



Community Forum held by the CAIE

The community forum was held for the Indigenous community to come along and listen and also ask questions about the process for establishing an Indigenous focused Credit Union in SEQ.

When: Thursday June 19 2008 - 12.00 - 1.30pm
Where: Aboriginal and Islander Community Health Service
60 Ferry Rd West End

Guest Speakers:

Cathy Hunt - General Manager of the Traditional Credit Union in the Northern Territory
Wayne Coolwell - Chairperson of the CAIE

Attended by;

Aunty Valda Coolwell -President of the Brisbane council of Elders.

Ruth Link – Community Elder

Aunty Mulinjarlie - Community Elder

Joy and Gary Cowburn.16 Fletcher St, Gladston, 4680 QLD, 49720883

Derek Kinchela – Indigenous Community Development Officer, Ipswich City council.
dkinchela@ipswich.qld.gov.au

Debbie West, Karina Henaway – ATSIWLAS - 3392 3177

Eddie Ruska, Leeanne – 'We care'

Uncle Steven Mam – Community Elder

Aunty Janette and Uncle Hughie Kirk

Susan Ashton - CAIE

An information pack provided by Cathy Hunt about the NT Traditional credit union was given to everyone in attendance.

Minutes

The forum had a very positive outcome with a lot of questions answered and concerns raised. The main points raised are as follow;

Who would be running the Credit union?

Cathy Hunt:

As with the Traditional credit union it will have a Board of directors made up of both Indigenous and non Indigenous members.

The Indigenous Board directors will be made up of leaders from several different Indigenous communities who will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Board in addition to representing the people of their regions.

The Non-Indigenous Board directors will be made up of people that will bring a range of valuable professional skills to the Board, with backgrounds in Finance, Law and Government.

Staff

The employee base will consist primarily of Indigenous people who live in the community that the credit union will service, with roles ranging from Teller to General Manager. Our goal will be to provide a number of career pathways in customer service and administration through to management.

Will it be a profitable Organisation like other lending establishments?

Cathy Hunt:

The role of the Credit union is to assist community members to build better lives for themselves and improve their living standards through enhanced money management and assist Indigenous communities to manage their future and fulfil their economic potential. Any profit that is made is put back into the communities that support it by way of sponsorship for a sporting team, academic course, cultural event or any other worthwhile cause.

Will the fees and charges be higher than a normal Bank?

Cathy Hunt:

No, our charges are on par with most lending establishments and in some cases better. You will find a copy of our fees and charges in the information pack provided.

What services will be available and will the service be easy to access?

Cathy Hunt:

In the Northern Territory we don't have key cards because of the remoteness of a lot of our locations. For SEQ we would look at creating normal key cards that will work in any ATM and also look at the possibility of purchasing our own ATM machines thereby cutting down on the fees charged for using other merchants ATMs.

Outcome

The overall consensus was one of excitement and enthusiasm towards this initiative.

A motion put forth by Uncle Steven and passed with a unanimous vote by all in attendance was to give full backing and support to the establishment of an Indigenous credit union.

There was also a discussion to hold another community forum about this initiative in July at Ipswich. It was mentioned that Derek Kinchella from Ipswich would be the major organiser of this meeting. It was agreed that he would ask the local council to hold the event in the council somewhere and he was going to put those logistics together and also chase other Ipswich community people for the event. A suggestion was made for the CAIE to have some sort of presence at the NAIDOC Musgrave Park celebrations in early July.

Things to follow up

The CAIE will continue to send out and collect finance questionnaires, inform the Indigenous community well in advance about the upcoming community forum and continue to liaise with the Council of Elders about this ongoing project.

Contact Derek Kinchella in regards to Ipswich Community Forum.
Organise for the CAIE to be at the NAIDOC family day.