

SCHEDULE 3 – PROJECT REPORT Reference Number – JC6779 File: 13-14 MCI 388 Australian South Sea Islanders (Port

Jackson) The project report is to be submitted to the commission within three months of the end of the term of the project. The report should relate to information provided by the organisation in the application form, any additional conditions in Schedule 1 and the project outline in schedule 1.

The project report should address the following questions that are based on the project outline you supplied.

1. What were the core aims and objectives of the project?

The core aims and objectives of the project were to educate ASSI / broader communities and individuals in NSW on various aspects of ASSI history in Australia. 2.To educate ASSI participants on the protocols in regards to sharing ASSI cultural information. 3.To extend the knowledge base on ASSI culture in Australia by collecting family and cultural data on ASSI heritage and history in NSW that has not formerly been recorded 4.To develop trusting relationships with participants with a view to setting up individual and community networks for a process of ongoing cultural connection using the Internet and social media processes. 5.To establish a cultural profile with the NSW Government of ASSI community within NSW.

2. Describe how the project met the core aims and objectives.

Our aims and objectives were met through meaningful collaboration and community engagement / participation on a number of platforms such as local TV, radio, Facebook, email database, venue partners for delivery, ASSI website updates. In addition we undertook meaningful face-to-face, community consultation and lead community workshops establishing new and committed relations with ASSI, Indigenous and Pacific Islander communities inclusive of the CALD and broader community groups. The workshops were varied, supported and managed collectively with people and professionals who knew their specific community story. Workshops were interactive and hosted with a variety of hubs such as the Tweed Heads local community, Lismore community and Lismore workers club, Fijian groups, Pacific Island groups, Indigenous events and general broader community / CALD audiences at the Addison Road community centre Marrickville. All workshops had some level of government – state, national, local council or key community leadership participation. Collectively across Lismore, Tweed Heads, Inner City Sydney and Western Sydney the Wantok initiative was delivered to 300 participants. ASSIPJ have signed new membership for 60 of the 300 participants and have referred those from the QLD state who attended Wantok NSW to other ASSI organisations in their region to take up membership. Positive outcomes came out of all workshops where Wantok Lismore saw the need to establish a ASSI NSW State Alliance working group again nominated delegates from Lismore, Tweed Heads, Coffs Harbour, Sydney and Western Sydney.

Tweed Heads workshop saw a diverse representation of community and their inter-racial marriage participants from across Australia. ASSI descent members of community organisations put their hands up to nominate a representative from their organisation to sit on the national advisory round table appointing QLD reps Harold Fatnowna & Tony Watego from the Bayside ASSI Mens Wellness Group, Northern NSW reps Fiona Mount & Robyn Watego from the Tweed ASSI Association, Lismore reps Gordon Johnson & Lois Johnson from the ASSI Ministries, Sydney reps Emelda Davis, Zac Wone & Danny Togo from the ASSIPJ, Tasmania rep Duane Vickery, Coffs Harbor rep Emmanuel Fewquandie. All representatives are from registered ASSI community development organisations and represent their membership base taking up the responsibility to work with their local communities to establish and strengthen community through partnerships and feedback to the roundtable on the evolving needs of their communities. Wantoks consistent inclusion of our Parliamentarian's assists us to reaffirm the need for an accurate and specific reassessment of our community demographic by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) which will create a specific portfolio that will expedite waylaid economical and social stability for our community group. We impress on government that we are a self-determined 'distinct cultural group' as recognised by the 1994 Commonwealth who have identified the pressing need to reconnect with our 'families' 'heritage' and learning's of our humble beginnings which will instil a strong sense of pride and belonging for our elders and to inspire our youth as recognised members of a contributing Australian community group. List of supportive marketing resources:

Registration form example for collating information: <http://www.assipj.com.au/southsea/wp-content/uploads/docs/wantok-lismore-2015.pdf>

Prime 7 Lismore 'the forgotten people' video: <https://au.prime7.yahoo.com/a1/news/a/-/local/26058338/the-forgotten-people-video/>

Northern Star News paper article: <http://www.northernstar.com.au/news/lismore-hosts-wantok/2518761/>

Jenny Dowell Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mayorjd/status/556912637355646976>

National Indigenous TV 'Black live matter': https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_V4MDPuZFg

3. Who were the primary and secondary beneficiaries described in your application?

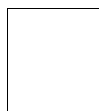
The primary and secondary beneficiaries of the project were ASSI community groups and individuals that are descendants of the blackbirding trade inclusive of Indigenous and Pacific Islander communities who have an evident shared history of identity. Cultural and educational organisations inclusive of CALD demographic such as Africa, Caribbean. Key venue supporters such as University of Sydney, Professor Clive Moore – University of QLD, Casula Powerhouse

