

A MURDI PAAKI REGION COMMUNITY

COLLARENEBRI

BURRULAA MURRAS

(MANY HANDS)

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2005

FEBRUARY 2005



An initiative of the Collarenebri Community Working Party

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INDEX

SECTION	Page
COMMUNITY VISION and COMMUNITY MISSION	i
COMMUNITY AIMS and COMMUNITY VALUES	ii
STRATEGIC ACTIONS	
TA1 – LOCAL DECISION-MAKING and AUTONOMY	1
TA2 – PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS	3
TA3 – WORKING OUT OF WELFARE	4
TA 4 - LEARNING	6
TA 5 – SPIRITUAL WELLBEING	10
TA 6 – PHYSICAL and EMOTIONAL WELLBEING	12
TA 7 – COMMUNITY SERVICES GENERALLY	14
TA 8 – HOUSING AND ROADS	15
TA 9 – TRANSPORT	17
TA 10 – SPORT and RECREATION	18
TA 11 – POLICING	19
COMMUNITY PROFILE	20
REFERENCES	29





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Burns Aldis acknowledges the valuable contribution of the following in the preparation of this Community Action Plan:

Community Working Party
Community Working Party Secretariat
Community Members
Agency and Organisation Staff

Norman Hall, Chairman and Delegates
Shelley Moore in the early stages
All those Community Members who shared in the meetings
All those agency and organisation staff who shared in the meetings

The ideas reported in this Plan are the intellectual property of the Collarenebri Aboriginal Community and are the contribution of the Community to achieving higher levels of cultural, social, economic and environmental wellbeing.



COMMUNITY VISION and COMMUNITY MISSION

The Vision we have of our future is that we are:

Outwardly proud to be Aboriginal
Recognised as the traditional owners of our country
Living on our own land
Supporting our Community through our own efforts and initiatives, and
Happy in our minds that our children's children will regard us with respect



Our Mission, the task that we set ourselves, is to:

Improve the health, welfare and wellbeing of our Community's individuals, families, aged and organisations through applying our own solutions in partnership with others



COMMUNITY AIMS and COMMUNITY VALUES

Our Aims in putting this plan into action are:

- To strengthen our decision-making processes
- To participate in community affairs
- To move from a welfare economy to self-sufficiency
- To provide meaningful work through acquiring our own income-generating businesses
- To see our children growth in health and knowledge
- To raise our health status
- To live in adequate, secure, safe and affordable housing providing a healthy living environment
- To ensure access to the best possible services and programmes



The Values which guide our actions in making decisions about our future are:

- Equality
- Inclusion
- Participation
- Partnership
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Unity



STRATEGIC ACTIONS



TARGET AREA 1: LOCAL DECISION-MAKING and AUTONOMY**TA1****COMMUNITY OBLIGATION**

Become involved and act openly, fully, positively and professionally

COMMUNITY ACTION

Continue to strengthen the way we talk about our issues and make our decisions

PROVIDER OBLIGATION

Recognise we have a long way to go so work with us in partnership

PROVIDER ACTION

Accept our decisions and frame services and programmes to provide success on our terms

The Community aims to be active in working for the benefit of all Community people through good decision-making processes

The Community aims to be putting its point across

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

CAN

HOW WE DO THINGS

- 1.01 Set Delegate representation to the CWP to match the level of interest from Community members in the first instance, and then encourage increasing participation to bring CWP membership back up;
- 1.02 Prepare Code of Meeting procedure and Code of Ethical Practice suitable for local use as a guide to Delegates on how to work through issues and reach firm and supported decisions;
- 1.03 Stick with, and promote, the Community's cultural, social, economic and environmental objectives as set out in this Community Action Plan and through other plans that the CWP may develop or endorse.

PARTICIPATION

- 1.04 Work out a way to give all members of the Community the opportunity to have their say in the development of strategic plans and about ways of improving or changing agency services and programmes;
- 1.05 Talk with Community members about general issues, seek input and take note of views that are different from most. Make sure that the CWP knows about all the opinions that Community members have;
- 1.06 Invite all Community people to take part in CWP affairs, but accept that some may not want to be involved. The CWP shall be happy in acting on behalf of those that do not want to take part;
- 1.07 Even so, increase the opportunities for those sections of the Community which may not or choose not to have a voice at the Working Party to have their say about things;
- 1.08 Provide choice and opportunity for all Community members to be involved in Community affairs, and talk up for changes to structures, policies and decisions which do not give this choice and opportunity.

IMPLEMENTATION

						PROGRESS		
CAN	LINKED CANs	SECTOR	PROVIDER	PROGRAM	TARGET END	P	S	F
1.01	-							
1.02	1.01							
1.03	-							
1.04	2.02							
1.05	1.04							
1.06	1.04 1.05							
1.07	1.06							
1.08	1.04							

DESIRED RESULTS

CWP is recognised by everybody as the peak policy-setting and decision-making body in the Community;

CWP is guiding the Community to a better future as seen by the results on the ground.



TARGET AREA 1: LOCAL DECISION-MAKING and AUTONOMY**TA1****COMMUNITY OBLIGATION**

Become involved and act openly, fully, positively and professionally

COMMUNITY ACTION

Continue to strengthen the way we talk about our issues and make our decisions

PROVIDER OBLIGATION

Recognise we have a long way to go so work with us in partnership

PROVIDER ACTION

Accept our decisions and frame services and programmes to provide success on our terms

The Community aims to be active in working for the benefit of all Community people through good decision-making processes

The Community aims to be putting its point across

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

CAN

STRENGTHENING ABILITY

- 1.09 Develop and run personal training programmes for Delegates as a means of strengthening governance capacity and effectiveness of the CWP, and hence the Regional Assembly;
- 1.10 Recognise the contribution that our dedicated local Community members make in working up solutions to Community issues and resource out of pocket expenses and time committed to working for the good of the Community. Do not expect us to meet our partnership obligations only through 'Volunteerism' when others are deriving financial reward;
- 1.11 Work to provide capacity within the Community to bring about the rebirth of local Aboriginal organisations operating fully under local governance structures;
- 1.12 Ask service providers to respond to the CWP fully in timely and supportive way that strengthens the position of the CWP as the peak representative body in the Community.

IMPLEMENTATION**PROGRESS**

CAN	LINKED CANs	SECTOR	PROVIDER	PROGRAM	TARGET END	P	S	F
1.09	1.01 1.02 1.03							
1.10	1.01 1.09							
1.11	-							
1.12	7.02							

DESIRED RESULTS

CWP is recognised by everybody as the peak policy-setting and decision-making body in the Community;

CWP is guiding the Community to a better future as seen by the results on the ground.



TARGET AREA 2: CITIZENSHIP and PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**TA2****COMMUNITY OBLIGATION**

Work actively for the good of the Community

COMMUNITY ACTION

Come together to set the agenda that leads the Community to success in the future

PROVIDER OBLIGATION

Approach us to serve with an enlightened attitude free of token participation

PROVIDER ACTION

Take responsibility for assisting the Community to achieve success on its own terms

The Community aims to be contributing to a better Collarenebri through its own social, economic and environmental initiatives

The Community aims to take pride in all things Collarenebri

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

CAN

PLAYING OUR PART

- 2.01 Give us the chance to show what **we** can do. We live shorter lives, are most likely unemployed, have poor levels of health, achieve less at school and find ourselves inside too much. We will take a 'fair go';
- 2.02 Work to rebuild pride in ourselves, our people and our town and increase motivation in local Community members to become fully involved in a democratic way in Community affairs at CWP, organisation and individual level;
- 2.03 Take part in local and regional social, economic and environmental strategic planning and service and programme development, and be accountable for contributing in a positive way to the development of our people;
- 2.04 Engage on a partnership basis with Local Government in guiding local strategic planning and service development in respect of our Community, and of our heritage and traditions;
- 2.05 Engage on a partnership basis with Local Government to improve the delivery and quality of culturally suitable services and programmes to our town;
- 2.06 Engage as the traditional owners of our land on a partnership basis with Local Government to ensure that cultural resource and environmental management is agreeable to us, that it does not wear away at our heritage.

