

INQUIRY INTO OVERCOMING INDIGENOUS DISADVANTAGE

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Subject: Griffith Aboriginal Community Social Action Plan

Dear Glenda

Please accept the attached Social Action Plan as a submission on behalf of the Aboriginal Community of Griffith, NSW.

Yours sincerely,

Judith Johnson
Community member

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GRIFFITH COMMUNITY WORKING PARTY
SOCIAL ACTION PLAN 2007

May 2007

an initiative of the Griffith Community Working Party



GRIFFITH COMMUNITY WORKING PARTY

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SOCIAL ACTION PLAN 2007

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Griffith Community Working Party

All representatives

Community members

All those community members who shared in community meetings or invited us onto their verandas for a yarn

and with special thanks to Mrs Gloria Goolagong OAM and Mrs Judy Johnson who so kindly gave their time to organise interviews with grassroots community members

Commonwealth, State and Local Government agency representatives, including those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff who provided insights also from a community viewpoint

Representatives and staff of local non-government organisations, including local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations



The ideas reported in this Plan are the intellectual property of the Griffith Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community and are the contribution of the community through the Community Working Party to achieving higher levels of social, economic and environmental wellbeing.



What

WE WOULD LIKE

to get out of this Plan:

Our aim in writing this Plan is to:

1. Get everyone – families, people and organisations - working together to move things along as a community
2. Set out the things we need to do now and soon to improve our lives and those of our children
3. Gain recognition for, and commitment to, the Griffith Community Working Party as the peak body representing the interests of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community
4. Improve the co-ordination of services to our community
5. Have all government agencies and non-government organisations accountable to the community for the development and delivery of services.

This plan is prepared by the Griffith Community Working Party. The Community Working Party is the peak body representing the interests of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community of Griffith and is the body which will speak up for all of us.

We see this plan as getting across our hopes, our needs and our priorities for a better future. It is important to us that service providers, whether Aboriginal community-controlled organisations or mainstream agencies, walk the same road as us to bring about change.

This plan is important to every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person who feels they have a link into Griffith – not only the people who live in the town or the outlying villages, or who access services here, but also those who have a cultural or family link to Griffith.

We will put this plan into action with our eyes on the long-term vision for our Griffith community. We will work together with pride in our Aboriginal culture and heritage to improve the lives of our whole community. We respect the contribution our elders make as the custodians of our culture, and we will do all we can to make sure our elders live lives which are healthy, happy and richly fulfilling. We will work to create a rewarding and contented future for our children, our grandchildren and all future generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander citizens of Griffith.



What we want to do

FIRST is:

With the help of service providers, to act upon the following solutions aimed at increasing the number of our children going to school, keeping our children at school, and helping them to achieve better results.

- Give practical support to the Homework Centre, to be set up at Griffith Public School under the Schools in partnership (SiP) Programme, to help school children to get their homework done. Ask parents to play a big part in making the centre a success by making sure the children go to the centre and by working with the children as volunteers. Negotiate with the Griffith LALC to use the LALC bus to transport students to and from the centre. Involve our Elders to set standards expected of our children.

NOTE There is potential for this to be a Shared Responsibility Agreement initiative. Griffith Public School is keen to provide the venue and staff to run the Homework Centre one day per week, and is looking to provide an afternoon meal to students and parents as a further incentive to attend. The mutual obligation would be to support the centre by encouraging attendance by students, to promote parental involvement, and to use a bus owned by an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation to transport children to and from the centre. The Homework Centre can be an effective way of closing the gap in literacy and numeracy between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous children. Higher levels of literacy and numeracy should lead to better retention rates through to Year 12, and higher levels of achievement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. See the Profile for information about high school retention rates.

- Give practical support to the projects being developed by Griffith Public School under the SiP Programme. In addition to the Homework Centre, these projects include: the transition programmes to ease the progress of children from pre-school into Kindergarten and from Year 6 into High School; the Scaffolding in Literacy programme which will train a number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tutors who will then help children to learn to read; the Alternative Diversionary Programme which provides activities aimed at improving self-esteem for children who are not engaging with school; and the Elders' Programme, which involves elders going into the school to share their wisdom and knowledge with the children.

NOTE Each of these projects has the potential to be part of a Shared Responsibility Agreement. The Mutual Obligation would involve commitment and participation by parents, elders and other community members working alongside their children. The Community Working Party has a key role in encouraging this kind of participation.



What we want to do

FIRST is:

- Work with the schools to reduce truancy. Ask the Department of Education and Training to create and staff an identified position for an Aboriginal Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO), to work alongside the mainstream HSLO. The Aboriginal HSLO should be someone with a commitment to education who is well respected in the community. Educate community members about the need to have children attend school, and how to support the work of the two HSLOs.

NOTE A number of children indicated in interview that they had left school before Year 10. By their accounts, their absences were not followed up. While there is room for error, the number of school enrolments seems less than the number of children of school age counted in the 2001 Census and it may be that there is a hidden group of young people who are not enrolling for school. The two HSLO positions are needed to follow up children with excessive absences or partial absences, and they will need to be supported to find creative ways to make contact with children and their families when needed.

With the help of service providers, to support our young people to live safe, healthy, contented lives, and to help them to grow into the mature, responsible leaders our community will need in the future.

- Organise a Youth Action Plan, to find out what our children and young adults think, and what they want to do about the lack of things to do in Griffith. Get a Youth Council up and running, to encourage greater input of ideas of young people and development of leadership skills in younger members of the community. As part of the Youth Action Planning process, develop actions to give children and young adults safe places and programmes to attend. Ensure that both boys and girls are provided for. Involve the elders to guide the setting of values and to act as mentors.

NOTE Children and young people say there is little to do in town. The places young people want to go are too far away from where they live and there is no bus service to get to and fro. Centres like the PCYC could be made more friendly to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.



What we want to do

FIRST is:

With the help of service providers, to have more of our community members with work skills, a higher number in well paid and fulfilling jobs, and some running their own businesses.

- The Community Working Party knows that purposeful employment is at the centre of dealing with disadvantage in the social and health sectors. Ways to increase real work opportunities must receive attention as a top priority. We will, and we expect others to, take a strategic approach to responding to the poor employment situation in Griffith for our community members, especially our young people. Work with Riverina State Training Centre and TAFE to develop other ways of getting people into a programme of skills development, and helping them complete their training for work. Look at lead-in services because these are not helping students into jobs.

NOTE There is clear feeling among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that, when jobs are available with local employers, they are only low-skilled, low paid jobs. Prospects for promotion generally do not exist, and opportunities for on-the-job training are limited. Transport to and from work is a big issue, particularly with those jobs requiring an early start. Lateness is a contributing factor which leads to disputes, which lead to the employee walking away. Look at the low level of vocational training as shown in the Community Profile.

With the help of service providers, to support families to bring up children in safe, secure and loving homes.

- Invite governments to work with the Community Working Party to identify and plan potential programs that can strengthen the family unit and community environment so that the personal development and self-esteem of children and young people can happen. Educate community members in responsible living; in healthy ways and better money management. Secure funding to design an Aboriginal parenting programme targeted towards DoCS clients.

NOTE While there are many strong, supportive Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in Griffith, some families struggle, for a variety of reasons, to bring up their children in a safe, caring environment. With a stable, loving family life, it is easier for children to thrive, develop their self esteem and grow into well-adjusted adults. There are a number of families in Griffith who are clients of the Department of Community Services (DoCS). Community Health, DoCS and TAFE have been working together to plan a programme to help DoCS clients to learn parenting skills. The programme will assist six families at a time, with sessions for two hours per week over seven weeks. Financial support is needed to design and deliver this programme.



What we want to do

FIRST is:

With the help of service providers, to make sure our community members have good quality homes and surroundings to live in, and are able to have access to community services and facilities.

- Support a beautification project at Threeways. The beautification project will include a clean-up of the area from the Noorla Street roundabout to the Threeways bridge, to the water filtration plant; landscaping; plantings; a children's playground, bike track, barbecue area, toilet and interpretive signage. A community centre should also be constructed, to be used as a homework centre for Year 7 to 12 students, for site-based vocational training, for outreach community services and for community meetings and gatherings. The possibility of including a swimming pool should be investigated too, as an alternative to illegal swimming in the canal. The community also desires that the 'bridge' on Calabria's front lawn be returned as a feature for this upgraded area.

