

housing and substance misuse commitments, when this funding should, more appropriately, come from other mainstream funding sources.

The CLC maintains its position that in addition to funding land management and economic development projects ABA 64(4) funds should be used for small-scale funding to develop basic outstation infrastructure or, where this infrastructure already exists, the maintenance of this infrastructure.

Policy staff prepared presentations on the new 64(4) grants process and presented to both the CLC and NLC Executives and ABA members in September 2005 and held discussions with OPIC staff on these issues.

ABA advisory meetings were attended in September and December 2005 and in March 2006.

Statehood

The Northern Territory Government remains committed to a process to bring about Statehood by 2010, and has formed a Statehood Steering Committee made up of 18 representatives from different community sectors.

The CLC continues to be represented on the committee by Mr Geoff Shaw.

In March 2006 the CLC gave a presentation to the committee and reiterated that the Indigenous Constitutional Strategy document, from the Kalkaringi and Batchelor conventions, remains the basis for traditional land owners consideration of Statehood issues.

The three key issues for the CLC in addressing the potential for statehood remain:

- (1) Protection of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act
- (2) Aboriginal self-governance, and
- (3) Recognition of Aboriginal customary law.

During 2006 a constitutional legal consultant working with the CLC examined the implications of statehood mechanisms for Aboriginal Territorians with particular emphasis on the ALRA.

An expert legal forum was convened by the CLC during the year to discuss technical issues arising for Aboriginal people from the statehood proposals and in June 2006 the CLC provided a comprehensive presentation to the Statehood Committee on the continuing work that has been carried out on these and other governance issues.

Telecommunications

The CLC continues to be represented on two key telecommunications bodies: Telstra's Consumer Consultative Committee (TCCC) and the Australian Communications Authority's (ACA) Consumer Consultative Forum (CCF).

The TCCC meets four times a year and the CCF meets twice yearly.

Through these forums, and other avenues, the CLC continues to be actively engaged with key regulatory, industry, government and consumer organisations.

A research proposal has been made to the TCCC by CLC regarding mobile phone use amongst low-income Aboriginal people.

This project is designed to inform the TCCC about the issues faced by low income Aboriginal customers of mobile phone services, and will consider the issues faced by low-income Aboriginal consumers of mobile phone services based in Alice Springs as well as those that live in remote communities.

Education

The CLC continues to be committed to advocating for improvements to the delivery of education in remote Indigenous communities.

The CLC sits on the Central Australian Education Reference Group.

The CLC has also undertaken a number of more specific initiatives with respect to the delivery of education and training programs in the Warlpiri region (see the discussion of the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust in 'community development').

Substance misuse issues

The CLC continues to sit on the Substance Misuse Advisory Group (SMAG) and attended forums and provided comment to the NTG on the anti-social behaviour legislation and the alcohol court.

CLC staff attended the Northern Territory and Australian Government briefing on the regional Opal roll-out and related strategies in February 2006.

On the ground agencies advice that in the long-term, the roll-out of Opal fuel will not result in decreased petrol sniffing unless it is matched with meaningful programs of activities for young people in remote communities.

Accordingly, the CLC has assisted in the preparation of submissions for community youth programs and the necessary infrastructure required to support these programs operating in remote communities.

Finally, an audit of outstations in the South West region was undertaken early in 2006 to identify potential outstations for a petrol sniffing program in support of the Petrol Sniffing Abatement Feasibility Study.