RECOGNISING OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2.07 Celebrate the contribution made by successful families to the wellbeing of the Community and in raising healthy balanced children.

IMPLEMENTATION

CAN	LINKED CANs	SECTOR	PROVIDER	PROGRAM	TARGET END	PROGRESS		
						P	S	F
2.01	1.11							
2.02	1.04 1.06 2.03							
2.03	1.04 1.06 2.02 7.03							
2.04	1.04 2.01 2.03 2.05 2.06							
2.05	1.04 2.03 2.04 2.06							
2.06	2.04							
2.07	2.02							

DESIRED RESULTS

The Community demonstrates leadership and determination to promote the status of Aboriginal people as equal citizens

Our place in society as citizens is based on respect, tolerance and inclusion



TARGET AREA 3: WORKING OUT OF WELFARE

TA3

COMMUNITY OBLIGATION

Be dedicated to accepting responsibility for, and innovation in, removing dependency on welfare

COMMUNITY ACTION

Contribute ideas that increase self-sufficiency and commit to lift skill levels

PROVIDER OBLIGATION

Be dedicated to accepting responsibility for, and innovation in, changing a culture of 'welfare'

PROVIDER ACTION

Reduce risk aversion and open up to Community solutions

The Community aims to raise awareness of the role of employment in creating wellbeing and take action to increase employment levels

The Community aims to defeat welfare dependence through development of its own successful business operations

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

CAN

STRENGTHENING TECHNICAL ABILITY

- 3.01 Carry out a skills audit of Community members as a basis for working out interests and training needs, and develop a 'whole of Community' training profile;
- 3.02 Develop a written personal development programme for interested individuals which works to improve their job readiness (eg assistance in obtaining driving licences to make travelling easier);
- 3.03 Develop strategies aimed at increasing local employment opportunities for young and mature aged women to provide an alternative to home duties. Those opportunities might arise in the club, shops and Post Office agency;
- 3.04 Argue for the most local employment and training opportunities associated with every major funded project;
- 3.05 Resource full-time professional technical support person to assist the Community in researching, developing, planning and implementing local initiatives, and fund a locally-based Trainee Community Facilitator to help on a skills transfer basis.

ORGANISATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- 3.06 Look hard at CDEP with a view to strengthening existing operations and identifying other civic or income generating activities that have the benefit of providing CDEP with a stronger base. Consider expanding wood cutting activities to a full commercial operation;
- 3.07 Consider establishing a market garden through CDEP to fulfil the dual purpose of generating income and providing a supply of fresh fruit and vegetables as a step in making available a more healthy diet;
- 3.08 Rebuild Mangankali Aboriginal Corporation as the flagship for Community-based initiatives;
- 3.09 Negotiate with Walgett Shire Council to improve semi-skilled employment opportunities for Collarenebri people in such areas as road maintenance;

IMPLEMENTATION

IMPLEMENTATION							PROGRESS			
CAN	LINKED CANs			SECTOR	PROVIDER	PROGRAM	TARGET END	P	S	F
3.01	4.26	4.27								
3.02	3.01	4.26								
3.03	3.01									
3.04	-									
3.05	-									
3.06	3.05	4.22	4.26							
3.07	3.06									
3.08	8.11									
3.09	2.05									

DESIRED RESULTS

Employment levels have increased substantially in meaningful paid work requiring greater skill

The Community is operating a number of income generating business operations



TARGET AREA 3: WORKING OUT OF WELFARE**TA3****COMMUNITY OBLIGATION**

Be dedicated to accepting responsibility for, and innovation in, removing dependency on welfare

COMMUNITY ACTION

Contribute ideas that increase self-sufficiency and commit to lift skill levels

PROVIDER OBLIGATION

Be dedicated to accepting responsibility for, and innovation in, changing a culture of 'welfare'

PROVIDER ACTION

Reduce risk aversion and open up to Community solutions

The Community aims to raise awareness of the role of employment in creating wellbeing and take action to increase employment levels

The Community aims to defeat welfare dependence through development of its own successful business operations

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

CAN

ORGANISATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- 3.10 Negotiate with Walgett Shire Council for CDEP to undertake domestic and commercial waste collection, recycling and general operation of the Collarenebri Waste Management Facility;

COMMERCIAL INITIATIVES

- 3.11 Develop a strategy that provides for the early buying of existing local businesses, such as the service station, as the basis for greater participation in local commercial activities;
- 3.12 Prepare a Business Plan for a local bakery to serve the local and regional market for bread and speciality pastries and cakes;
- 3.13 Prepare a Business Plan for a tourism-based enterprise;
- 3.14 Prepare a Business Plan for the creation of a tourist accommodation park to capture some of the growing number of travellers passing through Collarenebri;
- 3.15 Prepare a Business Plan for the creation of a pest control enterprise to build on training already undertaken by some Community members;
- 3.16 Investigate the feasibility of an aquaculture enterprise producing Yellowbelly (Golden Perch), Silver Perch and/or Murray Cod, and resource the necessary infrastructure if the proposal is viable. Link to week-long fishing events.

IMPLEMENTATION**PROGRESS**

CAN	LINKED CANs	SECTOR	PROVIDER	PROGRAM	TARGET END	P	S	F
3.10	3.06							
3.11	3.05 3.08							
3.12	3.05 3.08							
3.13	3.05 3.08 3.14 3.16 5.10							
3.14	3.05 3.08 3.13							
3.15	3.05 3.08							
3.16	3.05 3.08 3.13							

DESIRED RESULTS

Employment levels have increased substantially in meaningful paid work requiring greater skill

The Community is operating a number of income generating business operations



TARGET AREA 4: LEARNING**TA4**

COMMUNITY OBLIGATION	Assist in developing and supporting initiatives which lift standards in learning
COMMUNITY ACTION	Actively encourage all groups in the Community to participate in learning activities
PROVIDER OBLIGATION	Create a learning environment in which pre-schoolers, school and mature students do well
PROVIDER ACTION	In conjunction with the Community, develop and resource new approaches to learning

The Community aims to create a culture of achievement in learning

The Community aims to participate in the development of ways of learning around heritage and culture that raise educational standards

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

CAN

PRE-SCHOOL

- 4.01 Resource the pre-school to operate confidently free from financial risks associated with cashflow. Reduce commercial risks to operation;
- 4.02 Develop family subsidy scheme to cover fees for Aboriginal pre-schoolers attending pre-school group. Recognise the need for parents to have time away from children for training and capacity building in the context of community development;
- 4.03 Continue to resource Aboriginal identified position(s) at pre-school as a means of increasing participation and beginning the process of the transfer of cultural traditions and practices;
- 4.04 Continue to support and encourage Aboriginal pre-school carer trainees to achieve formal qualifications in child care;
- 4.05 Develop and put in place a forum which allows the local Aboriginal community to contribute ideas to the development of the pre-school;
- 4.06 Arrange organised supported cultural activities aimed at restoring the Aboriginal value of respect from an early age and a knowledge of local heritage and traditional ways;
- 4.07 Establish an ASSPA Committee (or equivalent) as a means of obtaining funding to increase the level of involvement of parents, resource education programmes, resource special needs and/or excursions.