NOTE There is support within the community for undertaking this activity as a Shared Responsibility Agreement. Griffith City Council and Murrumbidgee Irrigation are interested in assisting. The mutual obligation component would involve two items: young people aged from 15 to 24 years undertaking a qualification in horticulture in conjunction with the project, and elders at Threeways working with school students on a frequent, regular and continuing basis to improve their literacy and numeracy. Griffith City Council is interested in employing people who come through the training programme in Parks and Gardens. There is also scope for children from Griffith Public School, under the supervision of the Alternative Programmes Officer, to work on elements of this project as a community service.

- Secure outreach services from both mainstream and Aboriginal community-controlled service providers for Pioneer. Ask the Department of Housing to convert the house set aside as a community centre, but now boarded up, to provide a venue for outreach services and other community activities.

NOTE Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents of Griffith are disadvantaged compared to non-Indigenous people but, as the Profile shows, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who live at Pioneer and Threeways are even more disadvantaged when compared with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of Griffith as a whole. People living at Pioneer say they have very little access to resources. A high proportion of families there are single parent families, with all the added pressures that go with this situation. There is a great need for services to be offered on site.

- Seek to have additional bus services provided to Pioneer, and to have town bus services (other than the school buses) extended to Threeways. Buses need to be provided at weekends and at night also, so that young people can get to and from town.

NOTE The town bus does not service Threeways at all (except for school specials). Four services per day are provided to Parko and to Pioneer during the week, and two on Saturdays. The last bus of the day arrives at Parko at 2.27 pm on weekdays and 11.47 am on Saturdays, and at Middleton Crescent at 2.20 pm on weekdays, and 11.54 am on Saturdays. There is no public transport to or from town during the week outside school hours, and there are no Sunday bus services. During the evenings, young people who go into town to be with their friends have few options of getting safely home from town other than to hire a taxi, which is expensive.



The other **ACTIONS** we will take over
time to get to where we want to be:

1 The way we do business

- 1.01 Speak out for the Griffith Community Working Party to be the peak policy-setting and decision-making body in town for affairs affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members. Respect the right of the Community Working Party to decide its own membership and structure, and the way service providers are to come to the table. Open channels of communication with and seek representation for the Community Working Party at peak Government Regional Co-ordination Group level and on regional and local mainstream inter-agency committees.

NOTE The Griffith Community Working Party represents the interests of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Griffith and its primary role is community governance. Governance is the way we, as a community, manage our public affairs. The Community Working Party can offer knowledge, advice and support to service providers implementing the strategic directions set out in this Plan but it has neither operational capacity nor financial means to carry out work itself. Except for those internal strengthening measures identified in this Section, responsibility for researching, planning, designing, delivering and monitoring individual actions rests with the principal agencies delivering and/or co-ordinating services.

- 1.02 Engage community members all the time so that there is confidence in what the Working Party is doing. Hold meetings in a way which encourages those who wish to play a part to feel comfortable in participating. Give the opportunity for community people to speak with the Community Working Party on specific issues. Report decisions and actions back to the community and to all Aboriginal incorporated organisations, in an open way. The Community Working Party respects cultural diversity and different values because we become stronger by working through our differences.

- 1.03 Look for ways of developing adequate permanent, full-time administrative and technical support to the Community Working Party in the form of a Liaison Officer. The Community Working Party must have the capacity to work effectively in partnership with service providers to set the path to the future in terms with which we are comfortable. The Liaison Officer will guide service providers in negotiating service agreements on behalf of our Griffith community members and will be a day-to-day link to the Community Working Party.



The other ACTIONS we will take over time to get to where we want to be:

1.04 This Social Action Plan, and future plans, set the community's strategic direction. Actions in the Plan will be put into place by the community, as individuals and together, with the input and help of service providers. We ask that this Plan be taken as the community's collective wisdom. The Community Working Party intends that action which responds to the Plan will be continuous, planned and co-operative. Representatives do not wish to be reacting to situations any more. The community will use the Social Action Plan to measure improvements in community health and wellbeing in all its forms.

NOTE The Community Working Party wishes it to be understood that social problems in Griffith are **community** problems, not Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander problems. Prejudiced attempts to blame the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community for issues which arise because of conflict and lack of resources in the broader community will not be allowed to pass unchallenged. The Community Working Party will draw attention to any discrimination of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community people.

1.05 We want to see new ways of engagement between the community, through the Community Working Party, and government, non-government, community-based, and private service providers that lift the results of services and programmes well above past and present levels of achievement. Respect our cultural values in this new framework and our position as custodians of Wiradjuri country. Make sure that service providers do business in a way that recognises and respects the ways in which connections between people and places have come about over the generations. The community rejects the ad hoc approaches of the past. The community wants to see services and programmes being followed through to a known end on which we are all agreed. Funding for Aboriginal-specific programmes must be maintained in real terms until agencies can show that programme objectives have been met in full.

NOTE The Griffith Community Working Party wants to make a difference to the lives of Griffith people but believes that mainstream institutional structures and way of thinking do not often work in the best interests of community people. The Griffith Community Working Party asks that these structures and practices be reshaped so that local people are more readily able to engage and participate to help make the difference.

1.06 Develop strong and co-operative partnerships between the Community Working Party and government, non-government, community-based and private service providers so that knowledge about issues, ideas and information about services can flow both ways. In this way, community representatives can be fully informed about opportunities and be in a position to reach decisions knowing all the facts.

1.07 Network with other Community Working Parties in the region to share information and ideas and to explore projects we can work on together. Work towards a regional representative structure if that is will give us all a stronger voice.



The other ACTIONS we will take over time to get to where we want to be:

- 1.08 Visiting agency staff must be fully briefed on their subject areas so that the community is obtaining the best possible advice. Agency staff shall also do what they say they will do, within an agreed reasonable time. In this way, co-ordinated plans can be put into place in the knowledge that the community's aims can be met.
- 1.09 Regional and local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service providers are expected to account for the standard of services delivered into the community. The Community Working Party asks all such service providers to be open and forward-thinking in their dealings with the community. All funding applications must be submitted through the Community Working Party and have Community Working Party approval before they are submitted to agencies for funding.
- 1.10 Government agencies which receive Aboriginal-identified funding are expected to consult the Community Working Party about community priorities, and to report to the Community Working Party about the way this funding is spent. The Community Working Party takes the view that the necessary flow of information can best be achieved by Aboriginal employees being allowed to attend all Community Working Party meetings, and related meetings. The Community Working Party expects that managers of Aboriginal staff working in Government agencies will support their staff members' involvement in Community Working Party business. The Community Working Party expects to be represented in all recruitment processes for Aboriginal-identified positions in mainstream agencies. The Community Working Party also expects to have a role in directing projects and services provided into the community by NGOs, as this is the best way to ensure community ownership of these initiatives. There is a serious risk that these initiatives will otherwise be misdirected.
- 1.11 Continue to build a working relationship with Griffith City Council (GCC), but through the Community Working Party, rather than the Aboriginal Advisory Committee. Invite a senior representative of GCC to attend and participate in Community Working Party meetings. Keep Community Working Party representation on Council social planning working parties. Speak up for this Social Action Plan to GCC for support and action. Work with Council to establish an ACLO position at Council, to build bridges between Council and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.



The other **ACTIONS** we will take over time to get to where we want to be:

2. Learning all our lives

- 2.01 Investigate opportunities for an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation to offer childcare services for Aboriginal families, as a means of providing early childhood education in a way which will help parents to enter the workforce.

NOTE There is a shortfall in early childhood services which Aboriginal families can afford and gain access to. The need for Aboriginal-community controlled playgroups and pre-school places is met, but there is a shortage of accessible, affordable childcare. Private services are not affordable and transport difficulties make them inaccessible. Families at Pioneer are likely to be single parent families and mothers with young children are tied to home by the lack of a service.

- 2.02 Support efforts by the Griffith Wiradjuri Pre-school to attract grant funding to paint the centre and fix up the play area, including new shade structures, play equipment and softfall.

