



## Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Recommendation

### 318. Devolving responsibility for aspects of the CDEP Scheme

*That in view of the considerable demands placed on staff of ATSIC by the expansion of the CDEP Scheme, consideration be given to developing a mechanism for devolving to appropriate consenting Aboriginal organisations, in particular resource agencies, responsibility for some aspects of the administrative support of CDEP, including in particular:*

- a. Advising communities on the types of work which the community may wish to consider undertaking;*
- b. Advising communities on the potential for incorporating other types of funding for employment and enterprise development into a CDEP project;*
- c. Dissemination of information (collected by ATSIC) on successful schemes;*
- d. Financial and administrative support for management of a scheme; and*
- e. Assisting in the provision or co-ordination of training for participants and managers of CDEP.*

*Those Aboriginal organisations should be adequately resourced to carry out the tasks which are devolved to them.<sup>1</sup>*

<b>Background<sup>2</sup></b>	<p>The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC) heard criticisms that the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) Scheme lacked adequate support for community managers to make informed decisions about administrative functions and operation of projects in their local community.</p> <p>The RCIADIC noted that in most of the communities it reviewed ‘non-Aboriginal people held the key administrative positions and community members did not possess the skills to administer their CDEP grants themselves.’<sup>3</sup> Devolving responsibility for administrative functions from governments to Aboriginal organisations was intended to create a community-centred framework and improve self-determination within the scheme.</p>
<b>Intent</b>	Consider devolving responsibility for administrative support aspects of CDEP to Aboriginal organisations.
<b>Responsibility</b>	The Commonwealth Government.
<b>Key action taken</b>	
<b>2005 Review<sup>4</sup></b>	The Victorian Government considered Recommendation 318 a Commonwealth Government responsibility.

<sup>1</sup> *Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody* (Final Report, 1991) vol 4, 423 ('RCIADIC').

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid* vol 4, 433-434.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid* vol 4, 434.

<sup>4</sup> Aboriginal Justice Forum (Vic), Department of Justice (Vic), *Victorian Implementation Review of the Recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody* (Review Report, October 2005) vol 1, 154-5 ('2005 Review').

## 318. Devolving responsibility for aspects of the CDEP Scheme

<b>2018 Review<sup>5</sup></b>	<p>Deloitte considered the CDEP Scheme, and rural and regional policy more broadly, fell under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Government. They concluded that the Commonwealth Government had <b>fully implemented</b> Recommendation 318 as CDEP scheme responsibilities were delegated to Regional Councils in 1995, ensuring Aboriginal people could be further involved in its implementation and planning.</p> <p>In 2015, the successor of the CDEP, the Community Development Program (CDP) operated with the aim of delivering better opportunities for remote job seekers and stronger economic and social outcomes in remote Australia. It supported job seekers to build skills, address barriers and contribute to their community through participation in a range of flexible activities. Of the 40 providers delivering services, 26 were Aboriginal organisations.</p>
<b>Since then</b>	<p>A new Remote Jobs and Economic Development Program was planned to begin in the second half of 2024, as part of replacing the CDP.<sup>6</sup> The CDP did not operate in Victoria.</p>

### Evidence of impact

<b>Authorising documents</b>	None identified.
<b>Outputs</b>	None identified.
<b>Outcomes</b>	None identified.
<b>Community views</b>	None identified.

### Related recommendations

<b>2005 Review<sup>7</sup></b>	<p><b>Recommendation 5</b></p> <p>That the Department for Victorian Communities work with the Commonwealth Government on the effective delivery of the Community Development Employment Program across all Aboriginal communities (recommendations 317- 319), noting the concerns raised by the Koori Business Network; and provide a report to the Aboriginal Justice Forum.</p> <p>That the Victorian Government continue to implement and monitor recommendations 317-319 through any monitoring process established as a consequence of this Review.</p>
--------------------------------	--

<sup>5</sup> Deloitte Access Economics, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, *Review of the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody* (Report, August 2018) 645 ('2018 Review').

<sup>6</sup> Commonwealth of Australia, *Closing the Gap: Commonwealth 2023 Annual Report, Commonwealth 2024 Implementation Plan* (Annual Report, February 2024) ('Closing the Gap: Commonwealth 2023 Annual Report, Commonwealth 2024 Implementation Plan').

<sup>7</sup> 2005 Review, vol 1, 31-2.

## 318. Devolving responsibility for aspects of the CDEP Scheme

### Assessment summary<sup>8</sup>

Recommendation 318 was the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government and outside the scope of this project.

### Bibliography

Meeting with Aboriginal Justice Caucus (Project Team, In person, 26 June 2024)

Meeting with Aboriginal Justice Caucus Working Group (Project Team, In Person, 4 November 2022)

Meeting with Aboriginal Justice Caucus Working Group (Project Team, Meeting, 13 June 2024)

Aboriginal Justice Forum (Vic), Department of Justice (Vic), *Victorian Implementation Review of the Recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody* (Review Report, October 2005)

Commonwealth of Australia, *Closing the Gap: Commonwealth 2023 Annual Report, Commonwealth 2024 Implementation Plan* (Annual Report, February 2024)

Deloitte Access Economics, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, *Review of the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody* (Report, August 2018)

*Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody* (Final Report, 1991)

---

<sup>8</sup> Meeting with Aboriginal Justice Caucus Working Group (Project Team, In Person, 4 November 2022) ('*Working Group Meeting (4 November 2022)*'); Meeting with Aboriginal Justice Caucus Working Group (Project Team, Meeting, 13 June 2024) ('*Working Group Meeting (13 June 2024)*'); Meeting with Aboriginal Justice Caucus (Project Team, In person, 26 June 2024) ('*Aboriginal Justice Caucus (26 June 2024)*').