

Purte Warrke-Irreme (Working Together)

Expression of Interest: Evaluation

Prepared by Central Land Council

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Key details

EOI Title	Evaluation Partner for Purte Warrke-Irreme – remote youth employment trial in Ltyentye Apurte
EOI closing date	5pm ACST, Tuesday 21 July 2026 <i>Responses should be received by this date/time to be considered. CLC reserves the right to accept or reject late responses.</i>
Contact details for EOI	Jorge Basave PWI Program Manager E: Jorge.basave@clc.org.au
Submission details	Proposals must be lodged via email to: jorge.basave@clc.org.au
Proposed Contract Period	Sept 2026 – December 2030

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1. Background and purpose of evaluation

The Central Land Council (CLC), in partnership with Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation (AAAC), is seeking Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified organisations to deliver the evaluation of Purte Warrke-Irreme, a five-year community-led youth employment and leadership trial in Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa).

Overview of Purte Warrke-Irreme

Purte Warrke-Irreme (working together) is a community-led youth employment and leadership program that is being trialled in Ltyentye Apurte, around 80 kms south-east of Alice Springs.

Purte Warrke-Irreme focuses on building community-led employment pathways for young people aged 15–24, bridging the transition from school to work while strengthening skills, confidence, and decision-making. The trial will generate insights to inform national reform, particularly the need for more tailored approaches to youth employment beyond current one-size-fits-all models, supported by strong local governance and community capacity.

The model includes 3 key elements:

- **Funded entry-level jobs for young people in existing organisations:** Providing funding for local organisations to create dedicated youth positions that provide entry-level opportunities in Ltyentye Apurte
- **Quality support:** Quality, tailored and culturally appropriate support will be provided to help set up participants to succeed in their first job
- **Leadership development:** A range of opportunities that build young people's confidence, broaden their horizons, and help equip them to become future leaders

The aims of Purte Warrke-Irreme are to:

- Test a model of community-led youth employment pathways to generate lessons for national policy and program design, identifying the enabling conditions for success, what is effective at a local level and why, and scalable elements of the model
- Demonstrate the impact of a genuine community-led approach
- Evidence the need for government investment in community-led remote youth employment and leadership pathways

The trial is funded for 5 years and will be delivered from early 2026 to December 2030.

2. Evaluation objectives and approach

The evaluation will seek to understand what was learned and the outcomes created through Purte Warrke-Irreme, both at a community level and the impact on government policy and reform, as well as exploring how effectively the program was delivered and opportunities to improve the model.

Our evaluation approach will play a critical role in ensuring community control is at the centre of the trial. Key to this will be articulating the outcomes defined as most important to community, and creating a meaningful process for the local steering committee to participate in tracking the outcomes of the trial and make sure it's going in the right direction. The evaluation will be used to build the evidence base to influence government's remote employment policy and reform, sharing what was learnt and strengthening advocacy efforts.

Underlying approach to the evaluation

- **Community-led:** One of the primary participants and audiences for evaluation activities is the local steering committee, helping them make informed decisions to oversee Purte Warrke-Irreme. Additionally, the program team and evaluation partner will also work together with community researchers from Ltyentye Apurte to undertake evaluation activities, building on the work of Phase 1. It will involve developing a community-led approach to evaluation

activities and increasing the capabilities of community researchers through training and development. The CLC will employ the community researchers and will collaborate with the evaluation partner applying successful community research approaches applied in the CLC's community development team

- **Developmental evaluation:** The evaluation will take a reflective and adaptive approach given the complex and dynamic context in which the trial is being implemented. The evaluation activities will begin at the start of the trial and be embedded within the program team. Regular reflective practice will ensure the trial can adapt and respond to what we learn
- **Summative evaluation (mixed-methods research):** The evaluation will culminate in a mid-trial evaluation report and summative evaluation report at the end of the trial, aiming to assess if the trial achieved its objectives and understand its overall effectiveness. This rigorous approach will be important in building the case for policy change

Relevant work already undertaken during the design phase

A considerable amount of evaluation-related work has already been undertaken during the design phase, which will serve as useful context and a foundation for the evaluation of the delivery of Purte Warrke-Irreme. However, it is important to note that because the task of the design phase was to determine the priority and focus of the trial in Ltyentye Apurte, these existing resources mostly focus on remote employment more generally, not specifically the youth component.

This includes:

- Baseline data report, including an analysis of local demographics, employment, social security and income in Ltyentye Apurte
- Qualitative consultation findings from the design phase
- Policy Analysis: Klein, E., & Markham, F. (2025), *A review of remote employment policy: Where are we, and how did we get here?* (commissioned report) Centre for Indigenous Policy Research, Australian National University
- Key outcomes for Purte Warrke-Irreme - developed with the steering committee (see appendices)
- Preliminary theory of change, building upon the key outcomes - developed by the CLC (see appendices)

3. Scope of works

The evaluation approach will combine both elements of a Development Evaluation approach and a rigorous summative evaluation, using both qualitative and quantitative methods. The evaluation must be community-led, culturally safe, ethical and aligned with Indigenous data governance principles. CLC will work collaboratively with the evaluation partner to support this.