- 2.03 Encourage interested community members to gain early childhood teaching qualifications to provide a pool of trained casual and permanent staff for the Griffith Wiradjuri Pre-school, and other early childhood services, both Aboriginal community-controlled and mainstream.

- 2.04 Secure a position on the Schools in Partnership (SiP) Committee at Griffith Public School for the Director of the Wiradjuri Aboriginal Pre-school.

- 2.05 Work with the Griffith Wiradjuri Pre-school and the schools to get more involvement by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents in their children's education. Encourage parents in the community to join the Griffith Wiradjuri Pre-school's Management Committee; to become more involved in school P&C or P&F Committees, and attend Parent-Teacher nights, otitis media information sessions and other activities; and to volunteer their time to help with pre-school and school projects, which will assist their children.

NOTE Greater involvement by parents will improve their children's self-esteem and health, and the sense of parents valuing education will show children how important it is to attend and remain at school.



The other **ACTIONS** we will take over time to get to where we want to be:

2.06 Set up partnerships with the schools and TAFE to work towards higher levels of retention and achievement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Seek to have School Principals attend CWP meetings by invitation to work through education issues. Seek to have Aboriginal-specific induction programmes provided at all schools where there are Aboriginal children enrolled. Investigate ways in which "two-way Aboriginal schooling" could work in Griffith to meet the needs of Aboriginal students. This might involve setting up an Aboriginal school. We need to know how effective facilities such as Tirkandi Inaburra are, so that we can make more use of these sorts of facilities if they work. The model should be extended to help girls at risk, or we need to come up with other solutions if things are not working.

NOTE As the Community Profile shows, there are few Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students finishing Year 12 at present. Some children are leaving school as early as Year 8. If school enrolments are compared with census figures for the number of people of high school age (12 to 17 years old), about one third of people in this age group do not appear to be enrolled in school. The primary and secondary schools with the highest enrolments of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, Griffith Public School and Griffith High School, have programmes in place, and are working on new programmes. These programmes aim to keep our children engaged with school, and to bring their levels of achievement up so that, on average, they are the equal of non-Indigenous students. The community needs to work with the schools to find the best way forward to meet the needs of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

2.07 Develop ways in which a greater number of local Aboriginal people can be trained to teach our children. We should be looking to help our people to get university qualifications in teaching.

2.08 Continue to support the Wiradjuri language programme being delivered in the Schools (and TAFE) as the basis to expand the teaching of Aboriginal culture in schools. Value alternative learning through art, story-telling and music. Support initiatives to have the Wiradjuri language programme extended to the Griffith Wiradjuri Pre-school. Encourage adult community members with language skills to work with children at the Pre-school.

2.09 Support the introduction of Personal Learning Plans for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in all schools in the Griffith area and look closely at the possibility of making this a career plan.

2.10 Place greater emphasis on learning through experience, in a group setting if relevant, as one way of engaging those who are most at risk of non-attendance and low levels of achievement. Explore opportunities to provide a learning environment and experiences outside of school where young participants can develop life and work skills working with older family members alongside academic learning.



The other ACTIONS we will take over time to get to where we want to be:

- 2.11 In consultation with DET and TAFE, investigate the possibility of introducing VET in Schools earlier in the curriculum (from Year 8), to encourage greater engagement among young people whose interests are practical rather than academic.
- 2.12 In conjunction with the community, review the suspension policy in place at the schools and develop new strategies that prevent children using the disciplinary system to avoid school and take to the streets. Look at an approach similar to 'circle sentencing' but set within the school context to manage children with disciplinary issues. Create rewards programmes, as distinct from disciplinary programmes, which encourage children to participate and achieve in schooling.



The other **ACTIONS** we will take over
time to get to where we want to be:

3 Developing our future leaders

- 3.01 Increase access of young people to diversionary programmes as a means of encouraging a lifestyle without alcohol and other hazardous substances. Programmes must be available particularly in periods such as school holidays. Emphasis should be on local management of organised sporting, recreational and cultural activities that assist in personal development.
- 3.02 Look at existing sporting and recreational facilities to see which are suitable for use and able to provide a focus for youth sporting and recreational activities. Prepare a plan for use around the Youth Action Plan. Make recommendations to meet recreational needs including upgrading any existing facilities to an acceptable standard and/or building new facilities. Create Youth Recreation Officer position. Look at ways in which young people can easily get to and from sporting and recreational facilities during the day and evening.
- 3.03 Speak out for better resources for the PCYC, and work with PCYC Management to make the club more attractive to young Aboriginal people as a place to drop in and spend some time.
- 3.04 Investigate lower-cost options for community members to play team sports. Perhaps look at setting up low-cost sporting competitions with other teams in Griffith, and other communities in the region. Work also to improve access among young people to the swimming pool, perhaps sponsoring the establishment of a youth swimming club as a way to make swimming more affordable and accessible.



The other **ACTIONS** we will take over
time to get to where we want to be:

4. The part we will play in the economy

4.01 Work with Griffith City Council and/or other interested community groups and organisations to develop a community-wide Koori employment programme. Bear in mind the Moree initiative, but develop the programme from the ground up to meet the specific needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in Griffith. Use the programme to assist the movement of Aboriginal people into jobs in mainstream businesses and services, and to get away from the problem of Aboriginal people being offered only menial work.

4.02 Develop a long term jobs and enterprise-focused training programme to raise the skills and sense of hope and achievement in the community. Develop a sense of going forward. Target those younger members of the community who show a desire to do well. Create far more skills-based training and work opportunities for young people. Negotiate apprenticeships and traineeships in areas for which there is a need in the broader community. Take greater advantage of the VET in Schools programme to engage younger students (male and female) at risk of dropping out. Identify and mentor those younger community members who have the potential to run businesses.

4.03 Identify enterprise opportunities that are worthy of further evaluation as locally operated, long term businesses. Start small. Consider buying existing local businesses or setting up new ventures. Look for radical solutions to increasing employment levels through local initiatives. Financial viability is a must. Activity is no substitute for economic independence.

NOTE Some ideas put forward are:

- landscape gardening, production horticulture and bush regeneration
- in manufacturing: engineering
- in repairing: mechanical workshop
- in tourism: arts and crafts, language, Cultural Centre
- in transport: trucking service

4.04 Seek to have cross-cultural awareness training provided to all job network providers to equip them with the knowledge to provide more culturally aware support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients. Make employment services more accessible in town by providing an outreach service, for example, at the Griffith AMS, which community members are more likely to visit and where they feel more comfortable in talking.



The other **ACTIONS** we will take over
time to get to where we want to be:

5. Living our lives through our culture

5.01 Put together a Cultural Restoration Plan to set out the steps the community would like to see taken to bring back and pass on traditions, lore and practices, including the values of unity and respect. Recognise the Plan responds to over 200 years of deeply felt loss and dispossession.

5.02 Reinforce the position of the elders as the keepers of our cultural traditions, lore and practices. Establish a programme of cultural trips and camps where traditions, including singing, music and dancing, can be handed down to younger generations. Focus on reinforcing the traditional role of the elders in family and community, and emphasise the need for respect.

NOTE Many elders within the community have had aspects of their culture stripped away from them by the experience of living under Aborigines Protection Board control, and so have not been able to pass language and culture on to their children. The elders, too, need the support of the whole community to embrace their culture and to reject the shame they were made to feel by those who sought to wipe out Aboriginal culture.

5.03 Seek funding to support the Elders' Programme developed by Griffith Public School in collaboration with Dyrri-Bang-Gu. Resource materials and activities, with a view to passing down our cultural lore and traditions, life stories and wisdom, and increasing the level of respect between young people and elders.

NOTE There is potential for this to be a Shared Responsibility Agreement initiative. The outcomes would be greater engagement with school and a greater appreciation of culture and identity among young people, and an increase in the level of respect for elders.

5.04 Build a Wiradjuri Cultural Centre for the purpose of recording, conserving and interpreting culture and history, including recording, preserving and transmitting language, dreaming stories and post-contact oral history; providing a Cultural Learning Centre for the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous community, and acting as a centre for cultural tourism. The Cultural Centre should be located on Aboriginal community owned and controlled land.