Arts Centre, Lismore Workers Club, and Tweed Australian South Sea Islanders Assoc – Civic Centre, supported arts and cultural performances. St Johns Church Glebe, Glebe Justice Centre round table talks, NSW Council for Pacific Communities and the Addison Road Community Centre. Affective and meaningful participation of Parliamentary Ministers for NSW and abroad included Deputy Opposition leader Hon. Linda Burney, Alex Greenwich MP, Vanuatu High Commissioner - Mr Kalfau Kaloris, Current Vanuatu Prime Minister Mr Sato Kilman as former VU Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lismore Mayor Jenny Dowell, Federal Member for Page Kevin Hogan, Mal Fruean chair NSWPC all accompanied by officials from local leaders and educators from the ASSI, Indigenous and broader communities. (Images attached)

4. Did both the primary and secondary beneficiaries benefit – describe how (please include any written feedback received from them)?

Primary and secondary benefits were achieved through working together to share in practical pathways and knowledge that would assist development of local community groups and organisations, historical documentation and family reconnection files were duplicated and shared throughout discussions and presentations with participants which are also available via our website and Facebook page. Participation was documented through extensive videography of all events, of which we have provided screen shots of video. Community leaders and individuals shared their story of ‘denial’ by their own indigenous communities being ‘outcast’ due to having a mixed heritage of ASSI and Indigenous descent. Participants such as Indigenous elders and their families such as ‘Roberts’ ‘Corowa’s’ ‘Nowta’ being some of the largest families on the northern rivers saw a shared history and family connection back to the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Bundaberg region igniting a sense of belonging and achievement in having a local voice of participation. Capacity developments saw the exchange of resources and cultural perspectives as well as teaching of basic lost language terms (Bislama) by community historian Matt Nagas who travelled from Bundaberg. Discussions around what community cohesion looks like and the affects of ‘one voice’ in changing the dialog with government were a powerful outcome of the talks in Lismore and Tweed Heads particularly. Delegates from Lismore have committed to a round table governance group for a ‘one voice one people’ initiative. (Images provided)

5. Priority Initiatives - Please describe how your project met the Priority Initiatives identified in your grant application.



Priority Initiative No. 1

Projects involving more than one organisation and cultural group.

Cultural development and educational facilities participated such as the CALD demographic eg: Africa, Caribbean groups, performances from key partnerships through venues namely the University of Sydney, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Lismore Workers Club, Tweed Australian South Sea Islanders Assoc – Civic Centre. St Johns Church Hall Glebe, Glebe Justice Centre round table talks, NSW Council for Pacific

Communities and the Addison Road Community Centre. Affective and meaningful participation of Parliamentary Ministers for NSW and abroad included Deputy Opposition leader Hon. Linda Burney, Alex Greenwich MP, Vanuatu High Commissioner - Mr Kalfau Kaloris, Current Vanuatu Prime Minister Mr Sato Kilman as former VU Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lismore Mayor Jenny Dowell, Federal Member for Page Kevin Hogan, Mal Fruean chair NSW Council for Pacific Communities all accompanied by officials from local leaders and educators from the ASSI, Indigenous and broader communities. Our organisation president has been appointed to the Casula Powerhouse Arts and Culture advisory team she also won the 2015 NSW COUNCIL for PACIFIC COMMUNITIES AWARD for 'Community events' and 'Stronger families' and have recently been advised of her nomination as '2016 NSW Women of the year' again for her work done in capacity building from a state and national perspective.

Priority Initiative No. 2

Emerging or small ethnic communities including mentoring arrangements whereby a more experienced organisation sponsors and supports efforts of a new or emerging group.

Priority Initiative No.3

Communities that are geographically or socially isolated.

Priority Initiative No. 4
Developments of community networks and structures.

Priority Initiative No. 5
Projects that address critical issues relating to cultural diversity at a local level.

6. Please describe both the short and long term benefits of the project.

The workshops were very successful and enlightening for many participants. Statements that ring true for many participant were: 'just didn't know this history' or 'I knew I had islander in me but nothing else' or 'I want to learn more sis this isn't right' and 'thank you for sharing this with us we need more'. The short term but sustainable benefits are that more people have been introduced to the untold history of Australia's blackbird trade and community and are taking pride and ownership of their story and heritage alongside the broader Australian story / history. The long term effects and lasting achievements are that many key organizations have been won over and made commitments for ongoing collaboration with ASSI's and agreed to be more inclusive and conscious of our existence. A fine example is the appointment of Emelda Davis to the Casula Powerhouse Arts Culture –

Pacific Festival advisory panel, 2015 NSW Council for Pacific Communities and the nomination offered for the 2016 NSW Women of the year's awards.

