

AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL INCLUSION BOARD

Meeting outcomes, 18 November 2009

Welcome and Chair's report

The Board noted:

- apologies from Kerry Graham, John Falzon, Fiona Stanley and Eddie McGuire;
- the Chair's report on key discussions and developments since the 26 August meeting;
- reports from attendees on their consultations with stakeholders at the Bridgewater Forum on 17 November.

Ministers' meeting & National Action Plan

The Board noted:

- the report from the Vice-Chair on the meeting of Social Inclusion Ministers in Adelaide on 18 September, and the meeting communiqué

Statement, Board Report on the State of Social Inclusion & Social Inclusion Index

The Board:

- noted the latest draft of Australian Government social inclusion policy statement and provided comments;
- endorsed the proposed Social Inclusion Measurement and Reporting framework for consideration by the Australian Government;
- endorsed the Board report, *Social Inclusion in Australia: How Australia is faring*, and agreed to a launch in mid-January 2010,
 - › with the Chair's foreword to be finalised out of session and a description of the Board's work to date to be added; and,
- agreed to the initial use of summary measures on social inclusion covering: multiple disadvantage; at risk population groups; key participation outcomes; and locational concentration of disadvantage

Work planning

The Board:

- noted the updates on emerging areas of policy development of relevance to the Social Inclusion Agenda from: the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations; the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; and, the Department of Health and Ageing
- agreed to develop project proposals for the development of advice for discussion by Board members at the next meeting on 27 January 2010, including a centrepiece on an overarching project on breaking the cycle of disadvantage.

Projects

The Board:

- agreed to conclude the conditionality project following a final review of the presentation of evidence in the paper, and to provide advice to the Deputy Prime Minister & Minister Macklin on its main findings
- noted data presented by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations on characteristics of people subject to payment suspensions, and trends over time;
- agreed to conclude the project on Engaging Children at Risk of Separating from Education, and
 - › recommend to the Minister that the Indigenous Coordinator General may be charged to identify gaps or blockages in providing quality education in indigenous communities
- agreed to conclude the social enterprise project, and
 - › consider further work on social procurement & intermediate labour markets as a possible 2010 project.

Social inclusion in Tasmania

The Board:

- noted the presentation by Professor David Adams on the Social Inclusion Strategy for Tasmania.

Other issues

The Board:

- agreed to provide advice to the Deputy Prime Minister on possible measures to alleviate the impact of recent Youth Allowance changes on students in rural localities based on suggestions in the paper tabled by Tony Vinson;
 - noted the update by DEEWR on jobless families pilots, and agreed to advise the Deputy Prime Minister of Board concerns regarding the focus & progress of pilots;
 - noted the update by Elleni Bereded-Samuel on the refugee resettlement roundtable
 - › recommendations of the roundtable are to be provided at the next Board meeting;
 - noted the update on the Government's Social Inclusion Conference in January 2010, and agreed to advise the Secretariat of any final suggestions for speakers, facilitators and topics;
 - agreed to provide a letter to the Prime Minister supporting his apology to the Forgotten Australians; and
 - noted the table of correspondence received September to November 2009.
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