5.05 Encourage interested community people to promote local heritage through art and craft exhibitions at the Cultural Centre. Adequately resource children and young adults learning workshops during the school holidays to develop creative talents.



The other **ACTIONS** we will take over
time to get to where we want to be:

5.06 Work with Griffith City Council and the Pioneer Park operator to create an Aboriginal presence in the display material at Pioneer Park. It is important to develop interpretive material to show tourists that Griffith has an Aboriginal history.

5.07 Continue to support the Pre-school's and the Schools' role in teaching all material from a Wiradjuri point of view to show how important the role of culture is in our everyday lives.



The other ACTIONS we will take over time to get to where we want to be:

6. Living healthier and safer lives

6.01 Carry out a carefully designed survey, to be completed anonymously, to collect baseline data on social issues including alcohol and other drug use, family violence, school retention rates, fear of crime and related issues, to allow us to see whether social programmes and services are actually achieving what they are designed to achieve. Consider choosing the questions from those included in the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, carried out by the ABS in 2002, as these have been designed with a view to collecting the best possible quality data from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

6.02 With other communities in the region, seek support for a review of alcohol and other drug (AoD) services at a regional level, and seek support for the provision of culturally responsive services to meet need at a regional level. In the review and service planning process, take into account the Drug and Alcohol Reduction Plan for Griffith, currently being prepared for Miyagan, in collaboration with community elders, the Police Service and other Government agencies.

NOTE Alcohol and other drug misuse is a serious issue for the community. It leads to poor physical and mental health, housing issues, community conflict and involvement in the criminal justice system. Currently, options for assisting community members with AoD issues are limited. For example, women needing a residential programme are having to be referred to Melbourne.

6.03 Develop programmes which focus on reducing the level of family violence. Work with NSW Health in partnership on this issue, and take into account the Family Violence Reduction Plan prepared by Miyagan.

6.04 Develop and implement anger management programmes as an early step in reducing tensions in the community. Safeguard the right of every Community member to be able to live a peaceful life at home, at work, at play and at school, free from harmful influences.

6.05 Resource the Griffith AMS to provide outreach services to Threeways and Pioneer, to administer blood pressure and blood glucose level tests, change dressings and provide similar services in residents' homes.

6.06 Seek funding to construct, staff and maintain a dental clinic, to be located at Griffith AMS.

NOTE The Griffith AMS is currently referring patients to the dentist at Wagga. Only ten appointments per month are available.



The other **ACTIONS** we will take over
time to get to where we want to be:

6.07 Support the Griffith AMSs' efforts to obtain the services of an ear, nose and throat specialist and a paediatrician on a frequent, regular visiting basis. Seek funding to construct an audiometry room at the AMS, and sponsor AMS staff to undertake audiometry training.

NOTE Patients are currently referred to ENT specialists at Wagga Wagga but the wait for an appointment is 12 months, followed by a 12 to 18 month wait for procedures. Griffith AMS staff are having to take children to Sydney to obtain ENT services. The waiting time for paediatric appointments is only 2 to 3 weeks but access to the paediatrician is prohibitively expensive. Many childhood illnesses are caused or aggravated by hygiene problems arising from overcrowding, or from nutrition problems.

6.08 Seek the creation by Greater Southern Area Health Service of an additional AHEO position within Community Health, to allow for the provision of additional programmes and services to the Griffith community.

NOTE Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people need support to learn to be healthy. Current health education services take an holistic approach rather than a clinical one. Over time, teaching people to be healthy reduces the burden on the health system. This approach needs up-front investment but is not adequately resourced at present. More financial support from the health system is needed to allow service providers the time to build teamwork across organisations and agencies.

6.09 Continue to support the activities of Dyrri-Bang-Gu, working together with Community Health and Griffith AMS, in meeting the needs of Elders within the community in responsive, culturally sensitive ways.



The other **ACTIONS** we will take over time to get to where we want to be:

7 Our living environments

- 7.01 Continue to improve the physical, social and emotional wellbeing of community members by providing enough suitably designed and well built housing for all sections of the community. Community housing must offer acceptable levels of comfort, privacy, safety, condition and accessibility.
- 7.02 Undertake an audit of need for Aboriginal-identified social housing in Griffith to identify the level and locations of overcrowding and other instances of unmet need for housing. Seek funding assistance to obtain or construct additional housing to supply unmet need. Investigate the demand for single persons' accommodation where this would allow young adults to form their own households, or to leave a stressful home situation.
- 7.03 Re-establish an Aboriginal community-controlled social housing provider in Griffith. Ensure that this provider is registered with the Aboriginal Housing Office. Seek to have future housing provided through this organisation.
- 7.04 Commence a project, working together with the Anti-Discrimination Board and the Department of Fair Trading, to wipe out (or at least substantially reduce) discrimination against Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people in the private property market. Ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have equal opportunity to rent or purchase housing on the private market.
- 7.05 Seek to have the NSW Government's *Housing and Human Services Accord* implemented with an immediate start.
- NOTE The statistical information provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that Aboriginal residents of Threeways, Pioneer and Parko (Parkinson Crescent) are very disadvantaged, compared even to other Aboriginal residents of Griffith (see the Community Profile at the end of this Plan). Special programmes and services are needed to meet the needs of people who live in these localities, over and above services provided to the broader community.
- 7.06 Improve communication between Griffith LALC and Threeways residents, who are Land Council tenants. Set up a structure which gives Threeways residents input into housing allocation decisions for Threeways, and some say over the way Threeways is managed.
- 7.07 Investigate options for providing elders' housing, such as a retirement village, near Threeways, at Frogs Hollow.



The other ACTIONS we will take over time to get to where we want to be:

7.08 Develop the Oval at Threeways for housing. Housing at Threeways is relatively crowded, the oval is not used and there is scope for building some two-bedroom units there. Seek funding to provide a community building at Threeways which can be used for a community hall, homework centre and a place for elders to teach young people about culture, community, life skills and respect. Obtain funding to fix drainage, sewerage, telecommunications and other infrastructure problems at Threeways, and to undertake a complete housing repair and maintenance programme in accordance with the tenants' reasonable requests to ensure healthy and safe living conditions. Seek funding for GLALC to re-employ a handyman to carry out urgent repairs to Land Council housing in response to tenant requests. Manage Threeways in a manner which reinforces the residents' sense of safety and security.

7.09 Work in partnership with Department of Housing to improve the rate of tenancing vacant properties, to prevent malicious damage to houses. Establish a Housing Committee as a subcommittee of the Community Working Party to work with Department of Housing in allocating housing to tenants and in monitoring response to tenant needs.

NOTE Some of the housing owned by the AHO and managed by the Department of Housing used to be owned by Aboriginal community-controlled housing providers. There is serious concern within the community about Aboriginal-identified dwellings being rented to non-Indigenous tenants, and thus being lost to the community.

7.10 Support the implementation of a security and safety audit at Pioneer, to be carried out by Council, the Police and the Department of Housing working together in close consultation with the Pioneer community. The aim of the audit should be to find out what it is about Pioneer that makes those who live there feel unsafe, to work out what needs to be done to fix the problems, and to have Department of Housing, together with the Police, Griffith City Council and the residents, fix these security and safety problems.

7.11 Support the development of some community facilities on Aboriginal land at Lake Wyangan. These facilities would include elders' and youth facilities and could be somewhere for the delivery of alcohol and other drug programmes.



