

Local Decision Making

What is Local Decision Making?

Local Decision Making is a Northern Territory Government commitment to provide opportunities to transfer government service delivery to Aboriginal people and organisations based on their community aspirations.

This means that Government and Aboriginal communities can work together on developing policies and practices for service delivery areas such as housing; local government; education, training and jobs; health; children and families; and law and justice. Some communities may want to focus on other services such as sports and recreation or women's policy.

What will happen to the programs already working in our community?

Government knows there is already some good work being done from various agencies as well as community organisations and would like to build on those programs to ensure they can maximise the best outcomes for communities. Government will work with communities to see if more can be done and what sort of support is needed. The Department of the Chief Minister will work with government agencies and communities to develop a process map based on community aspirations to have a greater control of service delivery.

How long will it take?

This is a 10 year plan, local Decision Making will only occur if the people and organisations in a community want to be involved. DCM will work with organisations like Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the Northern Territory (APO NT) to ensure that consultations with people and community are appropriate and transparent. In addition, an Aboriginal Affairs Sub-Committee of Cabinet (AASCC) has been established to provide oversight of the process.

What do Aboriginal people and communities need to do to be able to be involved in Local Decision Making?

The Northern Territory Government is committed to Local Decision Making and working with Aboriginal people about how this may look and what it will mean for each community based on their ideas.

Government recognises that building, supporting and investing in strong Aboriginal governance is necessary to ensure local people drive local solutions and that Aboriginal organisations are supported in the management of Local Decision Making.

Local Decision Making will happen at a pace that suits your community and organisation.

In the 2017-2018 year, Local Decision Making will begin with a small number of sites depending on interest and the community capacity to participate.

Information packs will be provided to communities to explain how the program works and how to get involved.

It is important to acknowledge that this will not work unless there is strong community support. Therefore the organisations and the people in the community need to agree, be committed and work collaboratively.

Who in Government?

The Department of the Chief Minister will work with agencies to help the development and implementation of Local Decision Making.

Within DCM, the Office of Aboriginal Affairs and the Regional Executive Directors located in every region will assist to coordinate across agencies and work with APO NT to provide support, monitoring and reporting.

How will it be done?

The Local Decision Making process will be guided and focused on by three streams:

1. getting government ready;
2. working with partners to get ready; and
3. bringing people on the journey.

Contact

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