7. What did your organisation learn from undertaking the project?

Reaffirmed learning's:

- Learnt more about our communities. Discussions around the need for inclusion on the Australian Bureau of Statistic 2016 Census saw talks with some of the biggest family names in Lismore who have well over 1000 family members on the northern rivers stem from just two names 'Nowta aka Noter' 'Corowa' clan which would add significantly to a true and accurate assessment of our ASSI current demographic by the ABS. Statistics from the 2011 Census are grossly under represented.
- We now have a greater understanding of the community demographic and inter racial marriages.
- There is a great willingness of local businesses wanting to collaborate and heal the past differences in the local area.
- There was a great appreciation by the ASSI participants in all regions we worked in for our workshop activities. They said things like 'thank you for remembering us' and 'we have nothing here for our community' and we need your help. We helped them further their understanding in ASSI cultural learning, identity and family reconnection. We identified areas in which we can work with them.

8. Did you identify any areas of need or other projects through running this project?

Culturally appropriate services and youth leadership appropriate training is sparse. Workshops of this nature are identified and affirmed that they should be run through self-determined organisations that work cohesively with broader community allowing for transition and engaging interaction.

- Healing through ones identity and cultural reconnection
- Elders resources and programs to encourage story and self determination in preservation of history
- ASSI need a Ministerial specific portfolio to fall under
- Australian Bureau of Statistics demographic assessment is critical and significant to our rightful inclusion / identity
- Community cohesion
- Community and individual mobilisation through leadership development.
- Ongoing cultural engagement and understanding
- Lateral love practices rather than lateral violence
- Performing arts development
- A request and need for language identity workshops 'Bislama'
- Finding family - reconnection

Please include any other project information you feel is relevant inclusive photos or imagery

FINAL REPORT

MULTICULTURAL NSW – PROJECT REPORT / Wantok NSW Capacity Building workshops

It is apparent that ASSI-PJ and the Wantok conferences employ many tools for strength. They mobilise communities, commemorate tragedy, lobby governments and help individuals to learn about their families and reconnect with the culture of their ancestors. But perhaps the greatest strength is ASSI-PJ's capacity to not only fight to change the future of ASSI people, but to feel grateful to be able to do so. - Bianca Hennessy 11 June 2014.

Wantok Lismore – January 2015



(left) Zachary Wone now ASSIPJ Deputy Vice chair and youth representative, Mayor Jenny Dowell, Bundjalung Traditional owner Dorothy Roberts, Emelda Davis ASSIPJ President, Federal Member for Page Kevin Hogan, Shelly Nagas community coordinator. Thank you to ASSI organisations from Sunshine Coast, Brisbane, Bundaberg and Sydney. National ASSI Assoc constitutional consultations were also a positive outcome of the 3-day forum. Shelly Nagas 'One Voice One People' coordinator for Wantok Lismore 2015. More information via our website: <http://www.assipj.com.au/nsw-state-body-working-group-formed/>

Casula Powerhouse Arts
Centre 2015



LIVERPOOL LORD MAYOR (far right), SAMOA HIGH COMMISSIONER (far left), VANUATU HIGH COMMISSIONER (middle)



(left) Lola Foresters, VU High Commissioner Kalfau Kaloris, VU Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato Kilman, Alex Greenwich, MP, Emelda Davis, Patricia Corowa, VU delegate, Shireen Malamoo

ASSIPJ Tuff
Tumas -
Addison Rd
Community
Centre



Elders yarn on
identity,
kastom &
culture



Wantok NSW
Danny Togo Vice
President -
broader
community
audiences

Addison Road - Community Centre.



Emelda Davis

November 15, 2024



Add a description

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Emmanuel Fewquandie, Joël Kalpram, Nasa Leivere and 28 others like this.

Leonee Binge Deady January 27 at 1:24pm · Like

Michael Philp Deady no more blackbirding January 27 at 3:41pm · Like

Write a comment...