The other **ACTIONS** we will take over time to get to where we want to be:

8. Justice for our people

- 8.01 Prepare and sign off on an agreement between the Community Working Party and the NSW Police Service. This agreement, which sits alongside the State Plan, will ask Police to consult with the Aboriginal community through the Community Working Party. The Police will be helped to respond to policing issues identified by the Community through the Community Working Party; asked to report on crime to the CWP; deliver awareness programmes on subjects endorsed by the CWP, conduct community safety audits in response to CWP concerns; and the CWP will negotiate with the Police to support projects jointly, such as the Shout Out Loud and Your Choice programmes. The CWP may ask the Police to enter into joint Shared Responsibility Agreements.
- 8.02 Support the ALS and the Police ACLO to work together to monitor crime statistics to identify the characteristics of people who are getting into trouble. Then, advocate for responsive, targeted diversionary programmes and services for the identified groups.
- 8.03 The Community Working Party supports the law and justice partnerships in place with the Police Local Area Command, including Youth Cautioning and Youth Conferencing. Identify widely respected community members who would be interested in participating in these programmes.
- 8.04 The Community Working Party supports the work of the Community Justice Centre (CJC) in dispute resolution and will refer community members to the CJC to find common ground as the preferred way to solve disputes whenever appropriate.
- 8.05 Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the schools, DoCS, Area Health Service and the Police Service to build a partnership to identify youth at risk and refer them to appropriate services to prevent their entry into the criminal justice system.
- 8.06 Form partnerships with the Police Service and Department of Housing to reduce property crime.
- 8.07 Seek to have police numbers at Griffith increased, preferably with experienced, culturally sensitive officers, to meet the needs of the community. The Community Working Party and the Police will also jointly encourage Aboriginal people from within the community to undertake the bridging course offered in partnership with Charles Sturt University with a view to training to become Police Officers.



The other ACTIONS we will take over time to get to where we want to be:

- 8.08 Seek volunteers to form a register of people available to provide custody support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (especially young people) held in custody.
- 8.09 Seek elders from within the community willing to work as volunteers with the Police ACLO as part of a community patrol, to speak with young people on the streets on Saturday nights, to help to prevent them from coming to harm or getting into trouble.
- 8.10 As an alternative to the Local Court process, introduce 'Circle sentencing' into Griffith so that adult offenders may be subject to a local criminal justice process within a cultural context. Consider linking this with a counselling programme provided at a local time-out property.
- 8.11 Seek funding for extra staff for the Aboriginal Legal Service to reduce the risk of burn-out for the existing Solicitor and Field Officer.
- NOTE Existing ALS staff service an area extending as far afield as Balranald, Moama and Hillston, and their resources are therefore extremely stretched.
- 8.12 Support the Aboriginal Legal Service project helping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to obtain or regain their drivers' licences.
- 8.13 Together with residents, develop a policing framework for Threeways and Pioneer that improves relations between the Police and residents, while still providing for effective policing.



The other **ACTIONS** we will take over time to get to where we want to be:

9. Playing our part in directing our future

- 9.01 Encourage all community members to take an active part in community affairs and, where suitable, become role models and volunteers, but the Community Working Party recognises that some may not wish to be involved. Run workshops aimed at increasing the confidence of our people to speak out and give their views on issues which affect them and our community, and explore community members' understanding of, and feelings about the issues. Do not let others do all the talking. Speak up for service providers' timeframes and processes to be developed to fit in with the community's preferred way of doing business.
- 9.02 Hold regular alcohol-free 'Harmony Days' where people can come together to meet and enjoy sports, music and a barbecue as part of a continuing healing and community strengthening process and give their opinions on matters affecting the community.
- 9.03 Find a way to acknowledge publicly the vital contributions of all in our community who donate their time and skills to support us as volunteers.
- 9.04 Ask governments to invest in the community by helping the Community Working Party tell the Griffith community what capacity building is about, how important it is and work out a plan for it to happen so that the community is able to play a bigger part in its own affairs. Focus on training for the Community Working Party and community organisations so that community members gain a better working understanding of the processes of government, and develop skills in governance (the way we manage our affairs) and advocacy (speaking out on behalf of the community).
- 9.05 Let everyone know about our successes, not only about things which do not go quite as they should. Develop a community billboard or newsletter to keep community members up to date with Community Working Party business, and to promote the achievements of the Community Working Party, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community as a whole, to the broader community. Develop a Community Working Party media strategy. Establish a relationship with the Area News to cover issues of importance to the Aboriginal community. Seek to have a weekly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programme on local radio. Seek assistance from Aboriginal media organisations in other towns (e.g. Muda Aboriginal Corporation - 2CUZ-FM in Bourke) to provide advice and practical support.



The other **ACTIONS** we will take over time to get to where we want to be:

10. Services and programmes

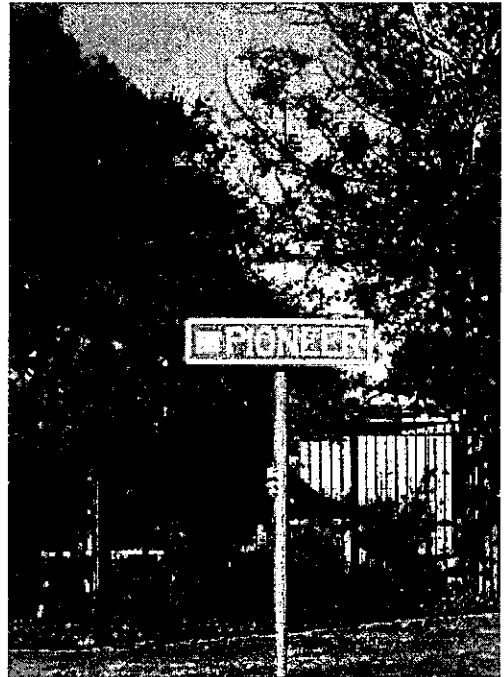
- 10.01 Ask each service provider to provide a service charter/profile to inform the community of service and programme aims, resources and communications channels, and to update regularly as circumstances change. Have the Liaison Officer keep a copy for reference.
- 10.02 See to it that service providers, including those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations responsible for servicing our community, commit fully to engaging with the community through the Community Working Party on a regular basis. This is a way to create a partnership for service delivery and improvement and make sure that the community remains the focus of services and programmes. Government agencies will nominate relevant staff to attend meetings of the peak body as part of normal duties to foster a sense of personal involvement and contribution to improving wellbeing.
- 10.03 Review service delivery and programmes generally to find out why, despite the apparent effort to fix under-performing areas, the community is not getting the benefit of better lifestyles. People feel that service delivery in some areas is poorly thought out and is not producing results. This view strengthens the opinion of the Community Working Party that the community desperately needs new ways of doing things to get away from the short-term 'crisis' services.
- NOTE The Community Working party wishes to obtain a commitment from service providers, both government and NGO, to provide services to the community **for as long as they are needed**. The Community Working Party rejects short-term 'pilot' programmes with no ongoing funding or staffing support. "Band-aid" solutions are not acceptable, since they often leave the community worse off than before because of the breach of trust that results from disappointed expectations.
- 10.04 Work with government agencies to help them to find practical ways to design co-ordinated services and programmes that meet the needs of the whole community in a timely way, without duplicating the services or programmes of other departments.
- 10.05 Make sure that service providers working in the community have received locally-based and locally relevant cultural awareness training. This will include an 'orientation to the Griffith community' programme for new workers, including an introduction to the Community Working Party.



The other **ACTIONS** we will take over
time to get to where we want to be:

10.06 Recognise the right and the ability of the Community Working Party to evaluate service provider performance. Use this process to encourage continuing service improvement, and to achieve solid results from services and programmes that meet the Community Working Party's aims for the whole community.

10.07 Encourage mainstream agencies which provide service to members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to employ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers in front-desk positions to make their services more welcoming to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients.



Some details about our GRIFFITH community:

Who we are

Griffith is located in the country of the Wiradjuri nation, and many members of our community are Wiradjuri people. Many of our people come originally from Narrandera and Darlington Point. Our community also embraces many people who are descended from other language groups: Yota Yota people from the area closer to the Murray River; Ngiyampaa and Paakantji people from further north and west in NSW, and people descended from a number of other groups.

Where we are

We are located at the heart of the Riverina, north of the Murrumbidgee River, in south-western NSW. Griffith is 627 km by road west of Sydney. Our town is a regional centre with a total population of 23,717 people at the 2001 Census. Griffith is the major centre of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, and irrigated farming and horticulture is the main economic base of our city.

