



WYNDARRA CENTRE INC.
CIRCULAR HEAD COMMUNITY INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTRE

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Committee Secretary,
Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local Government,
P O Box 6021,
House of Representatives,
Parliament House,
Canberra ACT 2600

July 08, 2008

Dear Committee Secretary,

I am writing concerning the discontinued Regional Partnerships program.

I would like to comment on the possible restructure of this program or the initiation of a new program.

It is disappointing that the Regional Partnerships program was run so badly that it has caused the program to be terminated and that innocent Australians are now suffering the consequences of these actions.

We entered into the process of submitting to Regional Partnerships with the assistance of the Area Consultative Committee Tasmania. Their assistance and support was fantastic and we were able to begin the process of our submission. It is essential to have consultation with a professional group to identify and develop projects that best benefits the needs of the community.

Their support with the initial planning ensured that we were on the right track with our submission and that we would correctly cover all the appropriate criteria necessary for a successful submission.

We were about 90% through the process of our application when the Regional Partnerships program was discontinued and find it extremely frustrating that our application was frozen and our information inaccessible.



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Value to the Community as a whole is essential when deciding if a project is worthy of funding. Letters of support from local and wider community and consultation with a representative of the Funding Body should ensure a fair and equitable distribution of funds. A suggestion would be that submissions under \$100 000 could be processed by a Committee based in the State or Territory that the application comes from. This delegation of assessment of smaller grants would speed the process of review considerably.

Wyndarra Centre is a community based organisation, situated in rural/remote Smithton on the far North West Coast of Tasmania with a population of approximately 3 500. Smithton is the largest town of the Circular Head municipality which is made up of several smaller communities with a total population of 8 500. Wyndarra services the whole Circular Head community with particular emphasis on vulnerable persons and groups at risk of or experiencing disadvantage or devaluation. We support Frail Aged, Young people with a disability, Personal and Family Counselling, Homelessness, People in crisis (Emotional and Financial), Postnatal Depression, Panic and Anxiety, Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol support. Circular Head is an isolated area, with limited employment opportunities and this leads to economic instability, low morale and a whole range of difficulties within the family unit and for single people.

Organisations such as ours depend totally on successful submissions and grants to allow us to maintain our premises, develop new programs and respond to emergent community requirements. It is essential that the Commonwealth Government offer the opportunity to Non Government Organisations to access funding to continue essential community support.

If you would like to speak to me further regarding this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Faithfully

Jantze Billing
 Direct Response and Information Service Worker