

## MEDIA RELEASE



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### **Budget delivers investment in remote communities**

**ANTaR has welcomed long-term funding delivered by the Budget for essential services in remote communities, along with new governance and leadership programs.**

“ANTaR has welcomed long-term funding of more the \$3.4 billion over 10 years to fund health, education, justice and homelands services in the NT as a significant development. This offers funding security for remote communities and will enable local community organisations to plan for the future,” said Jacqueline Phillips, National Director.

“The announcement of funds to employ Indigenous Engagement Officers in remote communities and programs to support governance and leadership are also welcomed as positive developments.”

“ANTaR hopes this will facilitate increased local Aboriginal participation in the coordination and delivery of services and build governance and leadership capacity in communities.”

“However, these initiatives sit uneasily with the Government's Stronger Futures bills which are listed for debate in the Senate today. Should these bills pass without major changes, ANTaR fears further long-term damage to relationships between many NT Aboriginal communities and governments.”

With the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mabo decision next month, ANTaR is disappointed that the Government has not delivered much needed funding to native title bodies. Native Title Representative Bodies and Prescribed Bodies Corporate are central to the recognition, management and administration of native title claims yet are chronically under-funded.

“The best way to improve native title outcomes is to level the playing field. Adequate funding for native title bodies would support this objective and should be considered a high priority for the Government.”

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