



## Premier of Western Australia

Our Ref: 24-508068

Ms Melissa Stoneham  
Public Health Advocacy Institute of Western Australia  
GPO Box U1987  
PERTH WA 6845

Dear Ms Stoneham

Thank you to you and your co-signees for writing to me with your concerns about recent developments in funding for essential services to remote Aboriginal communities.

The State Government's objective is that Aboriginal people are able to live in communities that are sustainable and safe, with access to education and employment opportunities.

The decision by the Commonwealth Government to withdraw its future funding for essential and municipal services to remote Aboriginal communities and a lack of certainty about other federal Indigenous support programs has accelerated the need for the State Government to make important decisions about the future funding of services in some remote Aboriginal communities.

The State Government has no desire to move Aboriginal people from their traditional lands and most residents will be able to remain in place if they choose, but in some cases some government funded services might no longer be provided at that location.

Decisions will not be made in haste and no decision has been made in relation to any community. The State Government will undertake an assessment of each remote community and the capacity to meet the needs of their residents in a sustainable way. This will include extensive consultation with community residents, local governments and service providers.

This process will take time and be carefully planned to ensure we build stronger more sustainable communities that provide greater opportunities for Aboriginal people in Western Australia.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Colin Barnett'.

Colin Barnett MLA  
**PREMIER**

3 FEB 2015