SCHOOL

- 4.08 Arrange for the Collarenebri Central School to carry out a series of workshops with the Community through the CWP as a means of reviewing and making culturally relevant school policy, general operating philosophy and curriculum;
- 4.09 Develop and put in place a forum which allows the local Aboriginal community to contribute ideas to the development of the school;

IMPLEMENTATION

						PROGRESS		
CAN	LINKED CANs	SECTOR	PROVIDER	PROGRAM	TARGET END	P	S	F
4.01	-							
4.02	4.01							
4.03	4.01							
4.04	4.03							
4.05	-							
4.06	4.03 5.01							
4.07	4.01 4.03 4.05 4.06							
4.08	-							
4.09	4.09							

DESIRED RESULTS

Standards of attendance and educational achievement at school have measurably improved in all grades

Advantage is being taken of adult education, and skill levels are measurably higher to the point we are successfully running our own organisations



TARGET AREA 4: LEARNING**TA4**

COMMUNITY OBLIGATION	Assist in developing and supporting initiatives which lift standards in learning
COMMUNITY ACTION	Actively encourage all groups in the Community to participate in learning activities
PROVIDER OBLIGATION	Create a learning environment in which pre-schoolers, school and mature students do well
PROVIDER ACTION	In conjunction with the Community, develop and resource new approaches to learning

The Community aims to create a culture of achievement in learning

The Community aims to participate in the development of ways of learning around heritage and culture that raise educational standards

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

CAN

SCHOOL

- 4.10 Lobby the Department of School Education to provide more effective cultural awareness training to teachers in the community setting;
- 4.11 Involve an Elder(s) on a remunerated basis to teach Aboriginal languages and culture in Collarenebri Central School, and deliver an Aboriginal Studies unit;
- 4.12 Provide adequate numeracy and literacy support to low achieving children. Consider a travelling library service;
- 4.13 Review, develop and put in place strategies that encourage participation of girls in education beyond Year 10, and that improves attendance levels of girls generally. Consider TAFE-based catering course;
- 4.14 Develop and implement a family-based programme that reduces the risk of children being truant;
- 4.15 In conjunction with the Community, review the suspension policy in place at the school and develop new strategies that prevent children using the demerit point system to avoid school and take to the streets. Consider the need for a remedial centre under the supervision of trained carers for suspended children;
- 4.16 Establish and maintain resourced homework centre for use by Y7 to Y12 outside of the school environment;
- 4.17 Establish and maintain outdoor learning centre for use by all children to assist those who have difficulty with classroom environment;
- 4.18 Arrange organised supported cultural activities, such as bush camps, aimed at restoring the Aboriginal value of respect in young people;
- 4.19 Resource the appointment of a second Aboriginal Education Assistant to help with demanding workload in supporting Aboriginal children attending school;

IMPLEMENTATION**PROGRESS**

CAN	LINKED CANs	SECTOR	PROVIDER	PROGRAM	TARGET END	P	S	F
4.10	4.08 4.09							
4.11	4.08 4.09 5.01							
4.12	-							
4.13	4.08 4.09 4.18 4.19							
4.14	4.08 4.09 4.15 11.03							
4.15	4.08 4.09 4.14 11.03							
4.16	4.08 4.09 4.12 4.13 10.05							
4.17	4.08 4.09 4.12 4.13 4.18							
4.18	4.08 4.09 4.11 4.17 5.01							
4.19	4.08 4.09 4.13							

DESIRED RESULTS

Standards of attendance and educational achievement at school have measurably improved in all grades

Advantage is being taken of adult education, and skill levels are measurably higher to the point we are successfully running our own organisations



TARGET AREA 4: LEARNING**TA4**

COMMUNITY OBLIGATION	Assist in developing and supporting initiatives which lift standards in learning
COMMUNITY ACTION	Actively encourage all groups in the Community to participate in learning activities
PROVIDER OBLIGATION	Create a learning environment in which pre-schoolers, school and mature students do well
PROVIDER ACTION	In conjunction with the Community, develop and resource new approaches to learning

The Community aims to create a culture of achievement in learning

The Community aims to participate in the development of ways of learning around heritage and culture that raise educational standards

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

CAN

SCHOOL

- 4.20 Reinststate the ASSPA Committee as a means of obtaining funding to increase the level of involvement of parents, resource cultural, health and nutrition education programmes, resource special needs and/or excursions and sporting clinics;
- 4.21 Look into the possibility of a CDEP/school curriculum partnership aimed at delivering course elements directly related to the transfer of Aboriginal heritage and culture such as Aboriginal site surveys;
- 4.22 Expand the CDEP/school partnership canteen service to include for providing breakfasts for children in need as a means of improving attendance and concentration;
- 4.23 Encourage greater level of physical education and participation in sporting activities as means of engaging children in broader education;
- 4.24 Develop and implement affordable transport to allow children of low income families to participate in school excursions and sporting carnivals at venues away from Collarenebri;
- 4.25 Improve accessibility of IT equipment.

IMPLEMENTATION

						PROGRESS		
CAN	LINKED CANs			SECTOR	PROVIDER	PROGRAM	TARGET END	P S F
4.20	4.09	4.18	4.24					
4.21	4.11	4.18						
4.22	3.06	4.09						
4.23	4.09	4.20	10.01					
4.24	4.20	4.23	9.04					
4.25	-							

DESIRED RESULTS

Standards of attendance and educational achievement at school have measurably improved in all grades

Advantage is being taken of adult education, and skill levels are measurably higher to the point we are successfully running our own organisations



TARGET AREA 4: LEARNING**TA4**

COMMUNITY OBLIGATION	Assist in developing and supporting initiatives which lift standards in learning
COMMUNITY ACTION	Actively encourage all groups in the Community to participate in learning activities
PROVIDER OBLIGATION	Create a learning environment in which pre-schoolers, school and mature students do well
PROVIDER ACTION	In conjunction with the Community, develop and resource new approaches to learning

The Community aims to create a culture of achievement in learning

The Community aims to participate in the development of ways of learning around heritage and culture that raise educational standards

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

CAN

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

- 4.26 Develop a 'Whole of Community' training strategy as a means of supporting a community development framework based on locally owned enterprises;
- 4.27 Negotiate training through TAFE to upgrade the skill levels generally, and thus ensure that enterprises and programmes be successful and sustainable;
- 4.28 Lobby to have the TAFE rules about course numbers changed so that specialist training can be delivered selectively to smaller groups than ten;
- 4.29 Lobby to secure a commitment for TAFE and/or other Registered Training Organisations to be resourced to deliver vocational training in Collarenebri on a structured, long term basis to support community initiatives;
- 4.30 Work out demand for business administration and computer skills training, and arrange with TAFE for training to be delivered in Collarenebri;
- 4.31 Develop strategies for the delivering of accredited training in building, painting, electrical and plumbing sufficient to allow the Community to be directly involved in Capital Works and building maintenance programmes;
- 4.32 Deliver adult education programmes in hospitality as a basis for servicing tourism and related initiatives;
- 4.33 Deliver adult education programmes outside of the school environment to overcome associations with past discrimination.

IMPLEMENTATION**PROGRESS**

CAN	LINKED CANs	SECTOR	PROVIDER	PROGRAM	TARGET END	P	S	F
4.26	3.01 3.02 3.04							
4.27	3.01 4.26 4.26							
4.28	4.27							
4.29	4.26 4.27							
4.30	3.01 3.02 4.26 4.27							
4.31	3.04 4.26 4.27 8.08							
4.32	3.13 3.14 3.16 4.26							
4.33	-							

DESIRED RESULTS

Standards of attendance and educational achievement at school have measurably improved in all grades

Advantage is being taken of adult education, and skill levels are measurably higher to the point we are successfully running our own organisations



TARGET AREA 5: SPIRITUAL WELLBEING**TA5****COMMUNITY OBLIGATION**

Lead caring, healthy and respectful lives according to our culture

COMMUNITY ACTION

Look after our hearts and minds, applying our traditional values

PROVIDER OBLIGATION

To provide the means for restoring cultural heritage, traditional values and connection to land

PROVIDER ACTION

Assist in developing and delivering programmes and services that reflect traditional values

The Community aims to encourage all Community members to live our lives by our traditional values

The Community aims to care for all its members

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

CAN

YOUNG PEOPLE

- 5.01 Involve Elders in organised supported activities aimed at restoring the Aboriginal value of respect in young people;
- 5.02 Introduce language into the school curriculum as a means of re-establishing traditional ways in young people and keeping our culture alive;
- 5.03 Develop and run cultural camps centred on Angledool Mission that teach young people about traditional foods and medicines, and traditional ways of living and hunting.

FAMILIES

- 5.04 Provide separate social and health support structures for the emotional and spiritual wellbeing of aged men and aged women;
- 5.05 Develop and run camps centred on Angledool Mission for men's groups with a view to healing spiritual and emotional wounds through kinship and targeted health and wellbeing programmes;
- 5.06 Reinforce the message that domestic violence is not acceptable, and that drinking and illicit substance use is very harmful to family relationships.