Our population

The ABS 2001 Census recorded a total of 874 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the Griffith Statistical Local Area. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population was thus 3.7% of the total population. Some details about our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are:

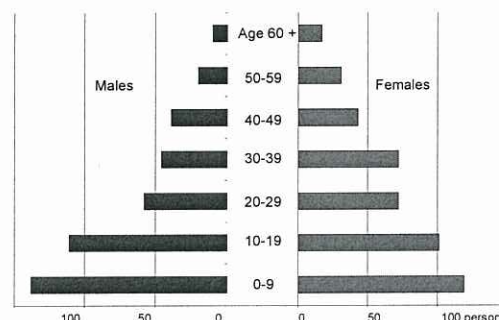
Number of people	874
Number of males	421
Number of females	453
Number of families	229
Number of people living in families	808
Number of people aged 19 or younger	469
Number of people aged 50 or over	78

We do know that a number of community members choose either not to identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander persons, or not to fill in a Census form, so the Census figures are likely to undercount our community.

Our population by age and by sex is:

Age Group	Males	Females	Total
0 to 4	66	62	128
5 to 14	134	115	249
15 to 19	49	43	92
20 to 29	58	72	130
30 to 49	85	115	200
50 to 64	23	36	59
65 and over	7	12	19
Total	421	453	874

The population pyramid below shows the age-sex structure of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.



The ABS 1996 Census stated that, at that time, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population was 733 out of a total population of 21,594. The total population of Griffith increased by 2,123 people between 1996 and 2001 (an increase of 1.9%, on average, per year). During the same period, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population increased by 141 people (an increase of 3.5%, on average, per year).

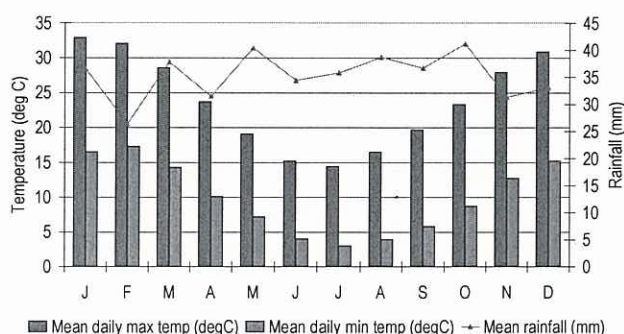


Our families and households

At the time of the 2001 census, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Griffith belonged to a total of 261 households. Of these, 212 were single family households, 8 were multiple-family households and 41 were lone person households.

Of a total of 229 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families living in Griffith, 104 were couple families with children, 40 were couple families without children, 81 were single parent families with children and four were classified as 'other families'.

Our weather



Weather data shown are for the BoM station at Griffith Airport:

Mean number of days over 40°C	4.5
Mean number of days over 35°C	26.8
Highest temperature	°C 46.0
Lowest temperature	°C -5.9
Mean annual rainfall	mm 423.7
Mean number of rain days	71.8

Climate change

The NSW Greenhouse Office has predicted that the number of days with temperatures over 35°C may rise to up to 42 days per year by 2030 and to up to 93 days per year by 2070.

Employment

The economy of Griffith depends heavily on irrigated horticulture and agriculture. In the Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander community, employment is strongest in the manufacturing, agricultural, health and community service sectors. Employment-related figures for adult members of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community are:

Number of people in workforce	238
Number of people employed	180
Participation rate	49%
Number of people unemployed	58
Unemployment rate	24%
Number of people not in workforce	244
Number of young people in workforce	75
Number of young people employed	47
Youth participation rate	49%
Number of young people unemployed	28
Youth unemployment rate	37%
Number of young people not in workforce	78

Young people are those aged from 15 to 24 years.

Of those employed, 112 were working full time. Nobody was recorded as being employed on CDEP at the time of the 2001 Census.

Our income

The ABS 2001 Census indicated that the median income level for individuals was in the \$299 to \$399/week range. The median is the income of the 'middle person' of all adults who answered the census, so half of the people earned an income above the median value, and half below. Median family weekly income is in the range \$500 to \$599 per week.

Our health

Information about the health status of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community of Griffith is not readily available from service providers. Greater Southern Area Health Service (GSAHS) have advised that, for the Area Health Service as a whole, their priority areas for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health are:

- Chronic and Complex Care issues
- Early Life and intervention - working with Mothers and Babies under Families First and Integrated Perinatal care program
- Otitis Media
- Renal Health
- Smoking Cessation
- Mental Health



The GSAHS Aboriginal Health Plan is currently under development. The GSAHS Aboriginal Health Profile, also being developed, provides data about mortality and hospitalisations, but at an Area Health Service scale.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community is served by the Griffith Aboriginal Medical Service, which provides GP and allied health services. Other health services are provided by the Griffith Base Hospital, the Griffith Community Health Centre, which provides Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health education and diabetes support; and a number of private general practitioners, dentists and visiting specialist medical services.

Learning

School education in the town of Griffith is provided by four public primary schools (Griffith, Griffith North, East Griffith and Yoogali Primary Schools), Kalinda, which provides education for students with special needs, two Catholic primary schools (St Patrick's and St Mary's Schools), two public high schools (Griffith and Wade High Schools) and a Catholic high school (Marian Catholic College). Early childhood learning is catered for by the Griffith Wiradjuri Aboriginal Preschool. Access to vocational education in high schools (working with TAFE) is available, but only in the senior years.

The ABS 2001 Census recorded the numbers of children of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members attending schools in the town as:

School	Boys	Girls
Pre school	15	18
Infants/Primary		
Government	95	79
Catholic	0	3
Secondary		
Government	40	31
Catholic	0	0
Total	150	131

The Department of Education and Training (DET) provided school enrolment data for all Griffith public schools from 1996 to 2006. In 2006, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled in Griffith schools were:

School	Boys	Girls
Griffith Public School	47	42
Griffith East Public School	16	10
Griffith North Public School	12	13
Yoogali Public School	5	8
Griffith High School	42	36
Wade High School	24	16
Kalinda School	3	4
Total	149	129

Griffith Public School and Griffith High School are, respectively, the primary school and high school with the greatest number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled. In 2007, Griffith Public School has 89 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled, out of a total enrolment of 385, so Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children represent 23% of the school population. Many of the children at Griffith Public School live at Pioneer, Threeways and Parko. Griffith High School currently has 83 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled, out of a total enrolment of 720, so Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students represent 12% of the school population. Both of these schools employ Aboriginal Education Assistants. Griffith Public School also employs an Aboriginal Education Resource Teacher. Both schools also offer a variety of programmes specifically to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enrolments at the Catholic schools are relatively low. Marian Catholic College has fewer than ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled.

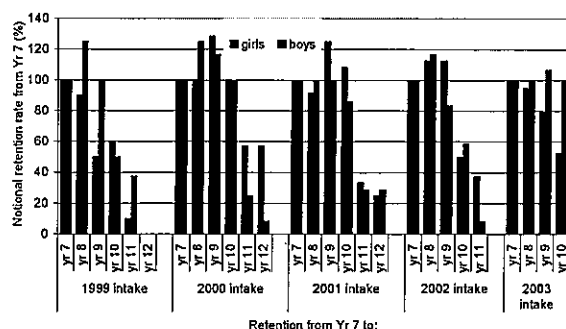
The highest level of schooling completed by people aged 15 years and over was stated to be:

	Men	Women
Year 8 or below	50	43
Year 9 or equivalent	48	71
Year 10 or equivalent	57	85
Year 11 or equivalent	15	24
Year 12 or equivalent	20	28
Still at school	14	7
Did not go to school	4	3
Not stated	13	16

The figure below shows notional retention through the high school years for Griffith and Wade High Schools. The



percentage of students of each intake from 1999 remaining at the beginning of following years is:



The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of school age appears to be substantially under-enrolled in school. The table below is a snapshot for the last census year (2001), and compares the number of people of notional high-school age (12-17 years for years 7 to 12, and 12-15 years for years 7 to 10) compared with actual enrolment data for that year. Marian Catholic College enrolments are not included, but has tended to enrol only about 6 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in total.

	Boys	Girls
Aged 12-15	52	41
Enrolled Yrs 7-10	42	32
Aged 12-17	75	56
Enrolled Yrs 7-12	44	35

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-specific attendance figures were not available. School principals advise that about 10% of students have chronic non-attendance problems. Poor attendance is often related to family circumstances. Partial non-attendance (lateness) is also an issue of concern.

