

Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory

An alliance of the CLC, NLC, CAALAS, NAAJA and AMSANT

MEDIA RELEASE

Landmark Summit Report Provides Vision for Strong Governance

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A new report on Aboriginal governance was launched today by the Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT (APO NT) which represents five peak Aboriginal organisations in the Northern Territory.

The Strong Aboriginal Governance Summit Report sets out a vision for strong Aboriginal governance in the NT which Aboriginal leaders say should be the guide for the future.

“The landmark report brings together views of Aboriginal peoples in the NT and sets out a vision for new ways to empower individuals, organisations and communities”, APO NT spokesperson John Paterson said.

“This report is not about what governments think about governance, it is about Aboriginal people speaking for themselves. Aboriginal peoples, communities and organisations in the NT need to regain control of their own lives, and take greater responsibility for building their own future.”

Mr Paterson said he hoped the report would be a useful tool for the federal Government in charting its new direction on Aboriginal governance.

In April 2013, 300 Aboriginal people from across the NT came together to discuss what governance means to them.

In opening the summit, CLC Director David Ross said: “Governance is about the self-determining ability and authority of clans, nations and communities to govern: to decide what you want for your future, to implement your own initiatives, and take responsibility for your decisions and actions. Effective Aboriginal Governance puts us back in the driver’s seat.”

The report outlines discussions from the summit, and provides useful case studies, real actions and future directions for individuals, non-government organisations and government.

“Since the Governance Summit in April 2013, APO NT has secured funding from the Australian Government to establish a Governance and Management Program which will provide governance and management support to ensure the sustainability and success of Aboriginal organisations,” Mr Paterson said.

APONT, and the newly appointed manager of the Program, Mr David Jagger, want to ensure that the program is closely aligned to the priorities of Aboriginal communities across the Territory.

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Copies of the report are available to download at: <http://www.apont.org.au/index.php/governance-summit.html> or in hard copy by contacting our office on 08 8944 6628.