IMPLEMENTATION

							PROGRESS		
CAN	LINKED CANs				SECTOR	PROVIDER	PROGRAM	TARGET END	
5.01	4.06	4.11	4.18	4.20					
5.02	4.06	4.11	4.18	5.01					
5.03	4.06	4.18	4.24	5.01					
5.04	6.04								
5.05	5.03	5.04							
5.06	5.04	5.05	6.01	11.02					

DESIRED RESULTS

That our cultural and traditional values form the framework within which we lead our lives and relate to others

That our Elders are respected as the custodians of our cultural knowledge



TARGET AREA 5: SPIRITUAL WELLBEING**TA5****COMMUNITY OBLIGATION**

Lead caring, healthy and respectful lives according to our culture

COMMUNITY ACTION

Look after our hearts and minds, applying our traditional values

PROVIDER OBLIGATION

To provide the means for restoring cultural heritage, traditional values and connection to land

PROVIDER ACTION

Assist in developing and delivering programmes and services that reflect traditional values

The Community aims to encourage all Community members to live our lives by our traditional values

The Community aims to care for all its members

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

CAN

ELDERS

- 5.07 Involve Elders and younger family members in reclaiming a permanent historical link with Angledool Mission through organised cultural reunions of people and place;
- 5.08 Arrange for the voice recording of the life experiences of Elders so that our stories may be handed down from generation to generation to underpin our cultural identity and sense of belonging to country;
- 5.09 Prepare a Plan of Management for the Collarenebri Cemetery. Provide for sealed access; grave restoration, vegetation management and amenities for adults and children. Install a water supply to service bottle burning process;
- 5.10 Establish a Cultural Centre to provide a focus for the display of local traditions, icons and artefacts. Incorporate a retail outlet to support a local arts and crafts manufacturing operation.

IMPLEMENTATION

						PROGRESS		
CAN	LINKED CANs	SECTOR	PROVIDER	PROGRAM	TARGET END	P	S	F
5.07	5.03 5.05							
5.08	-							
5.09	2.04							
5.10	3.13 5.08							

DESIRED RESULTS

That our cultural and traditional values form the framework within which we lead our lives and relate to others

That our Elders are respected as the custodians of our cultural knowledge



TARGET AREA 6: PHYSICAL and EMOTIONAL WELLBEING**TA6****COMMUNITY OBLIGATION**

Lead caring, healthy and respectful lives

COMMUNITY ACTION

Look after our bodies and minds, avoiding harmful influences and substances

PROVIDER OBLIGATION

To provide an accessible and adequate standard of health-care irrespective of means to pay

PROVIDER ACTION

Care for the bodies and minds of all Community members in all circumstances at all times

The Community aims to have easy access to the full range of health-care services for youngest and oldest, and all in between

The Community aims to improve the health and wellbeing of members through greatly improved prevention programmes

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

CAN

COMMUNITY HEALTH

- 6.01 Develop and implement primary health prevention programs that are accessible and effective in responding to the full range of community health issues, with priority to asthma;
- 6.02 Organise a range of primary prevention programmes, including education and counselling, aimed at reducing hospital admissions arising from social causes;
- 6.03 Upgrade locally-based sexual health programmes as a priority area;
- 6.04 Improve access to local family and individual counselling services generally, providing gender specific counsellors if necessary; and grief and loss specifically;
- 6.05 Negotiate a health primary prevention agreement with Walgett AMS to provide a documented basis for improved service delivery. Look at employing a locally-based Aboriginal Community Health generalist supported by WAMS as a health consultant;
- 6.06 Resource the Walgett AMS to adequately service the community on a regular basis in accordance with the negotiated health primary prevention agreement;
- 6.07 Seek to attract a permanent GP service to Collarenebri to be available at times when RFDS is not present;
- 6.08 Deliver the Well Persons Health Check on a yearly basis as a means of identifying trends in health needs, and as a means of engaging community members in a continuing program of health improvement;
- 6.09 Lobby for the introduction of a Regional Dental Van staffed by a dentist and a dental nurse/oral hygienist provided free or with subsidy;

IMPLEMENTATION**PROGRESS**

CAN	LINKED CANs	SECTOR	PROVIDER	PROGRAM	TARGET END	P	S	F
6.01	5.06 6.02 6.03 6.10							
6.02	5.06 6.01 11.02							
6.03	6.01							
6.04	5.04 6.01 11.02							
6.05	6.01 6.02							
6.06	6.05							
6.07	-							
6.08	6.01							
6.09	6.01 6.06							

DESIRED RESULTS

The health and well-being of the Community has measurably improved across the range of conditions causing illness and ill-health

Community members are living healthier lives for longer



TARGET AREA 6: PHYSICAL and EMOTIONAL WELLBEING**TA6****COMMUNITY OBLIGATION**

Lead caring, healthy and respectful lives

COMMUNITY ACTION

Look after our bodies and minds, avoiding harmful influences and substances

PROVIDER OBLIGATION

To provide an accessible and adequate standard of health-care irrespective of means to pay

PROVIDER ACTION

Care for the bodies and minds of all Community members in all circumstances at all times

The Community aims to have easy access to the full range of health-care services for youngest and oldest, and all in between

The Community aims to improve the health and wellbeing of members through greatly improved prevention programmes

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

CAN

COMMUNITY HEALTH

6.10 Develop and implement a regular 'ear and eyes' examination of school children.

CLINICAL SERVICES

6.11 Develop and resource a Community Carer scheme that allows children to be cared for at home when the mother is away receiving hospital treatment or undergoing health checks;

6.12 Develop and implement a responsive patient transport strategy that allows discharged patients to return home after treatment without worry and with the minimum of discomfort.

IMPLEMENTATION

						PROGRESS		
CAN	LINKED CANs	SECTOR	PROVIDER	PROGRAM	TARGET END	P	S	F
6.10	6.01							
6.11	-							
6.12	9.03							

DESIRED RESULTS

The health and well-being of the Community has measurably improved across the range of conditions causing illness and ill-health

Community members are living healthier lives for longer



TARGET AREA 7: COMMUNITY SERVICES GENERALLY**TA7**

COMMUNITY OBLIGATION	Contribute with service providers to achieve the best for the Community
COMMUNITY ACTION	Talk up for Collarenebri
PROVIDER OBLIGATION	Develop and deliver services and programmes that benefit the Community
PROVIDER ACTION	Become involved and take on Community solutions

The Community aims to put across its solutions as a means of bringing about a continuing improvement of agency services/programmes

The Community aims to engage with service providers on the basis of informed equals

STRATEGIC ACTIONS**CAN**

- 7.01 Establish a local service centre where agencies such as RTA can operate on a part-time basis so that Community members are not disadvantaged by remoteness;
- 7.02 Each service provider shall present a service charter/profile to the Working Party to inform the Community of service and programme objectives, resources and communication protocols;
- 7.03 Service providers shall commit to engaging with the Community through the Working Party on a regular basis to create a partnership for service improvement;
- 7.04 Service providers shall make sure that visiting agency personnel are fully briefed on subject areas, and able to respond effectively and professionally to Community;
- 7.05 Service providers shall recognise the right and ability of the Working Party to assess service provider performance as a means of encouraging continuing service improvement.

IMPLEMENTATION

						PROGRESS		
CAN	LINKED CANs	SECTOR	PROVIDER	PROGRAM	TARGET END	P	S	F
7.01	-							
7.02	1.12							
7.03	1.12 2.03							
7.04	7.03							
7.05	7.03							

DESIRED RESULTS

Service providers are responding to us as citizens

Better targeted services and programmes are contributing to a more fulfilling life for Community members



TARGET AREA 8: HOUSING and ROADS**TA8****COMMUNITY OBLIGATION**

To keep our housing stock in safe and healthy condition

COMMUNITY ACTION

Keep to tenancy agreements

PROVIDER OBLIGATION

Provide adequate well managed and maintained housing stock

PROVIDER ACTION

Resource basic need adequately and comply with agreed policy and procedures in managing housing stock

The Community aims to see that families and singles in need of housing are properly accommodated

The Community aims to achieve acceptable standards of safety, security, comfort and amenity, including access, in its housing stock

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

CAN

NEW HOUSING

- 8.01 Assist with improving the physical and emotional wellbeing of Community members through providing adequate and comfortable housing, including yards, in good order;
- 8.02 Carry out a two yearly population survey and analysis on a regular basis as a means of verifying a continuing need for new housing due to new family formations and changing population profile;
- 8.03 Resource and deliver a new housing construction programme to provide for the immediate demand for new housing and replacement of condemned housing, including replacement of humpies;
- 8.04 Negotiate a long-term major Capital Works Programme to provide for housing needs not met by NAHS or ACDP due to budget escalation, new family formations and population growth.

