

BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



MEDIA RELEASE

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Council wins fight for bigger slice of youth funding pie

Barkly Regional Council (BRC) has announced that the youth funding slashed under the Federal Government's Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) has been reinstated.

BRC CEO Edwina Marks said council talks with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PMC) to renegotiate IAS funding, including youth-related activities, had been hugely successful with nearly \$2m put on the table for a two-year period.

Since the announcement in February that 27 Indigenous jobs with Sport and Recreation were on the line, council has been renegotiating with the local office of the PMC.

President Barb Shaw said at the time that while the council was very grateful to the Federal Government for receiving a proportion of its funding submission when so many missed out, "it was disappointing that key programs for safety and wellbeing had been slashed or not funded at all, especially for young people".

In early March the Federal Government agreed in principle to reinstate \$446,000 under the Indigenous Sport and Active Recreation Program (ISARP) to BRC.

However, council continued to lobby for more funding for youth-related activities to recover the additional shortfall from the original IAS application.

"We explained that the original amount was not nearly enough to deliver frontline services for youth-related activity in a land mass as big as the state of Victoria," said Dr Marks. "Jobs were still on the line if any of the funding went.

Dr Marks said final IAS figures showed that council received \$1.9m extra to deliver a whole range of programmes, including youth-related activity under safety and wellbeing and night patrol.

"This funding is critical to retaining jobs on the ground across the region. It has saved real jobs for real people, which is fantastic news for the bush and its communities," said Dr Marks.

Council's IAS funding includes 2.5 years for delivery of night patrol and two years for the school nutrition program, Elliott community radio, youth transition and the Elliott playgroup bringing the total IAS funding stream to \$11.8 million.

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