

# BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Council continues fight for bigger slice of youth funding pie

Barkly Regional Council (BRC) has announced that a portion of the funding slashed under the Federal Government's Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) is set to be reinstated.

Since the announcement two weeks ago that 27 Indigenous jobs with Sport and Recreation were on the line, the council has been negotiating with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C).

BRC CEO Edwina Marks said council has been in talks with PM&C to renegotiate its \$1.1m IAS Youth Development application.

However, while it has been agreed in principle to reinstate \$446,000 under the Indigenous Sport and Active Recreation Program (ISARP) to BRC, Dr Marks pointed out that this is only one of three Commonwealth-funded programs dependant upon each other to deliver holistically for young people in the region.

"We are still trying to get the message across that council cobbles together a range of funding to deliver frontline services for youth in a land mass as big as the state of Victoria," said Dr Marks.

"Minister for Indigenous Affairs Nigel Scullion says frontline services will not be compromised. But does Senator Scullion really think that \$446,000 could possibly support this delivery in a region as vast and remote as ours?"

"We need to ensure that the Commonwealth refunds not only the ISARP money but it supports the other two programs, including \$200,000 given to Central Australian Youth Link-up Service (CAYLUS) and Catholic Care and passed on to us as well as \$411,000 from the Department of Education and Training under its Out of School Hours Care (OOSHC) program.

"No-one quite gets that it's a patchwork quilt of funding that enables us to deliver in every local community. Jobs are still on the line if any of the funding goes. We are not alone - it's the domino principle. All we are asking for is one funding stream to deliver the lot."

Despite talks, Dr Marks said at this stage the council is yet to see final figures regarding its IAS application.

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