Access to learning technology

At the time of the 2001 Census, 131 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people out of 873 respondents of any age used a computer at home. Ninety-five people used the internet at home, work or elsewhere.

Vocational training and higher education

Forty-three Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are recorded in the 2001 Census as having a formal qualification at Certificate level, six to diploma or advanced diploma level, and four people had a bachelor degree.

The 2001 Census recorded the numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members participating in post-school education and training as:

Institution	Men	Women
TAFE		
Full-time	6	13
Part-time	4	15
University		
Full-time	0	0
Part-time	3	3
Total	13	31

From 2003 to 2007, DET recorded the following numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people signing up under formal vocational training arrangements:

Apprentices	7
Trainees	2
New Entrant Trainees	7
Total signing up 2003-2007	16

Only 2.4% of people in formal training positions during this period were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, who were thus under-represented by 35%.

DET figures for completion of training contracts by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Griffith are:

	Completions	Non-completions
2006		
Apprenticeships	1	3
Traineeships	3	8
2005		
Apprenticeships	0	1
Traineeships	3	8
2004		
Apprenticeships	0	1
Traineeships	3	8
2003		
Apprenticeships	1	3
Traineeships	4	10



During this period, completion rates per year by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for apprenticeships ranged between 0 and 25%, and for traineeships, between 27% and 29%.

Policing in Griffith

Our police station is the headquarters of the Griffith Local Area Command, which is situated within the Southern Region. Operations are under the supervision of the Duty Officer. Round-the-clock policing is provided. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community of Griffith is assisted by a single Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer.

Local Court sittings are held in Griffith for two weeks each month. The District Court sits in Griffith for two to three days each quarter, and the Supreme Court sits once per year.

Our housing

At the time of the 2001 Census, the tenure status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households in Griffith was stated to be:

Owner-occupiers	Households
Dwelling fully owned	21
Dwelling being purchased	33
Dwelling being rented	
Private landlord/Real Estate Agent	72
State housing authority	82
Community housing provider	35
Employer	3
Not stated	3
Other	8
Not stated	4
Total	261

The median weekly rent paid by Griffith residents according to the ABS 2001 Census was in the \$50 to \$99 range.

The ABS 2001 Census stated that mean household size is 3.4 persons. The Census showed that eight households, containing 63 people, were multi-family households. There were 13 households in Griffith in which there were more than two people for every bedroom, which indicates overcrowding.

Essential services available to us in town

Aboriginal community-controlled service providers in Griffith are: the Griffith Aboriginal Medical Service, the Griffith Local Aboriginal Land Council, the Miyagan Aboriginal Development Association, the Dyrri Bang-Gu Aboriginal Aged Care Service, and the Griffith Wiradjuri Aboriginal Preschool.

Griffith, as a regional centre, provides a range of human services, including community transport, home and community care, a PCYC, playgroups, childcare centres and a women's refuge.

Griffith has an extensive CBD, including supermarkets, numerous specialty shops, a post office and bank branches.

Griffith City Council delivers a range of social, cultural, sporting and recreational facilities including public halls, children's and youth facilities; the aquatic centre; the art gallery; the regional theatre; the skate park; the sports stadium; football ovals; public tennis courts; and library services. Other sporting facilities are available at the Golf Club and at the schools.



Some details about

PIONEER, THREEWAYS AND PARKO

Threeways, Parkinson Crescent and the public housing estate at Pioneer are relatively disadvantaged compared to the remainder of Griffith. The data in the following table were prepared specially by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for Census Collection Districts 1011603 (Pioneer north-east to Merrigal Street-Willmouth Street intersection) and 1011608 (Threeways, Parkinson Crescent south-east to Bowditch Place. Figures for Griffith Statistical Local Area as a whole are included for comparison. These include the Pioneer/Threeways/Parko data.

	Pioneer	Threeways/ Parko	Griffith SLA
<i>Population</i>			
No. of Aboriginal and/or TSI people	136	121	874
People aged ≤19 yrs	84 (60%)	72 (60%)	469 (53%)
<i>Education</i>			
Persons attending TAFE	11	8	38
Persons attending Uni	-	-	6
Left school ≤Yr 10	84%	91%	75%
Left school ≤Yr 8	25%	28%	20%
<i>Qualifications</i>			
Persons having post-school qualification	-	5%	12%
<i>Income</i>			
Median individual weekly income bracket	\$200-\$399	\$120-\$199	\$200-\$399
Median household weekly income bracket	\$400-\$499	\$300-\$399	\$500-\$599
Median family weekly income bracket	\$400-\$499	\$300-\$399	\$500-\$599
<i>Labour force status</i>			
Unemployment rate	67%	50%	24%
Workforce participation rate	25%	26%	49%
% adults employed	8%	13%	38%
Youth unemployment rate	63%	100%	37%
Youth participation rate	34%	26%	49%

	Pioneer	Threeways/ Parko	Griffith SLA
<i>Computer use</i>			
Uses computer at home	6%	9%	15%
Used internet	13%	9%	10%
<i>Family structure</i>			
Sole parent families with dependent children	65%	46%	31%
<i>Household structure</i>			
Multi-family households	3 (8%)	3 (12%)	8 (3%)
Persons living in multi-family households	9 (6%)	30 (23%)	63 (7%)
<i>Housing status</i>			
Dwellings owned/being purchased	8%	-	21%
Rented dwellings	92%	89%	76%
Other	-	11%	3%
<i>Dwellings rented from:</i>			
private landlord/real estate agent	-	-	38%
Dept of Housing	100%	33%	43%
Community group	-	67%	18%
Other	-	-	1%
Median weekly rent bracket	\$50-\$99	\$1-\$99	\$50-\$99
Crowded dwellings*	2 (6%)	4 (15%)	13 (5%)
Persons living in crowded dwellings	11%	29%	7%