The scope includes, but is not limited to, the following activities:

Start of trial (first year)

- Desktop review exploring existing program documentation and external literature on remote youth employment
- Refine the theory of change and develop key measures and indicators for evaluating the trial, through working collaboratively with the program team, young adults, community Researchers and steering committee
- Undertake baseline qualitative data collection with young adults in Ltyentye Apurte in collaboration with the project team and community researchers, building upon the existing baseline data report from the Design Phase. Key findings and data to be presented in a report
- Develop monitoring and evaluation plan

Mid trial

- Interim evaluation in Year 3, including a written report and presentation of findings to the steering committee and program partners

End of trial

- Document final summative evaluation
- Present evaluation findings to key stakeholders

Ongoing annual activities as part of reflective practice

- Ongoing monitoring cycles every six months (starting in Year 2), including:
 - **Collecting stories and data** – Undertaking qualitative and quantitative data collection from program participants, community members, steering committee, project partners and program team
 - **Making sense of what we heard** – Analysing data collected and identifying themes and trends, validating findings with the community researchers, and mapping what we heard to the theory of change
 - **Learning from what we heard** – Bi-annual reflection and learning sessions with the project team and steering committee, based on key findings
- **Sharing what we learnt** – Developing an annual impact report (5/10 pages), documenting the journey, outcomes and lessons of Purte Warrke-Irreme for each year

Key stakeholders to engage

- Program participants – young adults aged 15-24
- Steering committee members
- Other young adults in the participant cohort
- Family of participants and broader community
- Employers
- Program delivery staff and management
- RAES provider (CatholicCare NT)
- And others as identified by the steering committee and/or CLC during the program implementation

Working with Community Researchers

Local community researchers will be engaged to support the evaluation of Purte Warrke-Irreme. The community researchers will be employed on a casual basis by the CLC, who will be responsible for day-to-day management of work. The evaluation partner must be able to work collaboratively with the community researchers to support a community-led approach to this evaluation. This would include working with community researchers to test and co-design evaluation questions and data collection approaches, to undertake interviews with participants, to validate findings and share the findings back to community. The evaluation partner will also support the training and upskilling of the community researchers.

4. Budget and contract

Indicative total budget for the evaluation falls within the range of \$350k and \$420k (incl. GST).

Given this is a community-led and place-based trial, we will seek to engage a research partner that is able to prioritise travel to Ltyentye Apurte, particularly to undertake the baseline data collection, and data collection as part of the annual monitoring cycles, interim evaluation and final evaluation.

Pricing must include travel expenses and delivery cost. Vehicle travel and accommodation will be provided by the CLC and AAAC when visiting Ltyentye Apurte. This does not include time spent in Alice Springs.

The evaluation contract is expected to commence in late August 2026, delivering until December 2030.

5. Expression of interest

The procurement of the evaluation partner will be undertaken in two stages, first through inviting suppliers to register their interest in responding through an EOI. Suitable candidates will then be shortlisted and invited to respond to a detailed Request for Proposal (RFP).

Suppliers responding to this EOI will be shortlisted, using the following criteria of essential capabilities required to deliver this evaluation:

- Demonstrated experience delivering evaluations in the remote Aboriginal community context and working in a culturally appropriate way
- Ability to deliver developmental and summative evaluations
- Strong track record working with and in partnership with Aboriginal community controlled organisations
- Ability to evaluate policy change
- Organisational ability and track record in effectively managing and delivering projects of similar size and complexity

In addition, experience and expertise in the following will be highly desirable:

- Demonstrated skills, knowledge and experience in youth services, education or remote employment programs, particularly in the remote context
- Place-based and community-led initiatives
- Capacity building with community researchers

EOI Response Requirements

Interested parties will be assessed based on the below weighted criteria and are invited to submit a concise response (in Word preferably 5–8 pages) addressing:

- 1. Understanding of the task and context – 15%:** understanding of the PWI program, evaluation purpose, remote Aboriginal community context, and the role of a MEL partner over five years.
- 2. Proposed approach – 25%:** quality and suitability of the proposed high-level evaluation approach, including community-led processes, culturally appropriate practice, developmental and summative evaluation, and evaluation of policy change.
- 3. Relevant experience and track record – 30%:** demonstrated experience delivering similar work, especially in remote Aboriginal community contexts, in partnership with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, and on projects of similar size and complexity.
- 4. Team capability and resourcing – 20%:** suitability of the proposed team structure, key personnel, expertise mix, and organisational capacity to deliver the work over the life of the program.
- 5. Availability and practical delivery capacity – 10%:** demonstrated ability and availability to travel to Ltyentye Apurte and undertake on-ground evaluation activities in a remote setting.

Key procurement dates

- EOI released: Tuesday 30 June 2026
- EOI close: Tuesday 21 July 2026
- RFP issued: Monday 10 Aug 2026
- RFP submissions close: Friday 28 Aug 2026
- Evaluation partner appointed: Late Sept 2026

Conflicts of interest

Suppliers must include in their response to this ROI any personal disclosures of team members that may present a conflict of interest.

Conditions

Upon final contracting, the successful supplier will be required to provide copies of:

- Public liability insurance for at least \$10 million;
- Professional indemnity insurance for at least \$5 million; and
- Workers compensation insurance if the consultant employs any person for the purpose of this agreement.