



PROPER WAY CONSULTANTS

Working to improve the outcomes of programs in Aboriginal communities

Thinking of engaging a consultancy group to work in remote Australia?

Does your work include communication and interaction with remote Aboriginal people on community?

There are a number of people out there who you may think are worth looking at.

In order to ensure success you need to know if they have the following skills:

- A clear understanding of the cultures that make up Aboriginal Australia
- Experience in working in remote Aboriginal Communities
- Vast contacts across the remote sector with special knowledge and familial contacts throughout the central desert and beyond.
- Knowledge of how to ensure maximum 'buy in' by the local people.
- The ability to identify leaders and spokespeople in a given community
- Access to translators to overcome Language barriers
- An understanding of the different gender issues

Do they understand the impediments to achievable time frames?

Are they clear about how to determine success or failure in the local as well as funding body context?

Do they know the community you wish to work in?

Are they able to determine if the community shares your priorities and will want what you want as a project?

How will they communicate the benefits of the project and to whom?

Do they know how to go about employing local people?

Are they able to provide orientation for the project team – food, technology, culture, transport, taboos, who to turn to when concerned, how much to get involved?

Do they have an understanding of important customs that are vital for effective communication, such as:

- Avoidance
- Kinship – skin names and relationships
- Where meetings can be held
- Ceremonies and timing
- Sorry business
- The dreaming and its impact on behaviour
- Local food and resources
- Places to avoid
- Offensive behavior
- Sacred sites and land
- On-going feedback
- What constitutes a community?
- Importance of age



Do they have a clear knowledge of:

- Role of the local Council
- Local politics
- The relationships with other non Indigenous stakeholders in the community
- Expectations – yours and the community's
- Local Governance

Do they have:

- 4WD training?
- Knowledge of bush survival
- A vehicle that is suitably equipped
- Digital technology contact devices
- Suitable water needs covered
- First Aid in the vehicle
- An understanding of the limitations of shopping facilities in communities?

Do they understand the impact of weather on remote community work?

Do they have the correct paper work, such as:

- Entry permits
- Permissions
- Police check (where needed)
- Working with children (where needed)

Do they understand the additional needs when teaching Governance to newly formed or existing Aboriginal Boards and Councils?

The Proper Way consultants can say yes to all of these questions as well as having 25 years' senior management experience, experience as an aboriginal case worker and community liaison person and a qualification as an Aboriginal Health Practitioner.

By all means have a look around but only if another group can say yes to all of these questions, should you consider them for this challenging and exciting work.