

The Anangu Lands Paper Tracker

APY Lands: Tjungungku Kuranyukutu Palyantjaku's communication strategy

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Tags: [communication](#) & [regionalisation](#)

Summary

Tjungungku Kuranyukutu Palyantjaku (TKP) was the peak body for service planning and provision on the APY Lands. When TKP was established in 2005, its members acknowledged the importance of making sure Anangu were well-informed about its work and decisions. To that end, the Federal Department of Health and Ageing secured funding for a communication strategy. The communication strategy started well but was not maintained. As a result, Anangu were no longer being provided with up-to-date information on decisions made at TKP meetings. By mid November 2009, TKP had not publicly released any documents for more than two years.^[i]

In July 2010, the Department of Health and Ageing advised the Paper Tracker that TKP had not met since September 2009 and that no further meetings had been scheduled.^[ii]

The Paper Trail

Tjungungku Kuranyukutu Palyantjaku^[iii] (TKP) was the peak body for service planning and provision on the APY Lands. It was established in April 2005 and initially met four times a year.^[iv]

TKP meetings were opportunities for Anangu, State and Commonwealth representatives to:

- set regional goals and priorities,
- report on progress and results, and
- develop policies and regional partnership agreements.^[v]

At the time of its establishment, the Premier of South Australia (Hon Mike Rann MP) predicted that TKP would “improve results for Anangu by sharing responsibility for planning and coordination of services as well as reporting on progress.” He also stated that TKP would provide “the ideal forum” for the State Government to progress the work of its Aboriginal Lands Task Force and to continue “implementing the recommendations from the Coroner’s Reports on the APY Lands.”^[vi]

In 2005 and 2006, TKP’s work reportedly included:

- employing an APY Lands Services Coordinator and two Regional Services Coordinators,^[vii]
- agreeing on a “workplan to focus on issues and priorities,”^[viii]
- brokering a location for the substance misuse facility,^[ix]
- assessing the effectiveness of policing services and community-based night patrols,^[x]
- investigating educational pathways for Anangu students,^[xi]
- mapping employment and training needs across the APY Lands,^[xii] and

- developing a Regional Partnership Agreement.[\[xiii\]](#)

TKP's communication strategy

The decision to establish TKP was made at a two-day workshop held in Alice Springs in February 2005. The workshop was attended by representatives of key Anangu organisations and senior officers of State and Federal agencies.

Participants at the 2005 workshop spoke of the importance of making sure that the decisions of TKP were transparent and communicated to all Anangu. Accordingly, officers of the Federal Department of Health and Ageing agreed to seek funding to enable PY Media to develop and implement a communication strategy. [\[xiv\]](#) The strategy was to include radio communication and the posting of minutes and other information on PY Media's website.

In information subsequently provided to the Parliament of Australia, the Department confirmed that the minutes of TKP meetings would be publicly available via PY Media's website.[\[xv\]](#)

In 2005, this federally-funded communication strategy worked well with the endorsed minutes of TKP meetings regularly posted on PY Media's website. In subsequent years, however, few documents were added to the website and much of the background information available on the website became out-of-date. [\[xvi\]](#)

On 13 September 2007, the Paper Tracker asked the Federal Department of Health and Ageing how it ensured minutes of TKP meetings were readily available to all communities on the APY Lands.

In a reply dated 10 October 2007, the Department stated that in response to the expressed needs of Anangu, TKP meetings now generated a list of "actions" instead of formal minutes and that these lists were distributed to all TKP organisations by email.[\[xvii\]](#)

While an action-oriented system seemed sensible, the Paper Tracker remained concerned that very few Anangu had access to these lists of "actions arising."[\[xviii\]](#)

TKP Action Plan

In June 2006, TKP developed an Action Plan aimed at improving living conditions on the APY Lands. The plan focused on five priority areas:

- housing, infrastructure and essential services
- safety
- leadership and management
- health
- employment, education and training.[\[xix\]](#)

Almost two years later, in April 2008, the Mullighan Inquiry into child sexual abuse on the APY Lands reported that the TKP Action Plan had "not yet been finalised by the State Government in precise detail."[\[xx\]](#)

On 22 August 2008, the Federal Government quoted from the "March 2008 report" on the TKP Action Plan in a submission to a Senate Inquiry.[\[xxi\]](#) The Paper Tracker subsequently sought to clarify the status and availability of that report. On 27 August 2008, the TKP Secretariat advised:

The March 2008 TKP Action Plan Report is the most recent report distributed to members. TKP Members have not endorsed the Action Plan or Action Plan Report as a public document.[\[xxii\]](#)

More than six months later, on 4 March 2009, the State Government's Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division (AARD) advised the [Senate Select Committee on Regional and Remote Indigenous Communities](#) that the TKP Action Plan:

- was still a draft document,
- was “still being negotiated with the APY Executive and other members, and across government as well,” and
- would be discussed with representatives of the APY Executive in mid March 2009.[\[xxiii\]](#)

In subsequent advice – forwarded to the Senate Committee on 16 March 2009 – AARD noted that the TKP Action Plan would be “undergoing review in April 2009” and that this review would strengthen “tasks and actions against agreed priority areas,” along with the “reporting requirements for Anangu organisations and agencies.”[\[xxiv\]](#)

AARD's advice concluded:

TKP meets quarterly, they are closed meetings, and it is expected that Anangu representatives and organisations will disseminate information amongst their membership base.[\[xxv\]](#)

On 16 November 2009, the Federal Department of Health and Ageing advised the Paper Tracker that the TKP Action Plan was still “being reviewed” and that it had “not been endorsed as a public document by the TKP members.”[\[xxvi\]](#)

The Department's advice also stated:

Copies of the TKP minutes and ‘actions arising’ are publicly available when uploaded to [PY Media's] website.[\[xxvii\]](#)

As of 24 November 2009, no TKP minutes or ‘actions arising’ lists had been uploaded to this website for over two years. At that time, the most recent TKP document available on the website was dated “September 2007.”[\[xxviii\]](#)

On 5 May 2010, the Paper Tracker asked the Federal Department of Health and Ageing for another update on the work of TKP including:

- the dates of any meetings held since 1 October 2009, and
- the number of times TKP was scheduled to meet in 2010.[\[xxix\]](#)

In a reply dated 27 July 2010, the Department advised the Paper Tracker that no TKP meetings had been held since 8 September 2009 and that further meetings had “not been scheduled for 2010.”[\[xxx\]](#)

On the basis of this advice, the Paper Tracker assumes TKP has for all intents and purpose been disbanded.

In our letter of 5 May 2010, we had also asked the Department to explain what had prevented the planned publication of more documents on the PY Media website and what steps had been taken to resolve this matter.[\[xxxi\]](#)

In reply to these questions, the Department advised:

On 16 November 2009, all endorsed TKP minutes and associated documentation were sent to the (PY Media) Waru Webmaster for online publication. The Department understands that there have been issues with the online publication and that these will be resolved by the Waru Webmaster when he visits from America in late July 2010.[\[xxxii\]](#)

[Click here](#) to access a selection of TKP minutes and associated documentation.

This article was last updated in July 2010. It has been archived and will no longer be updated. It will, however, remain accessible online as a source of background information for anyone wishing to undertake further research on this issue. Information included in the article was current at the time it was archived. Keep in mind, however, that Ministerial changes and names of departments, among other things, may have since changed.

[i] Savage, J. (DoHA). 16 November 2009. Letter to Rev. P. McDonald.

[ii] Turbill, J (DoHA). 27 July 2010. Letter to Rev. P. McDonald.

[iii] 'Tjungungku Kuranyukutu Palyantjaku' is a Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara expression that means 'together towards the future.' ("Progress on the APY Lands," February 2007, Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, p1)

[iv] Rann, M., Vanstone, A. & Abbott, T. 1 April 2005, "New unified approach to help people on the APY Lands," joint new release. In 2008, TKP only met on two occasions (see: Savage, J. (DoHA). 16 November 2009. Letter to Rev. P. McDonald.)

[v] Information contained in response to Question on Notice asked by Senator C. Evans on 2 November 2005 (Question E05-066). See "Examination of Budget Estimates 2005-2006, additional information received. Volume 7: Health and Ageing Portfolio, Outcomes 7, 8, 9, 10, 11." February 2006, Parliament of Australia, p38.

[vi] Rann, M., Vanstone, A. & Abbott, T. 1 April 2005, "New unified approach to help people on the APY Lands," joint new release.

[vii] Department of Health and Ageing, 2006, *Annual Report 05/06*, Commonwealth of Australia, p117-118.

[viii] Department of Health and Ageing, 2006, *Annual Report 05/06*, Commonwealth of Australia, p118.

[ix] Information contained in response to Question on Notice asked by Senator C. Evans on 2 November 2005 (Question E05-034). See "Examination of Budget Estimates 2005-2006, additional information received. Volume 7: Health and Ageing Portfolio, Outcomes 7, 8, 9, 10, 11." February 2006, Parliament of Australia, p3.

[x] Information contained in response to Question on Notice asked by Senator C. Evans on 2 November 2005 (Question E05-034). See "Examination of Budget Estimates 2005-2006, additional information received. Volume 7: Health and Ageing Portfolio, Outcomes 7, 8, 9, 10, 11." February 2006, Parliament of Australia, p3.