HOUSING REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

- 8.05 Resource and deliver a renovation programme for all existing housing stock to restore security, safety and amenity to an acceptable standard and provide a healthy living environment. Involve tenants in decision-making to increase level of Community ownership in the process;
- 8.06 Seal all house driveways to provide safe, all-weather access;
- 8.07 Fence all yard areas to provide secure play areas for children;
- 8.08 Continue to fund the Healthy Housing Worker programme as the best approach to keeping houses repaired, and tenants living in a safe and healthy environment;
- 8.09 Lobby for funding to provide for shading and air-cooling to all Community-based housing as a means of improving the health and wellbeing of our Elders and children.

IMPLEMENTATION

						PROGRESS		
CAN	LINKED CANs	SECTOR	PROVIDER	PROGRAM	TARGET END	P	S	F
8.01	8.05							
8.02	-							
8.03	8.02 8.04							
8.04	8.02 8.03							
8.05	8.03							
8.06	8.01 8.05 8.12							
8.07	8.01 8.05							
8.08	4.31 8.05							
8.09	8.01 8.14							

DESIRED RESULTS

Community members are adequately accommodated in safe and healthy housing sized to suit family need

All houses are maintained in good order at all times



TARGET AREA 8: HOUSING and ROADS**TA8****COMMUNITY OBLIGATION**

To keep our housing stock in safe and healthy condition

COMMUNITY ACTION

Keep to tenancy agreements

PROVIDER OBLIGATION

Provide adequate well managed and maintained housing stock

PROVIDER ACTION

Resource basic need adequately and comply with agreed policy and procedures in managing housing stock

The Community aims to see that families and singles in need of housing are properly accommodated

The Community aims to achieve acceptable standards of safety, security, comfort and amenity, including access, in its housing stock

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

CAN

HOUSING MANAGEMENT

- 8.10 Develop and implement innovative strategies relating to housing management, construction and maintenance that involve greater participation by Community members as a means of the Community taking a higher degree of ownership in management, renovation and construction activities;
- 8.11 Negotiate with Murdi Paaki Regional Housing Corporation and/or AHO to obtain training in housing asset management as a step in recovering housing assets and taking under local control. Recruit a Housing Officer to Mangankali, or extend duties of Healthy Housing Workers and transfer staff to Mangankali, for this purpose.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- 8.12 Continue to lobby for improved drainage and sealing of town roads serving Community-based housing in various locations to provide for safe and clean access;
- 8.13 Continue to lobby for improved all weather access to the municipal tip and the Collarenebri Sewage Treatment lagoons;
- 8.14 Undertake a programme of tree planting to provide shade areas in front and rear yards;
- 8.15 Upgrade the water supply to the Walli to improve water supply and pressures by providing a larger diameter water main from town and a higher elevated water tower;
- 8.16 Upgrade the evaporation ponds to the Collarenebri Sewage Treatment lagoons and the Walli Reserve Treatment Pond to reduce the risk of uncontrolled discharge of effluent to the natural environment;
- 8.17 Upgrade lifting equipment to the Walli Reserve Sewage Pumping Station.

IMPLEMENTATION

IMPLEMENTATION							PROGRESS			
CAN	LINKED CANs			SECTOR	PROVIDER	PROGRAM	TARGET END	P	S	F
8.10	8.05	8.08	8.11							
8.11	3.08	8.10								
8.12	8.06									
8.13	-									
8.14	8.01	8.09								
8.15	-									
8.16	8.13									
8.17	8.15									

DESIRED RESULTS

Community members are adequately accommodated in safe and healthy housing sized to suit family need

All houses are maintained in good order at all times



TARGET AREA 9: TRANSPORT**TA9**

COMMUNITY OBLIGATION	▶ To patronise Community bus services provided as fully as possible
COMMUNITY ACTION	▶ Use Community bus as main means of moving about
PROVIDER OBLIGATION	▶ To provide a subsidised bus service(s) as a social need
PROVIDER ACTION	▶ Resource local and regional transport services to a minimum standard of benefit

The Community aims to have access to transport services that provide adequately for families and individuals social and cultural needs

The Community aims to have access to transport services that provide adequately for participation in recreational/sporting events

STRATEGIC ACTIONS**CAN**

- 9.01 Resource a local transport service that responds to the needs of all community people and particularly the Walli community. Provide a covered bus shelter at the Reserve;
- 9.02 Review and redefine the once weekly Walgett to Moree bus service to make more accessible and affordable, and to operate to a set timetable. Extend service to run on Monday, Wednesday and Friday;
- 9.03 Review and resource an affordable health transport service to allow Community members ready access to health services;
- 9.04 Provide and resource a community bus to allow participation of all sections of the Community in education, recreation and traditional practices.

IMPLEMENTATION**PROGRESS**

CAN	LINKED CANs	SECTOR	PROVIDER	PROGRAM	TARGET END	P	S	F
9.01	-							
9.02	-							
9.03	6.12							
9.04	4.24							

DESIRED RESULTS

Community members, including elders, are able to move around for shopping, banking, health and cultural visits

Our children are not denied from taking part in educational, recreational and sporting trips through lack of affordable bus service



TARGET AREA 10: SPORT and RECREATION**TA10****COMMUNITY OBLIGATION**

To participate fully in sporting and recreational activities

COMMUNITY ACTION

Use facilities provided and take part in organised events as a route to improved health

PROVIDER OBLIGATION

Recognise the important part played by sport and recreation in the life of the Community

PROVIDER ACTION

Resource and support sport and recreational facilities, workers and programmes

The Community aims to encourage full participation in sporting and recreational activities as a means of improving health and well being

The Community aims to raise the profile of Collarenebri by taking part in competitive sport

STRATEGIC ACTIONS

CAN

SPORTING ACTIVITIES

- 10.01 Prepare a sports and recreation Action Plan to guide development of sporting and recreation activities and facilities for children and adults;
- 10.02 Provide lighting to the tennis courts and football oval to allow for activities to be arranged for the cooler periods of the day;
- 10.03 Provide lighting to the school field and school netball courts to allow for extended use.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 10.04 Prepare a Youth Action Plan to focus youth initiatives in the areas of most interest and need;
- 10.05 Resource a sports and recreation centre for use by young people, the centre to serve also for the delivery of health and education programmes, and for use as a homework centre;
- 10.06 Establish a professional Aboriginal Sports and Recreation Co-ordinator position as a means of providing after-school diversionary programmes for young people. Resource in conjunction with two trainee Youth Worker positions;
- 10.07 Upgrade the children's park at the Walli with new equipment;
- 10.08 Provide a skateboard and bike park for use by children of all ages.

IMPLEMENTATION**PROGRESS**

CAN	LINKED CANs	SECTOR	PROVIDER	PROGRAM	TARGET END	P	S	F
10.01	4.23 10.04							
10.02	-							
10.03	-							
10.04	10.01							
10.05	4.16 10.01 10.04							
10.06	10.01 10.02 10.04 10.05							
10.07	-							
10.08	10.04							

DESIRED RESULTS

The health of the Community is shown to have improved through access to active sports and recreational programmes

Gifted children are able to reach higher levels of achievement and sense of self-worth through sport



TARGET AREA 11: POLICING**TA11**

COMMUNITY OBLIGATION	➤ To contribute through ideas and actions to keeping Collarenebri a safe place
COMMUNITY ACTION	➤ Work with each other and agencies to stop unacceptable behaviour
PROVIDER OBLIGATION	➤ To carry out set duties and responsibilities within the context of Community disadvantage
PROVIDER ACTION	➤ Work with the Community to develop and put in place new ways that reduce distress

The Community aims to have all Community members live a life of quiet enjoyment

The Community aims to beneficially influence the quality of policing, judicial and custodial services which members might experience

STRATEGIC ACTIONS**CAN**

- 11.01 Establish a relationship with the Local Area Command so that policing issues can be talked through face to face;
- 11.02 Develop a joint strategy for responding to cases of domestic violence, including referral to counselling and legal services;
- 11.03 Develop a 'Circle sentencing' type approach to the management of children truant from school;
- 11.04 Introduce 'Circle sentencing' into Collarenebri so that offenders may be subject to a local criminal justice process within a cultural context and that victims of crime may be involved in the sentencing process as a way of seeing justice done.

