

CONFIDENTIAL

CABINET DECISION

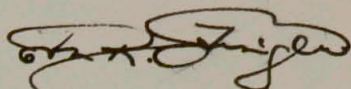
NO. 637

---

Submission No.: 555

Title: CONDUCT SURVEY ON YOUTH NEEDS FOR THE  
TERRITORY.

Cabinet noted the proposal to engage Australian Frontier Incorporated to undertake a survey on youth needs and requested that it be done within 4 months with particular emphasis on determining precisely what youth themselves want and not what youth orientated organisations think they should want or have.



(M.R. FINGER),  
Secretary to Cabinet.

21 March, 1979.

---

CONFIDENTIAL

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

CONFIDENTIAL

Copy No. 1

FOR CABINET

SUBMISSION No. 555

Title:	Conduct Survey on Youth needs for the Northern Territory.
Cabinet Member	Youth, Sport and Recreation
Purpose:	To provide the Minister and the Department with substantial information and possible options for action, regarding matters concerning the young people of the Northern Territory.
Relation to existing policy:	This compliments existing policy to seek detailed knowledge and advice on Youth issues. It also supplements the existing policy of involving the community through its available networks and organisations.
Timing/ legislative priority:	As the consultants are able to commence immediately the proposal will be introduced following Cabinet approval.
Announcement of decision, tabling, etc.:	Draft Press Release is at Attachment A.
Action required before announcement:	None
Staffing implications, numbers and costs, etc.:	No additional staff required.
Total cost:	\$49,370. Payable to consultants. Funds will come from existing appropriations.

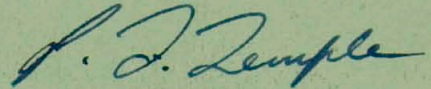


CONFIDENTIAL

CONDUCT SURVEY ON YOUTH NEEDS FOR THE N.T.

Comment by  
Under Treasurer:

Funds are to be made available from existing appropriations. No other financial implications.



A B ASHLEY  
UNDER TREASURER

14/3/79

Approved/Not Approved

Signed:

Date:

Comment by  
Public Service  
Commissioner:

Approved/Not Approved

Signed:

Date:

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

SURVEY ON YOUTH NEEDS FOR THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Comment by  
Under Treasurer:

Approved/Not Approved

Signed:

Date:

Comment by  
Public Service  
Commissioner:

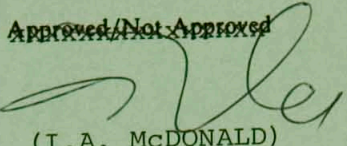
No objection. Department has delegation to employ Consultants and consider this function would have been done without need for Cabinet Submission.

Secretarial and typing services to consultants to be met within existing resources.

~~Approved/Not Approved~~

Signed:

Date:

  
(I.A. McDONALD)  
for PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER

CONFIDENTIAL

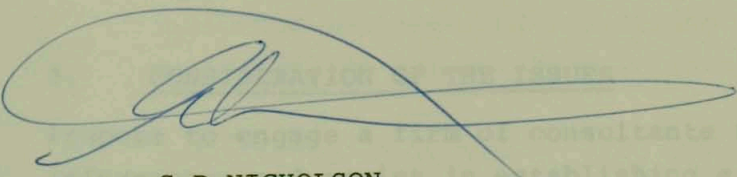
CONFIDENTIAL

CABINET SUBMISSION - CONDUCT SURVEY ON YOUTH NEEDS  
FOR THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

There are no constitutional barriers to this proposal.

There appear to be no legal barriers to the proposal.



G R NICHOLSON

Crown Solicitor

16 March 1979



C O N F I D E N T I A L

- 2 -

1. THE ISSUE

To carry out a Youth Needs Survey in the Northern Territory as proposed by Australian Frontier Incorporated, in conjunction with the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation and voluntary organisations.

2. BACKGROUND

The Northern Territory Government is committed to provide a Youth Programme throughout the Northern Territory. In support of this commitment the Government recently established the Office of Youth, Sport and Recreation.

A recent Cabinet decision approved the establishment of a Northern Territory Youth Advisory Council. Government programmes can best be developed with accurate knowledge of youth needs. No surveys have been conducted on youth needs on a Territory wide basis. National youth surveys have been useful in relation to the general principles of youth needs, but the information is not specific enough to provide for a state-wide programme.

3. CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUES

Propose to engage a firm of consultants to conduct survey to provide information and assist in establishing a communication network. (refer Attachment B).

4. BENEFIT TO THE NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

The information obtained through this method will -

4.1 Enable the Northern Territory Government to develop and implement appropriate programmes to meet the needs identified and to involve all relevant government and voluntary agencies in these programmes.

4.2 Enable the Northern Territory Government to take immediate action in some areas to alleviate some of the more urgent needs.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

- 3 -

- 4.3 Enable the Northern Territory Government to evaluate Federal Government programmes in so far as they affect young people in the Northern Territory in particular those designed to assist the young unemployed.
- 4.4 Provide an opportunity to further define the future role of local Government Authorities in the provision of services to young people.
- 4.5 Provide a data base and a framework for this long term, continuous development and evaluation of policy.

5.0 COSTS (PAYABLE TO CONSULTANT - AUSTRALIAN FRONTIER)

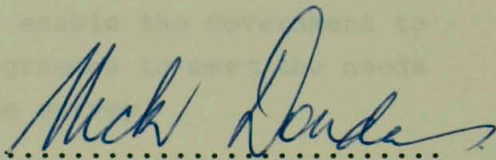
	\$
Salaries and salary related costs	28,730
Accommodation and travelling in the the Northern Territory	11,440
Work carried out by Melbourne Office, including expenses and travelling costs outside the Northern Territory	4,800
Advertising of Forums - (Two advertise- ments \$60 ea. per forum)	600
Secretarial Services and telephone calls outside Alice Springs and Darwin.	1,200
Design and Printing of Leaflets + Posters.	1,400
Contingency - (e.g., Third trip to Aboriginal communities)	1,200
	\$49,370
	\$49,370



6. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Cabinet approve the undertaking of the Youth Needs Survey as proposed.