[xi] Information contained in response to Question on Notice asked by Senator C. Evans on 2 November 2005 (Question E05-034). See "Examination of Budget Estimates 2005-2006, additional information received. Volume 7: Health and Ageing Portfolio, Outcomes 7, 8, 9, 10, 11." February 2006, Parliament of Australia, p3.

[xii] Information contained in response to Question on Notice asked by Senator C. Evans on 2 November 2005 (Question E05-034). See "Examination of Budget Estimates 2005-2006, additional information received. Volume 7: Health and Ageing Portfolio, Outcomes 7, 8, 9, 10, 11." February 2006, Parliament of Australia, p3.

[xiii] Department of Health and Ageing, 2006, *Annual Report 05/06*, Commonwealth of Australia, p118.

[xiv] The Department assumed this responsibility in its role as the lead Federal Government Agency for the Council of Australian Governments' APY Lands Trial. See Minutes of the Whole-of-Government workshop held in Alice Springs on 22 & 22 February 2005. TKP's secretariat and administrative costs are funded by the Federal Department of Health and Ageing (Information contained in response to Question on Notice asked by Senator C. Evans on 2 November 2005 (Question E05-036). See "Examination of Budget Estimates 2005-2006, additional information received. Volume 7: Health and Ageing Portfolio, Outcomes 7, 8, 9, 10, 11." February 2006, Parliament of Australia, p5).

[xv] Information contained in response to Question on Notice asked by Senator C. Evans on 2 November 2005 (Question E05-032). See "Examination of Budget Estimates 2005-2006, additional information received. Volume 7: Health and Ageing Portfolio, Outcomes 7, 8, 9, 10, 11." February 2006, Parliament of Australia, p1.

[xvi] As of 23 November 2009, the most recent TKP document available on the website was a brief list of actions arising from two-day meeting held in September 2007. This document is available at: <http://www.waru.org/organisations/tkp/meetings.php>. Accessed 23 November 2008. It is interesting to note, by way of a comparison, that the minutes of the monthly meetings of the APY Executive Board are, subsequent to their endorsement at the next meeting, promptly published on the same site.

[xvii] Halton, J. 10 October 2007, Letter to P McDonald.

[xviii] A similar concern is recorded in the minutes of the August 2007 meeting of Wiru Palyantjaku (WP) – an Anangu Taskforce. The minutes record members' frustration at the breakdown of the TKP communication system (Minutes of the meeting of Wiru Palyantjaku (Better Outcomes)

held on 23 August 2007, p4-5).

[xix] Department of the Premier and Cabinet, May 2008, "On the Lands: Update on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands," p2. Available at: http://www.premcab.sa.gov.au/pdf/apy_progress_print_052008.pdf Accessed: 29 August 2008.

[xx] Mullighan, E. April 2008, *Children on Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands: Commission of Inquiry – a report into sexual abuse*, p98.

[xxi] Australian Government. 22 August 2008, "Submission to the Senate Inquiry into petrol sniffing and substance abuse in Central Australia," p9. Available at: http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/clac_ctte/petrol_sniffing_substance_abuse08/submissions/sub14.pdf (file size: 610KB). Accessed: 28 August 2008.

[xxii] Warren, M. 27 August 2008. Email to J Nicholls

[xxiii] Saunders, N. 4 March 2009, Hansard, Select Committee on Regional and Remote Indigenous Communities, Senate, Parliament of Australia, p66.

[xxiv] Government of South Australia. 16 March 2009, "Senate Select Committee on Regional and Remote Indigenous Communities, SA Government Response to Questions on Notice," p4.

[xxv] Government of South Australia. 16 March 2009, "Senate Select Committee on Regional and Remote Indigenous Communities, SA Government Response to Questions on Notice," p4.

[xxvi] Savage, J. (DoHA). 16 November 2009. Letter to Rev. P. McDonald.

[xxvii] Savage, J. (DoHA). 16 November 2009. Letter to Rev. P. McDonald.

[xxviii] PY Media. 2009, "Tjungunku Kuranyu-Kuta Palyantjaku Meetings," Available at: <http://www.waru.org/organisations/tkp/meetings.php>. Accessed 24 November 2009.

[xxix] McDonald, P. 5 May 2010. Letter to J. Halton (DoHA).

[xxx] Turbill, J (DoHA). 27 July 2010. Letter to Rev. P. McDonald.

[xxxi] McDonald, P. 5 May 2010. Letter to J. Halton (DoHA).

[xxxii] Turbill, J (DoHA). 27 July 2010. Letter to Rev. P. McDonald.

The Paper Tracker works hard to provide accurate and up-to-date information. We will correct any inaccurate information as soon as it is brought to our attention. Please [contact us](#) if you have additional information or can provide us with an update.