IMPLEMENTATION

						PROGRESS		
CAN	LINKED CANs			SECTOR	PROVIDER	PROGRAM	TARGET END	P S F
11.01	-							
11.02	5.06	6.02	6.04					
11.03	4.14	4.15						
11.04	-							

DESIRED RESULTS

Policing, judicial and custodial services take account of cultural differences such that the number of offenders is reducing

Diversiory programmes have reduced the number of young people in trouble



COMMUNITY PROFILE

1. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Population

This Community Action Plan is prepared for the Aboriginal community of Collarenebri, a small town located 75 km north-east of Walgett, on the Gamilaroi (Gwydir) Highway, in Walgett Shire, in north-western NSW.

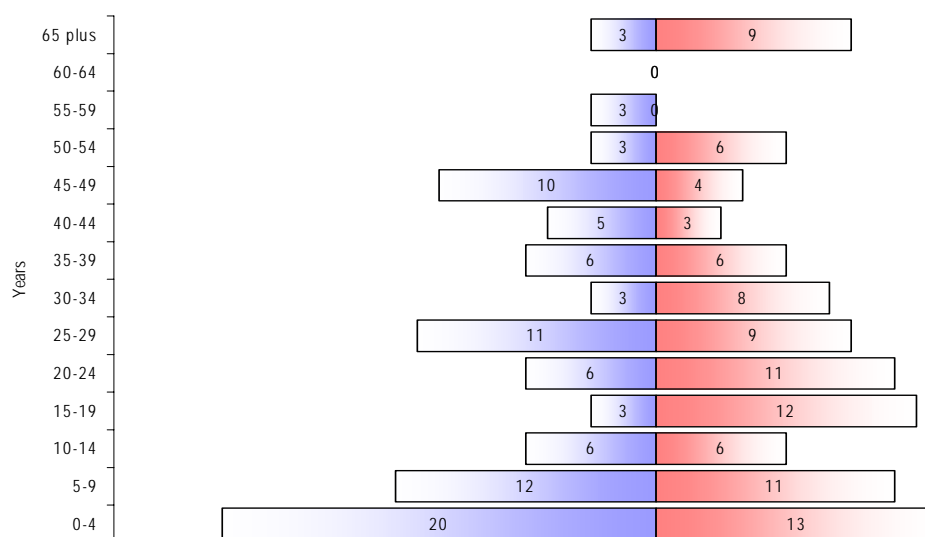
The ABS 2001 Census recorded a total of 504 people in Collarenebri, of whom 182 are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent. Table 1.1 summaries characteristics for the indigenous population.

TABLE 1.1
Summary Population Data

	Town
Number of households	44
Number of families	44
Number of people	182
Number of males	89
Number of females	93
Number of people aged 19 or less	83
Number of people aged 50 or over	24

The age and sex distribution for the survey sample is shown in Chart 1.1 and Table 1.2.

CHART 1.1
Population Pyramid



Overall, Collarenebri is a youthful community, with 46% of the population aged under 20 years. The ratio of females to males for the total Aboriginal population is skewed very slightly, there being 4% more females in the



population surveyed than males. Ratios vary between age groups. One significant feature is the low number of men recorded in the 19 – 24 year age range suggesting a high level of mobility exists in this age range.

TABLE 1.2
Age and Sex Distribution

Age Group	Males	Females	Total	Difference (M-F)
0 to 4	20	13	33	7
5 to 14	18	17	35	1
15 to 19	3	12	15	-9
20 to 29	17	20	37	-3
30 to 49	24	21	45	3
50 to 64	6	6	12	0
65 and over	3	9	12	-6
Total	91	98	189	-7

Masculinity ratio, the ratio of males to females, calculated from the survey data is 0.93; lower than that for the total indigenous population of NSW (0.99). The child to woman ratio of 0.62 is considerably higher than that for indigenous population of NSW as a whole (0.52). The relatively high dependency ratio of 0.73 at Collarenebri reflects the youthful age structure of the community and, while consistent with that for the indigenous population of NSW as a whole (0.75), indicates the Community to be vulnerable to economic hardship, because fewer people are available to carry the economic load of supporting their families.

Sixteen families are recorded as one parent families. Forty four people are in a registered marriage or a defacto relationship.

There are no language speakers in Collarenebri recorded by the ABS 2001 Census.

1.2 Infrastructure

Collarenebri township is located on the northern bank of the Barwon River. The small Aboriginal Community of ten houses known as The Walli has been developed on low lying land on the southern side of the river, separated from the town by a distance of 1.5 km. Approximate elevation in the town is 145 m AHD. The town is readily accessible by sealed highway from Walgett and Moree, and by unsealed road from Lightning Ridge and Burren Junction. The unsealed roads are dry weather roads, and become impassable after minimal rainfalls.

Soils range from deep grey cracking clays forming the floodplain along the river to undulating claystone and siltstone ridges of red earths and gravel. Native vegetation communities include dense to scattered bumble box, wilga and white cypress pine on the red soils to more open coolibah, belah and bumble box on the alluvial plains.

The town has little topographic relief but is generally flood free. Roads are constructed fully sealed with kerb and guttering in the main street, kerb and guttering but unsealed shoulders in the area surrounding the town centre, and as bitumen pavement, unsealed shoulders and table drains elsewhere. There is no piped drainage.

Water infrastructure has recently been upgraded to give piped treated supply to all houses while wastewater management is to accepted standards involving gravity sewerage to treatment lagoons and thence effluent disposal by evaporation. The Walli operates a separate system. Some minor deficiencies exist with both water and wastewater systems which should be corrected as part of the current Aboriginal Communities Development Programme. Power and communications services, including television, are provided. Council operates a weekly garbage service and residents have free access to the Council tip which comprises a single cell.

Collarenebri is noted for the unique Aboriginal cemetery which is a site of great cultural significance.



There is no public transport within the town, neither bus nor taxi except that three school bus services operate to outlying communities. The distance from the Walli to town is approximately 1.5 km, and residents without working cars (8 households out of 10) walk to and from town. Only six families in town have a registered, working vehicle. Collarenebri has an unsealed air strip comprising two runways but there are no commercial flights. The strip is lit to accommodate night-time flights by the air ambulance.

Community facilities available to everyone and not referred to elsewhere in this Plan are listed in Table 1.3.

TABLE 1.3
Community Facilities

Sector	Facility	Sector	Facility
Sport		Recreational	
	Football oval out of town		Golf club
	Tennis courts in poor condition		Bowling club
Entertainment			Swimming pool
	Liberty cinema now closed		Walli childrens playground
	Thoroughbred racecourse		

1.3 Local Services

Townpeople have access to a ready but basic level of retail services. The Post Office provides an agency service for the Commonwealth Bank, foodstuffs are available from two small supermarkets and a fast food outlet, meat from a single butcher and fuel from a service station. Fresh vegetables are delivered twice weekly and bread on weekdays.

The police station is staffed by three male officers but the vagaries of rostering to larger centres can leave the town without cover. The Community consider they are being penalised for being law abiding such that an officer may not be available when required to deal with domestic violence incidents. The town is subject to a ban on drinking alcohol in public places, which restriction is reported as being effective in reducing the incidence of disturbances. SES and Rural Fire Brigade have a presence, each service being resourced with an appliance/rescue vehicle.

Walgett Shire Council maintain a maintenance depot in town.

1.4 Climate

A Bureau of Meteorology recording station for which long-term climate observations are available is located in town at Albert Street. Key climatological data from this recording station are summarised in Table 1.4.

