st August 2008 to national@lgma.org.au

For more information contact the LGMA National Office on +61 3 9682 9222 or visit http://www.lgma.org.au/national/national_congress.php

Keynote Speakers

Elliott McAdam...Former Northern Territory Local Government Minister.

Peter Sheahan...Australia's expert in workforce trends and generational change.

Bernard Salt...Renowned commentator and advisor on consumer, culture and demographic trends.

Trisha Broadbridge...2004 Tsunami survivor and 2005 Young Australian of the Year.

BIITE Offers New Business Degree for Indigenous People



**BATCHELOR INSTITUTE
OF INDIGENOUS TERTIARY EDUCATION**
A site of national significance in Indigenous Education – strengthening identity,
achieving success and transforming lives.

Bachelor of Business
**NEW Higher Education course
starting 2009**

Are you Indigenous and –

- looking to enhance your career prospects?
- working in the Government or private sector?
- finishing school in 2008 and looking for an exciting and challenging career choice?

Batchelor Institute's new Bachelor of Business offers great career development and work opportunities that will help make a difference to your future and the economic viability of your organisation and community.

Units in this three year study program will be initially offered over one week residential workshop blocks at the main Batchelor campus, 1hr drive south of Darwin. Abstudy entitlements cover travel, meals and accommodation for the residential blocks.

**To enrol and for more information
Speak to an Academic Advisor
Freecall: 1800 677 095
Email: enquiries@batchelor.edu.au
www.batchelor.edu.au**

2009 Anzac Day Clarification

There has been some confusion regarding the 2009 Anzac Day public holiday. Clarification has been sought from the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment. The relevant legislation follows.

Please be advised, as the 2009 Anzac Day falls on a Saturday, 25th April, this is the public holiday. Monday 27th April is a work day.

Events calendar

08 - 11 December 2008

Local Government Constitutional Summit - A Special National General Assembly

Melbourne

Presented by: ALGA

10 December 2008

Integrated Plan on-a-Page: Planning for Local Government

Sydney

Presented by: Australian Industry Group

10 - 13 February 2009

Australian Disasters Conference 2009

Surviving Future Risks

Canberra

Presented by: Emergency Management Australia

17 February 2009

4th Australian Road Engineering & Maintenance Conference 2009

Melbourne

Presented by: Hallmark Conferences + Events

17 - 20 February 2009

Floodplain Management Conference

Joint 49th Annual Floodplain Management Authorities (NSW) & 6th Biennial Victorian Conference

Albury

Presented by: Floodplain Management Authorities & North East Catchment Management Authority

23 - 26 March 2009

GREENHOUSE 2009

Perth

Presented by: CSIRO

25 - 27 March 2009

Healthy Cities Conference

"Making Cities Livable"

Gold Coast

Presented by: Healthy Cities Committee

29 March - 01 April 2009

PIA 2009 National Congress

"Northern Exposure - Exploring New Horizons"

Darwin

Presented by: Planning Institute of Australia

10 - 11 June 2009

Smart 2009 Conference

Bridging the Gap with Innovation & New Business Strategy

Sydney

Presented by: Logistics Association of Australia Ltd (LAA)

21 - 24 June 2009

National General Assembly of Local Government

Canberra

Presented by: ALGA

24 - 27 September 2009

Together! 2009

Cultural Connections for Quality Care at the End of Life

Perth

Presented by: Palliative Care Australia and the Asia Pacific Hospice Network



COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Event: Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited – Art & Craft

Held: Last Saturday morning of every month

Time: 9am – Midday

Where: Nhulunbuy Town Hall

NCL Art & Craft is a collaboration of indigenous artwork, local photography, handmade jewellery, precious gems, plants and many unique pieces of art. All of the work is put together by the local community both in Nhulunbuy and from surrounding communities. You will be amazed at all the talented people we have among us! Sit outside under a pandanus, sip a hot cappuccino and nibble on some fresh home made goodies, while getting a back massage!!! Sounds great doesn't it? Come along and experience it for yourself! For more details: **Kendell Kenway 08 89871933**

FOR BACK ISSUES AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION VISIT THE LGANT WEBSITE

www.lgant.nt.gov.au

LGANT recognises its major sponsors:

- **Telstra Country Wide**
- **TIO**
- **Jardines**
- **CommonwealthBank**

This newsletter is emailed direct to elected members and councils in the NT. For further information on any of the items in this newsletter, please contact the Officer concerned or **LGANT on (08) 8936 2888**.