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22 May 2017

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committees
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email: fpa.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Chair

Inquiry into the appropriateness and effectiveness of the objectives, design, implementation and evaluation of the Community Development Program (CDP)

As part of its broad oversight role of Commonwealth government administration, the office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman (the office) has oversight responsibility for the Department of Human Services, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C), and the Department of Employment.

This means the office has had oversight responsibility for the Community Development Programme (CDP) since commencement on 1 July 2015. Prior to this, the office had oversight of the Remote Jobs and Communities Programme and the Community Development Employment Projects Scheme.

Our Indigenous Strategy Team implements an engagement strategy aimed at ensuring our services are accessible to Indigenous Australians and identifies systemic issues arising from complaints and stakeholder engagement. We have conducted a number of outreach activities to remote communities and are aware of concerns about the CDP program.

Administration of the CDP is an ongoing issue of interest for our office and we are aware of the current Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) performance audit. We will continue to work with PM&C and other relevant departments on CDP administration issues and look forward to reading the Committee's report.

Yours sincerely



Michael Manthorpe PSM
Commonwealth Ombudsman