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Senior APY leader rejects claim that communities want income management

Murray George, a senior Aboriginal leader from the APY Lands, has spoken out against claims by Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin that Aboriginal communities called for the introduction of income management during a recent round of consultation meetings.

Mr George, an executive member of the APY Lands Council and chairperson for Law and Culture, travelled to all six community meetings organised by government representatives on the Lands between May 8 – May 17 2012. These meetings were promoted as consultation sessions for both a Regional Partnership Agreement and income management.

Mr George says that, in all meetings, community members overwhelmingly rejected proposals to introduce income management and urged the government to focus on issues of funding for communities and homelands.

The meetings were well attended in every community and went for approximately three hours.

Strong concerns were expressed about the government giving itself more power to control Aboriginal people through income management.

Mr George has written an open letter in Pitjantjatjara to all APY community members. A translation of this letter can be found in full attached to this media release.

The translated letter says:

“I travelled to every community to talk about income management. There are a lot of things inside income management, we couldn’t understand, so we left it to the government to explain to us clear, so we can understand.”

“As we were talking about the income management every community were not happy for income management – stating - **Wantingiya** - we are not happy, we do not agree with income management.”

“All the children are not skinny, they are healthy our children are taught their culture. In our country when we teach young people our Tjukurpa (way-of-life). Our Tjukurpa is passed on from generation to generation our culture never finishes it remains forever.”

For comment contact:
Murray George

Open letter income management – Pitjantjatjara and English

Nyangatja Lita ala income management Tjara.

Ngayalu anu community tjutakutu wangkatjakitja ara panya income management wangkatjakitja. Ara Tjukurpa tjutajara naganana putu kulini palyanti kalanya tjinguru ngula nintilku kala kulilku Government tjutangku wangkara nintinyangka.

Kala wakangi panya income management tjara tjana pulkupa wiya community tjuta nguru -
WANTINGIYA

Kulinma tjara kutjupaya tjungurkupai pulu nganana uti kulinma nganampa Anangu tjutaku wangkajitkitja-ngku government- nta kulintja wiyangku.

Palu kuliya Anangu tjuta nganana Tjukurpa wankatjara nyinanyi manta nganampangka ka ngayalu wangkanyi nganampa mantangka yangupala tjutangku ngatjipai wiya munu Tjitji tjuta nyurkanyurka wiya

Ka nganana Tjukurpa nintilpai – Palya

Ka tjana ngapartji Tjukurpa nintilpai palya kutjupa tjuta nganampa mantangka wiyaringkutja wiya titutjara alatjitu munu nganana ninti nganampa tjukurngura uwankaraku

Ka yangulapa ankupai parari ngura kutjupa kutu munu mantjilpai urkiri wama munu malakungku manta kutu katipai nyangatja nganampa ara wiya. Ka nyuntu nganana kulinma. Nyangatja panya kanpa walypalaku.

Nganana warkaripai government tjutaku munula ngunti wangkapai.

Nyinanyi utila tjukururungku wangkama.

NGANANA UTI MANTA NGANAMPA KUNPU KANYINMA

APY-NGKA UNNGU

UNTI WANGATJA WIYANGKU GOVERNMENT-NGA

Murray George

Chairman: APY Law and Culture Council 23/7/2012

Open letter Income Management (translation)

(Murray George speaking about visit to APY lands by Jenny Macklin re; Regional Partner Agreement and Income Management)

I travelled to every community to talk about income management. There are a lot of things inside income management, we couldn't understand, so we left it to the government to explain to us clear, so we can understand.

As we were talking about the income management every community were not happy for income management – stating - **Wantingiya** - we are not happy, we do not agree with income management.

Inside income management there a lot of things, we can't see?

Listen! Some people join in with government but we should listen to our people and stop just following government.

All Anangu have to listen, we have our own culture.

In our country, some young people don't make humbug.

All the children are not skinny, they are healthy our children are taught their culture.

In our country when we teach young people our Tjukurpa (way-of-life). Our Tjukurpa is passed on from generation to generation our culture never finishes it remains forever.

When young people travel to another country and they buy marijuana and alcohol if they bring it back to our community- this is not our way. People have to think? All these bad things come from outside our country.

When we work for government we should not tell lies, we should speak straight and honest. We should keep our country strong inside Anangu Pitjantjatjara/ Yankunytjatjara Land.

Murray George

Chairman: APY law and Culture Council english translation.

23/7/2012