



MEETING NOTES

Aboriginal Consultation Forum Creating Successful Dialogue

Friday 4 March 2016

9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

LOTTERIES HOUSE, SOUTH HEDLAND

Small group discussions were held around Creating Successful Dialogue and some of the feedback received is below:

1. How do you engage with the local community, and who with?

Engage through: Aboriginal Forums, Elders, Library Outreach Programs, CEO/Chairperson within communities, home visits, Wangka Maya, newsletters/posters/flyer drops, listen and learn, church, HYSAG

Engage with: Agencies, community people, Aboriginal Liason Officers/Advisors

2. Beginning a beneficial two way conversation with local stakeholders

Have a translator, use connections, make people feel welcome, have honest and transparent communication, build rapport, find common interests, don't assume – listen, information needs to filter down through teams/organisations, go beyond initial queries, local ATSI people prefer the term Aboriginal to Indigenous, ATSI people prefer face to face communication, make family connections with community members, contribute relative to your capacity, don't dominate the conversation

3. Best practices/example of good process and engagement

Understand local politics, talk to agencies/stakeholders/key people, continue the relationship once it has been established, empowerment, coordination of services, community forums, networking/information sharing, bush telegraph (word of mouth), knowing who to speak with in the community ie spokesperson, have someone from the community to introduce you, meet with the whole community and deliver the same message to all, have a Welcome to/Acknowledgement of Country at meetings/events, speaking to youth in their own language

4. Key considerations for successful dialogue in the local context

Get to know the Elders in the community, know your audience, cultural protocols, know the patterns of behavior in the community, personal space, be sensitive to happenings in the community, have an open minded approach, have a respectful attitude, take time to know which Aboriginal country you are on, connect with Aboriginal agencies, find the appropriate person to talk to, correct use of language and terminology

Times when contact may be difficult (Sensitivities and local context)

Sensitivities: Lore and Sorry Time, Native title meetings/AGM/agreements, family crisis, sporting carnivals, medical reasons, ranger camps, NAIDOC/cultural celebrations, family disputes, when respect has been broken

Local context: make contact with the community before attending, know who the best contact person is, build relationships, can't always contact by phone or email

Key themes from group discussions

1. *Speak to Elders, opportunistic conversations, local community groups*
2. *Build respect, have awareness of both cultures, take time*
3. *Continue relationships once established, bush telegraph, Elders (build respect)*
4. *Have a respectful attitude, don't make assumptions or have preconceived ideas, follow up on conversations*

Topic for the next forum

Drugs and Alcohol in the Community

Next Meeting

Friday 10 June 2016