



NINTI ONE: CRC REMOTE ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Public Good” Cooperative Research Centre for Remote Economic Participation (CRC-REP) to Close.

After seven years of operations, the Cooperative Research Centre for Remote Economic Participation (CRC-REP), based in Alice Springs, will close on 30 June 2017.

The CRC-REP has developed a unique collaborative research program to systematically investigate and provide practical responses to the complex social, economic, health and education issues that affect economic participation, particularly with respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in remote areas.

Through co-designed, genuinely participatory on-ground research with end-user partners, the CRC-REP has delivered significant impact by providing relevant, timely and actionable advice and practical solutions to policymakers, businesses, community organisations and industry stakeholders working in or with remote communities.

Ahead of its wrap-up on 30 June 2017, the Board, partners and staff of the CRC-REP will meet in Alice Springs for the final time Tuesday this week. To coincide with this gathering, the CRC-REP will release its much-anticipated exit report summarising its achievements and outputs. This report to the CRC Programme of the Federal Government showcases our seven years of engagement with remote Australia.

The CRC-REP has worked with 59 partners- Universities, industry groups, SMEs and not-for profit organisation. Of these 59 partners it is significant that 21 of these are based in, or have an office in Alice Springs, with over 30% being Aboriginal organisations.

The CRC-REP is the only Cooperative Research Centre operating across remote Australia. Remote Australia covers over 80% of the country's landmass and supports approximately 3 million people and over 30 000 Small to Medium Enterprises- all of which could potentially benefit from our findings. The CRC-REP has supported over 100 researchers and students and has employed approximately 200 remote community-based Aboriginal Community Researchers, who will also be represented at our event. The CRC-REP has returned 40% of our cash income, or over \$16 million back to Northern Territory economy per annum.

One of the original 'public good' Cooperative Research Centres, the CRC-REP has had a multidisciplinary research focus on social sciences strongly aligned with federal government priorities including Closing the Gap, Stronger Futures and the Northern Australia Development agenda.

Overall our research findings provide evidence that solutions built on culture and meaningful engagement are fundamental to strengthening economies, businesses, education, well-being and health outcomes in remote Australia. In addition, an understanding that a 'one solution fits all' is not applicable when working in remote Australia and that on-ground participation and guidance is essential.

Our individual research project findings and their growing social and economic impacts are numerous- too many to mention here, but a snapshot is available [here](#).

"We're proud of what we do and this report has given us the opportunity to truly reflect on the incredible effort, insight and output from the past seven years," said Professor Tom Calma AO, Chair of the CRC and its parent company Ninti One.

"It would be an irony if the Federal government was to consider 'decentralising' Indigenous Programs to Alice Springs when they are no longer funding quality research and evidence- based policy advice from people living in remote Australia".

Ninti One, the CRC-REP' Centre Agency, will continue its activities and work to build opportunities for people in remote Australia through research, innovation and community development after the CRC-REP closes at the end of June 2017. The body of knowledge created by the CRC-REP will remain available online at www.nintione.com.au.

For more information, or for an interview with Professor Tom Calma AO, please contact Linda Cooper, Communications Manager on 0419331119 or linda.cooper@nintione.com.au

A full copy of the CRC-REP Exit Report is available [here](#)