



LUNCHTIME SEMINAR

Indigenous Employment, Training and Enterprises: What Works and What Doesn't?

Mr Barry Taylor, General Manager and Executive Chair, Ngarda Civil and Mining Pty Ltd

Thursday 3 July 2008: 1.00 - 2.00pm

Venue: DCD Theatre, 189 Royal Street, East Perth

This seminar is free of charge and open to all who are interested.

SEMINAR OVERVIEW

Barry is a Nyamal man who has a long history in the Pilbara. He is the son of Peter Coppin, one of the leaders of the successful 1946-49 Aboriginal stockmen's strike, the first strike by Aboriginal workers. He was elected Chairman of the Ngarda Ngarli Yarndu ATSIC Regional Council in 2002 and during his tenure, held a number of government board positions including Chairman ATSIC Western Australian State Council and Deputy Chairman – Aboriginal Housing Infrastructure Council. More recently, he was one of a hundred Indigenous Affairs delegates to the 2020 Summit held in Canberra in April 2008.

From dissatisfaction with the lack of progress in economic development for Aboriginal people in the Western Pilbara Region, the idea of an independent body that would nurture commercial opportunities developed. In 2001 Henry Walker Eltin, Ngarda Ngarli Yarndu Foundation Inc. and Indigenous Business Australia developed a business model they believed would give Indigenous people the training and skills necessary to meet the industries needs, thus creating a sustainable, long-term and profitable venture. This was to provide an avenue to increase Indigenous employment and involve the local Indigenous people in the benefits that flow from the resource projects of Western Australia. While the mining boom of the 1960s largely bypassed the Aboriginal population of the Pilbara because the indigenous stockmen and port labourers lacked the necessary skills, this time around, with the region experiencing a China-led commodity boom, there is a new determination for Aborigines to get on board.

Having started with whipper-snippers and lawnmowers, Ngarda led by its General Manager and Executive Chair, is now riding the mining boom, with more than \$50 million in contracts and a fleet of trucks and graders. It employs almost 170 people, 85 per cent indigenous. Ngarda also provides entry-level positions for Indigenous workers so they can acquire the core skills to get a job with a mining or contracting company.

Barry will draw from personal experience in talking about what makes for successful initiatives in the area of Indigenous employment, training and enterprises, and what doesn't. If you are interested in a hard nosed and practical examination of current initiatives in Indigenous Affairs, you will find this seminar to be most illuminating.

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