16/3/79



DATE

NICK DONDAS



N E W S      R E L E A S EA YOUTH NEEDS SURVEY FOR THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Cabinet has approved the undertaking of a major survey into the needs of young people in the Northern Territory. The Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation, and the Acting Minister for Community Development, Nick Dondas, announced the move today.

He said the information obtained will enable the Government to develop and implement appropriate programmes to meet the needs of young people identified through the survey.

Mr Dondas said he was very pleased that the range of approaches to be taken in the survey, meant that many people across the Territory will be asked for comment. He explained that young people in the five main Regional Centres of Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Darwin and Nhulunbuy will be encouraged in one day workshops to identify the issues that concern them.

Concurrently, he said, people involved with young people such as Youth Organisations, teachers, parents, will be asked for their views of young peoples needs. Questionnaires will also be sent to High Schools. The survey will also invite any member of the community to make submissions to the survey team.

Mr Dondas in outlining the approach to Aboriginal communities said that the Government is keen to co-operate with the existing contacts and channels in the communities. In this way, he was delighted to announce that the Y.M.C.A. had offered its full support to this Government initiative of a Youth Needs Survey, by making available the Y.M.C.A. Officers in Papunya, Warrabri, Yuendumu, Amoongona, Hooker Creek, Melville Island, Elcho Island, Maningrida, Darwin area, Milingimbi, to assist with the survey.

These workers will over a period of six weeks, through individual and group discussion encourage the Aboriginal youth to identify their needs and concerns.

NEWS RELEASE (Cont'd)

Nick Dondas also explained that the final report due in November will enable the Government to evaluate Federal Government programmes in so far as they affect young people in the Northern Territory in particular those designed to assist young unemployed.

The survey will be conducted over a seven (7) month period with two Interim Reports available to Ministers on progress.

(iii) an evaluation of the information obtained to provide options for action to be taken to meet the youth needs identified.

(iv) establishment of communication channels with young people and relevant groups to maintain a continuing formulation of policy and implementation of appropriate programmes.

B. TIMING.

The programme as proposed extends over seven (7) months. This is essential for an effective survey of this type.

However, two (2) Interim Reports will be provided to enable urgent action to be considered and to enable the Northern Territory Government to keep the community informed.

C. METHODS

The Australian Frontier Survey Design proposes to meet these aims in the following ways:

Australian Frontiers will collate data available from the Bureau of Statistics, the Northern Territory Deputy and Social Welfare and relevant agencies in other States and at Federal level.

The office of Youth, Sport and Recreation will assist in obtaining relevant data from other Northern Territory Government Departments.



S U R V E Y I N F O R M A T I O N

A. SURVEY CONTENT

The essential requirements of a Youth Needs Survey are:-

- (i) the collation of available data.
- (ii) in-depth consultation with young people themselves and with service providers.
- (iii) an evaluation of the information obtained to provide options for action to be taken to meet the youth needs identified.
- (iv) establishment of communication channels with young people and relevant groups to maintain a continuous formulation of policy and implementation of appropriate programmes.

B. TIMING.

The programme as proposed extends over seven (7) months. This is essential for an effective survey of this type.

However, two (2) Interim Reports will be provided to enable urgent action to be considered and to enable the Northern Territory Government to keep the community informed.

C. METHODS

The Australian Frontier Survey Design proposes to meet these aims in the following way:-

1. Australian Frontier will collate data available from the Bureau of Statistics, the Northern Territory Inquiry into Social Welfare and relevant agencies in other states and at Federal level.

The Office of Youth, Sport and Recreation will assist in obtaining relevant data from other Northern Territory Government Departments.

2. Community consultation will involve two (2) concurrent programmes -

- (i) Public forums in Darwin, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Nhulunbuy.

These are intended to be full day seminars with participants drawn from young people, government agencies, providers of various professional services to youth.

Australian Frontier will initiate steering committees in each of the five (5) towns.

The consultants will provide agendas, questionnaires, instruction and score sheets and will be responsible for the running of each meeting.

- (ii) Interview programmes in thirteen (13) Aboriginal Communities; Papunya, Warabri, Yuendumu, Armoongana, Hooker Creek, Melville Island, Bathurst Island, Elcho Island, Maningrida, Milingimbi, Darwin area, Yirrkala, Groote Eylandt and Roper River.

Australian Frontier will visit each community and assist appropriate workers in these communities to devise a programme of individual and group discussions.

Workers over a period of approximately six (6) weeks will collect individual or group responses from young people in the communities.

The consultants will provide assistance and advice as required and will return to each community to collect the interview results. An average of two (2) days per visit per community have been allowed. It is recognised that there are certain limitations to this method because of the difficulties in collecting information in such a short period of time (six weeks) and limited visits by the consultants (minimum of two visits are planned).



3. The consultants will provide questionnaires to all high schools including colleges for Aboriginal students.

The consultants will provide a general questionnaire to facilitate the preparation of submissions by members of the public and publicise its availability and readiness to receive such submissions.

4. Evaluation and Review of Data

The consultants will review and summarise data collected and evaluate needs expressed against services available in the Northern Territory and in other States.

Australian Frontier will provide a final report containing data obtained, a description of the process and a series of options for action to meet the needs identified as well as recommendations for further research or consultations required.