TABLE 1.4
Key Climatological Data – Albert Street, Collarenebri

Mean daily maximum temperature	°C	Summer	35.6
		Winter	18.4
Mean daily minimum temperature	°C	Summer	20.5
		Winter	4.1
Mean number of days over 35°			51
Highest temperature	°C		47.8
Lowest temperature	°C		-5.0
Mean annual rainfall	mm		504
Mean number of rain days			68
Highest recorded daily rainfall	mm		312.0



2. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Collarenebri is located within the country traditionally belonging to the people of the Gamilaroi language group. This country is very extensive, extending from close to St George in Queensland in the north, to south of Quirindi, and from Walgett in the west to as far east as Bingara and Tamworth.

In 1882, the Aborigines Protection Act passed through the NSW Parliament, and a Protector of Aborigines was appointed; commencing the establishment of reserves and government ration stations for Aboriginal people in the 1880s. Angledool was gazetted as the site of a Government reserve under the Aborigines Protection Act and opened in 1912. It was the only supervised reserve in the Walgett North area. Angledool Mission is located on the traditional land of the Yuwalaray people, close to the boundary of lands traditionally belonging to the Gamilaroi and Kooma language groups. At its peak, the mission accommodated up to 180 people who were moved, or moved, into the settlement from both Yuwalaray and Gamilaroi country.

Collarenebri Reserve was leased by the Government in 1923 to formalise a camp settlement of local Aboriginal people living on the outskirts of town.

In 1936, Angledool Mission was closed, shelters destroyed, and the residents forcibly relocated to the mission station at Brewarrina under a centralisation policy. The decision resulted from a reduced need for pastoral labour on the local stations in the light of the imminent subdivision of a group of the larger properties, including Angledool Station, to smaller holdings. The passing of the need to maintain a ready Aboriginal workforce for the benefit of the pastoral properties lifted the obligation placed upon the Aborigines Protection Board to provide segregated schooling and rations at Angledool during periods of unemployment and the Mission was closed. Poor housing conditions, inaccessibility in wet weather, the prevalence of eye disease coupled with lack of basic medical services provided the arguments for a relocation which would remove the pressure for a permanent settlement on the station.

Some residents of Angledool Mission resisted the relocation and moved instead to Collarenebri and Walgett. At about this time, the Aboriginal people resident in Collarenebri had become so vocal in their demands that their children be admitted to the local school that the Board was making plans to move the Collarenebri residents out of town to Pilliga Station. Pressure was mounting too from the Collarenebri Aboriginal community, along with three others in NSW, for release from control of the Board and the right to permanency in residence as a means, amongst others, of securing access to schooling.

First enrolments of Aboriginal children occurred at the Collarenebri school in 1941. By 1946, a course of full-time study was available. In the preceding twenty years, Aboriginal children were taught by the wife of the Presbyterian minister. The association with the Aborigines Inland Mission is evident still in the current strong following of the Presbyterian and Reformed Church as recorded by the ABS 2001 Census.

In the period subsequent, self-determination has become Government policy but continuing restructuring and technical advances experienced by the rural sector have put independent employment out of reach of almost all Aboriginal residents of the region. The community remains still very much dependent upon welfare.

3. COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

3.1 Housing

Community-controlled social housing is provided by the Collarenebri Local Aboriginal Land Council and Mangankali Aboriginal Corporation. Housing management is contracted to Murdi Paaki Regional Housing Corporation. Current housing stock totals about thirty three. Thirty eight households are renting dwellings and five households are renting flats or units. Less than nine indigenous households own, or are buying, their own homes. There is evidence of overcrowding but the need for new housing or extensions to relieve the situation is limited to four or five dwellings. The number of applicants eligible for rental housing is not identified. Rents for community-owned housing stock generally are \$100 per week or less, and for private or other rented



accommodation are less than \$149 per week. ABS calculate the median age for Aboriginal people living in indigenous households to be 23 years.

Of the housing-related issues confronting the housing providers that of refurbishment is the most critical. All dwellings require major repair and maintenance work.

3.2 Economic Status

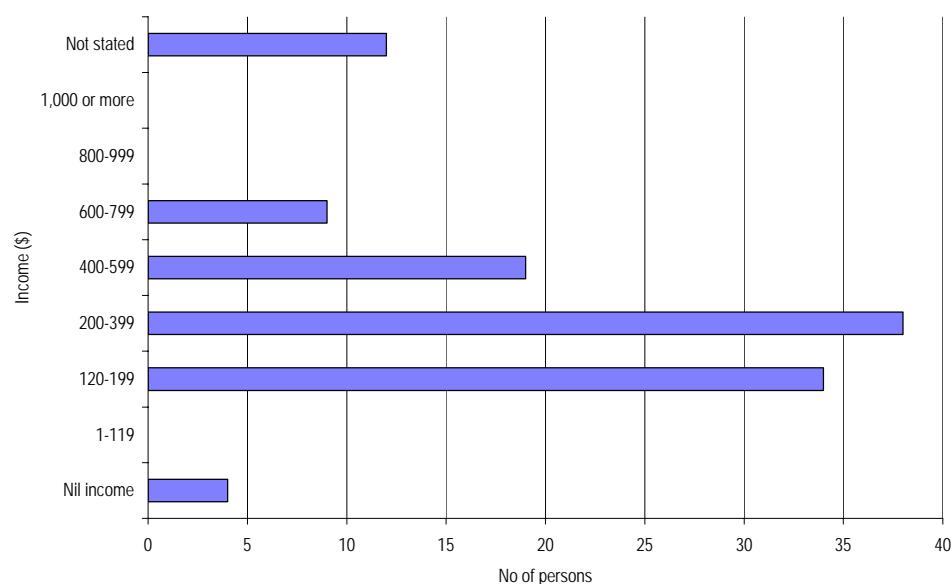
The economy of the region depends on agriculture and the service sector. Activity in the rural sector remains centred on sheep, wheat and cotton. Employment is strongest in the retail, accommodation, education, health and community service sectors. Employment for Aboriginal people is, however, generally concentrated in Aboriginal organisations and public sector agencies. Table 3.1 gives details of the employment status of the Collarenebri community and Chart 3.1 individual weekly income.

TABLE 3.1
Employment Status, Aboriginal Community, Collarenebri

Number of people employed	41
Number of people in workforce	59
Participation rate	52%
Number of people unemployed	19
Unemployment rate	32%

Eighteen people are recorded by the ABS 2001 Census as being on CDEP, fifteen being men, whereas the current level of participation is closer to the forty-nine places available.

CHART 3.1
Individual Weekly Income



Median family weekly income is \$566.

CDEP, which is administered by Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation, provides only two programmes; lawn maintenance and wood cutting. Plant and equipment is sufficient only for these activities. Lack of transport



effectively prevents people going away for training or employment, thereby keeping the Community in a state of perpetual under-achievement.

4. HEALTH

4.1 Health Services

Collarenebri Hospital has recently been replaced with a new facility which co-locates the Health Service, Ambulance Service and GP clinic to a common site. The hospital provides three inpatient care beds, six high and four low aged care accommodation places.

The town is without a permanent GP currently although a locum is engaged. As there is not a chemist in town, scripts are filled at Moree or Walgett. For dental service, the Community relies on the Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service.

4.2 Population Health Generally

Some information on the health of people living in Collarenebri is available from the Far West Area Health Service for the period to 2000. For some indicators where local data is not provided, information relating to the Shire or the service area is quoted to define a perspective:

Acute illness:

- on average, the number of admissions of Collarenebri residents for acute illnesses is 473 each year;
- resident men and women of Collarenebri are more likely to be admitted to hospital at any age for any reason than their counterparts in NSW generally;
- admissions relating to respiratory diseases, injury and poisoning are at a higher level in the region than NSW generally;
- admissions relating to digestive diseases are at a lower level in the region than NSW generally;
- admissions relating to social factors are at a lower level in Collarenebri than in the region and NSW generally;
- admissions relating to digestive diseases are at a higher level in Collarenebri than in the region.

