

Identify the Need, Provide a Solution and Get Funding

By Tony Robinson

It's not like the state and federal governments didn't know there was a crisis in indigenous housing. There have been talk fests in parliament, numerous reports and stacks of media articles. So how have they managed the need? One way they have done it has been to set up a huge departmental bureaucracy starting at the federal level and channeling provision of housing through indigenous corporations.

The thousands of public servants involved have had all of the resources and protection offered by the laws they work under. Not so the indigenous corporations who come under Common Law, OH&S, Worksafe, Information Management and CATSI. Their executives and their workmates have been placed under great risk by the under funding they have been experiencing. We recently analysed the tender requirements for the WA Department of Housing and Works in regards to compliances they expected under a fixed funding arrangement. We found they were under funded by at least \$200,000 and the indigenous executives were under risk of jail sentences and/or huge fines because of their non-compliance.

Of course there is probably a good case for arguing that culpability stops with the Department Head or the relevant Minister since many indigenous corporations are fully funded by government.

Our research indicates that not one of the 2564 indigenous corporations across Australia is funded sufficiently to achieve compliance with the laws mentioned above.

So when we were asked to identify issues, provide solutions and suggest how they could be funded, we had to take a globalist point of view.

Could we use our technological skills to provide a solution beneficial to the indigenous corporations as well as to state and federal governments and maybe create some savings too?

If the entry of data could be made at the indigenous Corporation level, then funds could be transferred to make this happen. But the government would still need to get access to that data on an As Is basis. Wouldn't it be nice if they could also get access to data hitherto unavailable?

If most training could be done by the indigenous corporations, then more funds could be transferred. The governments would need measurable outcomes and real value for the dollars being spent and some good metrics on skill improvements.

If some of the compliance could be processed by software means then the bureaucratic burden could be reduced and the workplace made a safer environment. At the same time it would be great if governments could have As Is reports to enable better planning.

If we could gather Australia-wide data on assets, identified risks, maintenance requirements and office needs, then we could look at bulk purchasing and cost reduction. And being able to get this data As Is would further reduce costs.

If we could produce reports As Is on how much of a budget had been spent, then economic management would be greatly enhanced.

Well we did it.

We designed it all.

We designed an Enterprise Management Solution that covered all of the above and more.

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