Sunday 24th August 2014

... 1994 to 2014 Commonwealth Recognition of

Australian South Sea Islanders

9:30am – 1030am Special ASSI Recognition Day Church service

Venue: St Johns Church 128A Glebe Point Rd, Glebe NSW 2037 (02) 9552 4164

- reading by Pastor Ray Minniecon
- performance Shireen Malambo

2:30pm sharp

Recognition lunch program

Venue: St Johns Hall (diagonally across the road from the Church at 132 St Johns Rd, Glebe)

Speeches:

1. Acknowledgement of Country - Pastor Ray Minniecon
2. MC Graham Mooney ASSI history in NSW
3. Vice President ASSI/PJ - Danny Togo history on the call for recognition
4. Alex Greenwich (Member for Sydney) speech re NSW recognition and ABS Census
5. NSW Council for Pacific Communities - Chair Malaehi Freuan
6. Emelda Davis - Thank you, sponsors, Wantak NSW

3:00pm

Performance: Pastor Ray and Auntie Shireen performance

3:15pm

Lunch & Performance: performance: African drumming 'Dadumba' menu: Palusami, Curry Chicken, Fried Chicken, Salad desert: Chocolate balled cake, Orange cake, Banoffi pie

4:15pm

Film screening: Mrs Faith Bandler, AO - Civil Rights Activist Faith was also a founding member of the Federal Council for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, becoming the director of its referendum campaign in 1967. NSW state secretary from 1962 to 1970 and general secretary from 1970 to 1973. In 1974, Faith decided to direct her energies to the plight of her own people and founded the National Commission for Australian South Sea Islanders.

Australian South Sea Islander Recognition Day...

25th August 2014

2014 marks 20 years since the Commonwealth recognised Australian South Sea Islanders (ASSI) as a distinct cultural group. ASSIs are the descendants of some 55,000 Melanesian labourers bought to Australia under the indentured labourer trade akin to slavery.

Recognition Day for Australian South Sea Islander peoples is commemorated on August 25th each year. The trade affected more than 80 islands in the Western Pacific including the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu (formerly the New Hebrides) in Melanesia, and the Loyalty Islands, Samoa, Kiribati, Rotuma (Fiji), Tuvalu in Polynesia and Micronesia reaping some islands of their entire male population. Benjamin Boyd an entrepreneur adventurer bought the first 226 labourers to NSW in 1847. Many ASSI people were taken to QLD between 1863-1908 to establish Australia's economical base in sugar cane, maritime and pastoral industries. Some 15,000 died in a forty-year period still un-mourned and in unmarked graves.

The deceased estate wages of these people, paid for the Commonwealth Government's 'White Australia Policies' and the inhumane mass deportation of over 7,000 ASSIs. There is an estimated 40,000 surviving ASSI descendants today. They make up Australia's rich celebrated NSW & QLD community icons such as:

Mrs. Faith Bandler AO born in Yumbulgun NSW who was responsible for the 1967 referendum that saw Indigenous Australians vote for the first time, Judge Bob Belleir our first Indigenous / ASSI judge from Tweed Heads, Sports icons like Mal Meninga, and Gordon Tallis.

Despite our celebrated heroes the ASSI community still remains marginalised and unrecognized, suffering the same issues of poor health and education and access to development opportunities as Indigenous Australians. The Australian South Sea Islanders (Port Jackson) branch develops capacity building workshops for the ASSI and broader community groups in creating a greater understanding of this untold, shared history.

We are thankful for the generous support by the St Johns Church Glebe, NSW Community Relations Commission, Minister for Communities Victor Dominello, (member for Sydney) Alex Greenwich, Greens Minister Jamie Parker.

For more information: Email: assi.pj@gmail.com

Phone: 0416300946 www.assipj.com.au



Zac speaks about identity from a youth perspective

Participants African, ASSI and Indigenous performers welcome to country





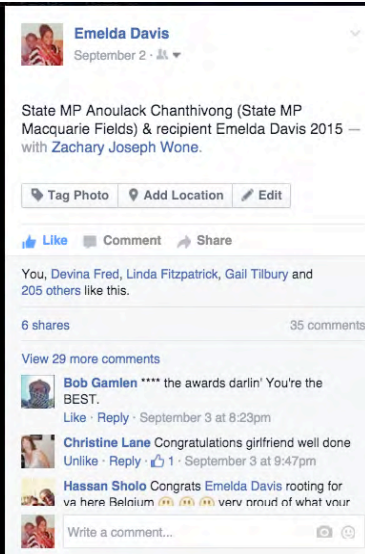
Aspiring politicians Wantok presentation



Wantok Tweed Heads nominated community representatives



ASSIPJ and Fijian community leaders with Megan Davis chair of United Nations Permanent Forum



Wantok Tweed Heads participants

2015 NSW Council for Pacific Communities Award presented by State MP Anoulack Chanthivong



(left) Elders consultation 'Roberts' family, Northern Rivers



Prime 7 Lismore – News story



(left) Hon Linda Burney & Sato Kilman VU Minister for Foreign Affairs



Broader community talks audiences on blackbirding



(left) ABC TV – Q&A program comment on blackbirding history and Indigenous Affairs



Writers Guild talks with Women youth leaders roundtable on blackbirding