Deaths

- there are, on average, 56 deaths each year in Walgett Shire;
- men and women resident in Walgett Shire are likely to die at any age for any reason at about the same rate as their counterparts in Far West and NSW generally;
- the percentage of deaths that are due to diseases of the circulation system is lower in Far West than for NSW generally;
- the percentage of deaths that are due to cancer, respiratory diseases and injury is higher in Far West than for NSW generally;
- the percentage of deaths due to cancer is lower in Walgett Shire than for Far West;
- the percentage of deaths due to injuries is significantly higher in Walgett Shire than for Far West.

Cancer

- there are, on average, about 9 deaths each year in Walgett Shire attributable to cancer;
- the most likely cause of cancer deaths in Walgett Shire in men is lung cancer (33%) and breast cancer in women (15%). These are also the most diagnosed cancers.

Mothers and babies

- there are, on average, 144 births each year to women resident in Walgett Shire;



- the percentage of premature babies born in Walgett Shire is significantly higher than for Far West area;
- in Walgett Shire, the percentage of babies born with a low weight to Aboriginal mothers is twice the rate of babies born with a low weight to non-indigenous mothers;
- women in Walgett Shire are likely to give birth at a younger age than women in NSW generally.

Infectious diseases

- the rates of whooping cough, hepatitis A, arboviral illness and Q fever are higher in the Far West than NSW generally;
- the rates of sexually transmitted diseases are higher in the Far West than NSW generally;
- the rates of hepatitis B and C are increasing in the Far West area;
- the rates of rubella and measles are decreasing in the Far West area.

5. EDUCATION

The Collarenebri Central School teaches from Kindergarten to Year 12 level. Enrolments total about 120. Years 11 and 12 take advantage of the Northern Border Senior Access programme delivered using telecommunication links in conjunction with three other schools. The ABS 2001 Census enumerated the highest level of schooling completed as:

	Boys	Girls
Year 8 or below	12	9
Year 9 or equivalent	7	13
Year 10 or equivalent	13	12
Year 11 or equivalent	3	4
Year 12 or equivalent	6	13
Still at school	3	4
Did not go to school	-	3
Not stated	8	9

The Census indicated that there were no persons attending a Technical or Further Education College, and no persons attending a University or undertaking a course at tertiary level.

CHART 5.1
Collarenebri School Enrolments 1993 - 2004

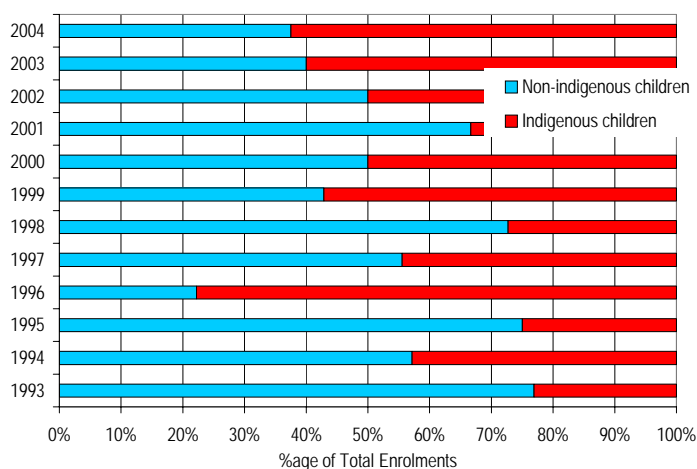
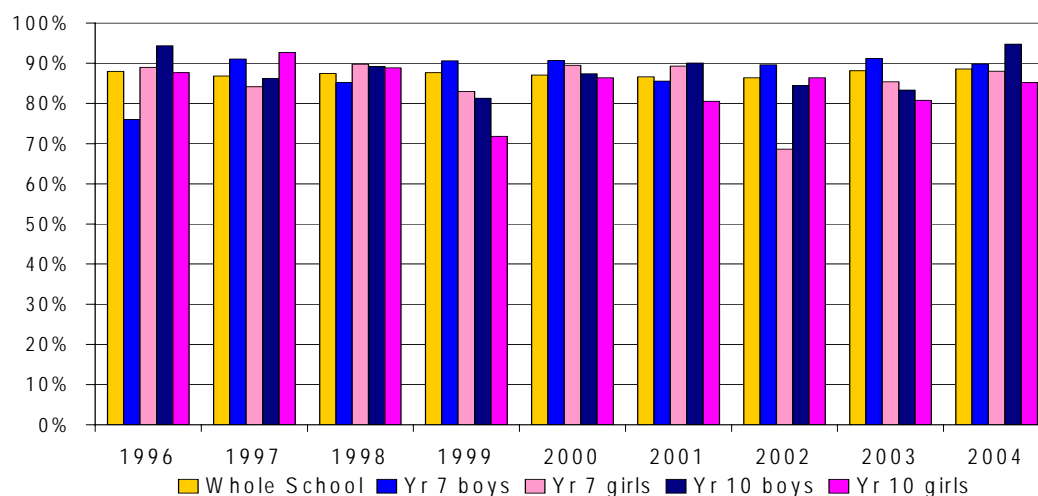
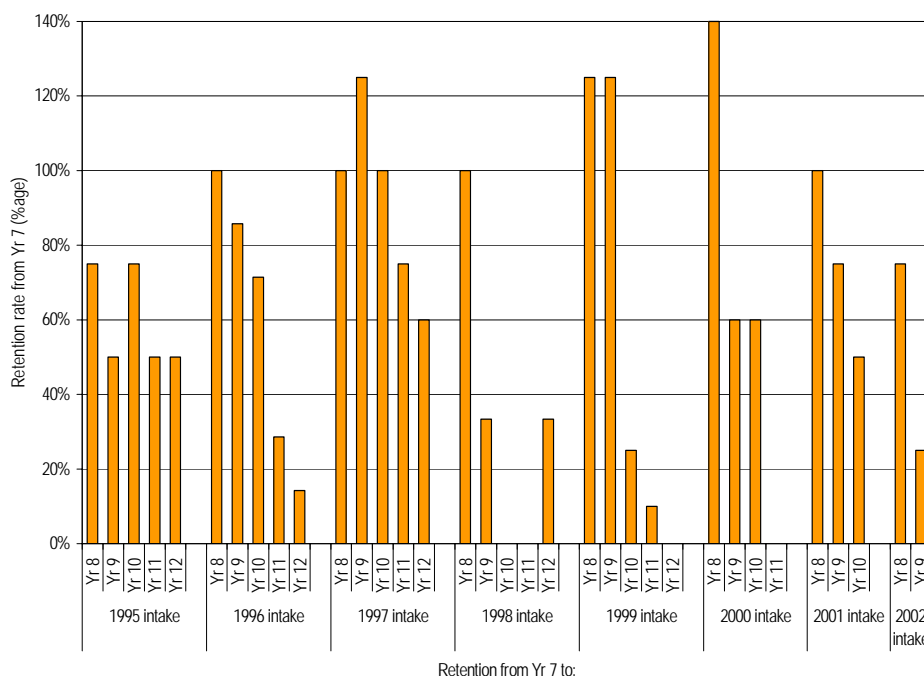


CHART 5.2
Collarenebri School Attendance 1996 - 2004



The proportion of Aboriginal students enrolling at Collarenebri Central School to students of non-indigenous descent is shown at Chart 5.1 and attendance of Aboriginal students as a percentage of beginning of year enrolments for Years 7 and 10 is shown at Chart 5.2. In 2004, a total of 64 Aboriginal students enrolled in all years. The NSW Department of Education has provided data on school retention rates for a period commencing in the early 1990's for the purposes of preparing this Community Action Plan. Results, plotted in Chart 5.3, demonstrate a clear need for measures to reduce the number of students leaving school at an early age.

CHART 5.3
Notional Retention Rate - Collarenebri Central School, Secondary Department, by Indigenous Status



Not one Aboriginal person of 108 respondents over the age of 15 years used a computer at home. No-one used the internet at home, work or elsewhere.

Three women are recorded by the ABS 2001 Census as having attained bachelor degrees in education and health related areas, and six men attained certificates in engineering and agricultural sectors. Eighteen people did not state if they had a qualification.



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