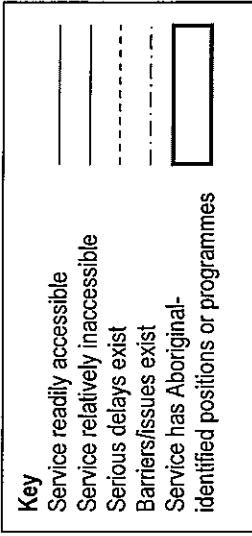
*dwellings with >2 persons per bedroom



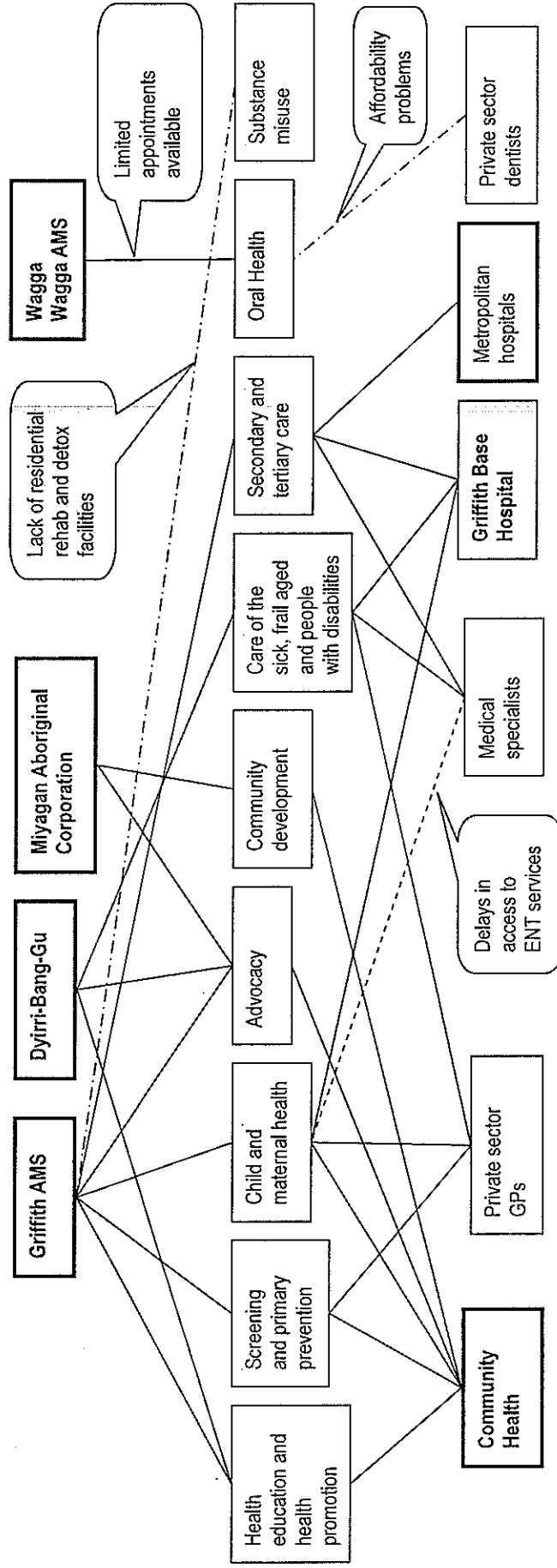
Maps of the
SERVICES
we have available

The service maps on the following pages are set out with the services across the centre of the diagram, the Aboriginal community-controlled services above and the mainstream services below. The connectors indicate whether the services are accessible, or whether gaps or barriers exist. Gaps and barriers are described briefly where relevant, and are dealt with in greater detail in the strategy section (above).

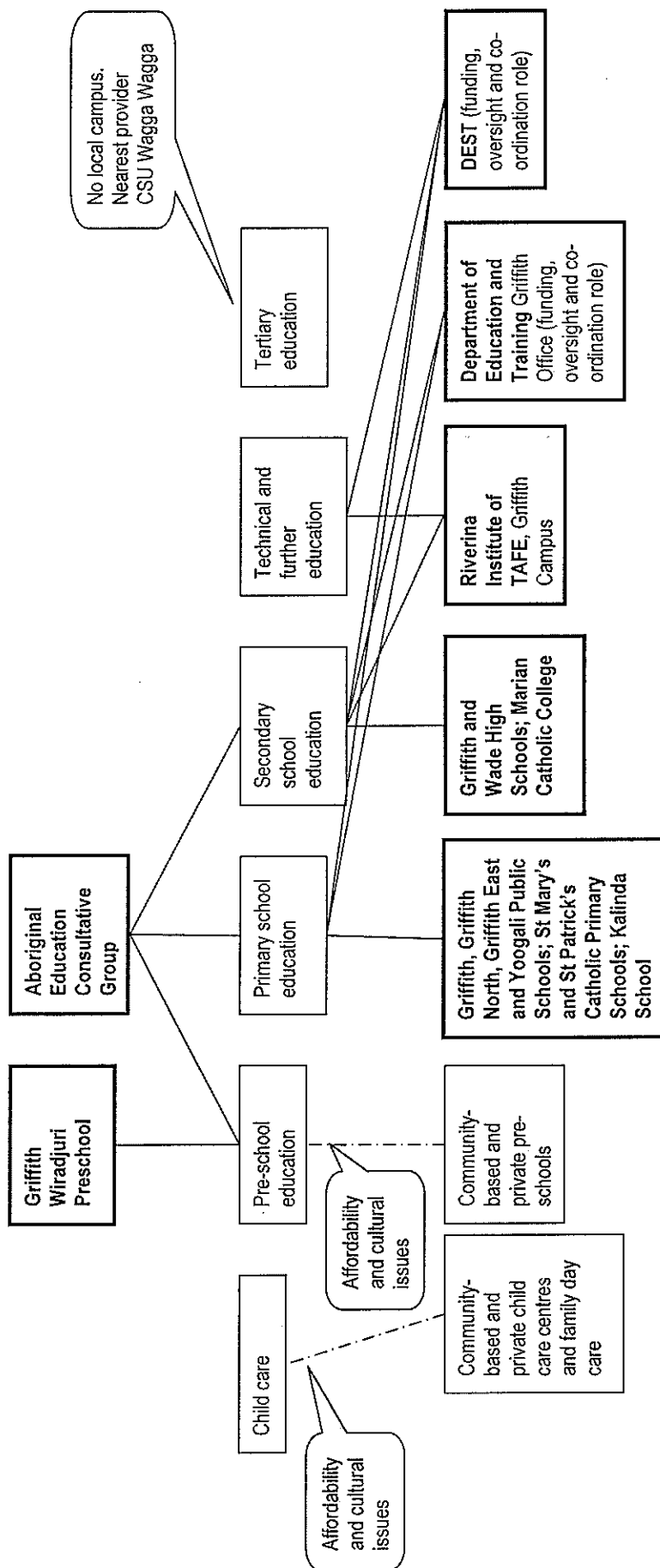
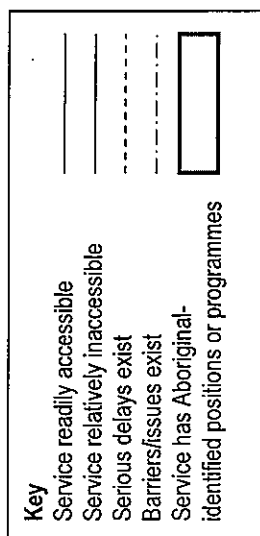




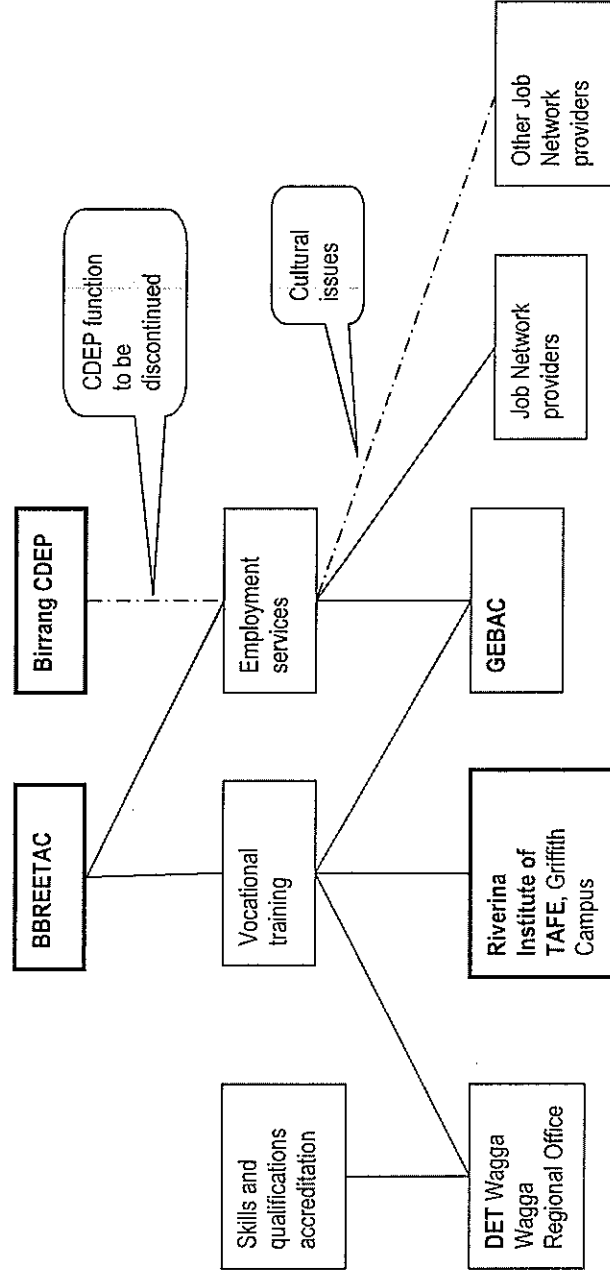
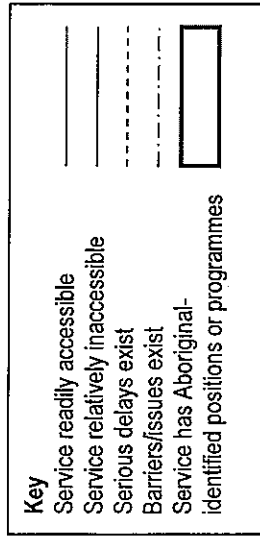
HEALTH



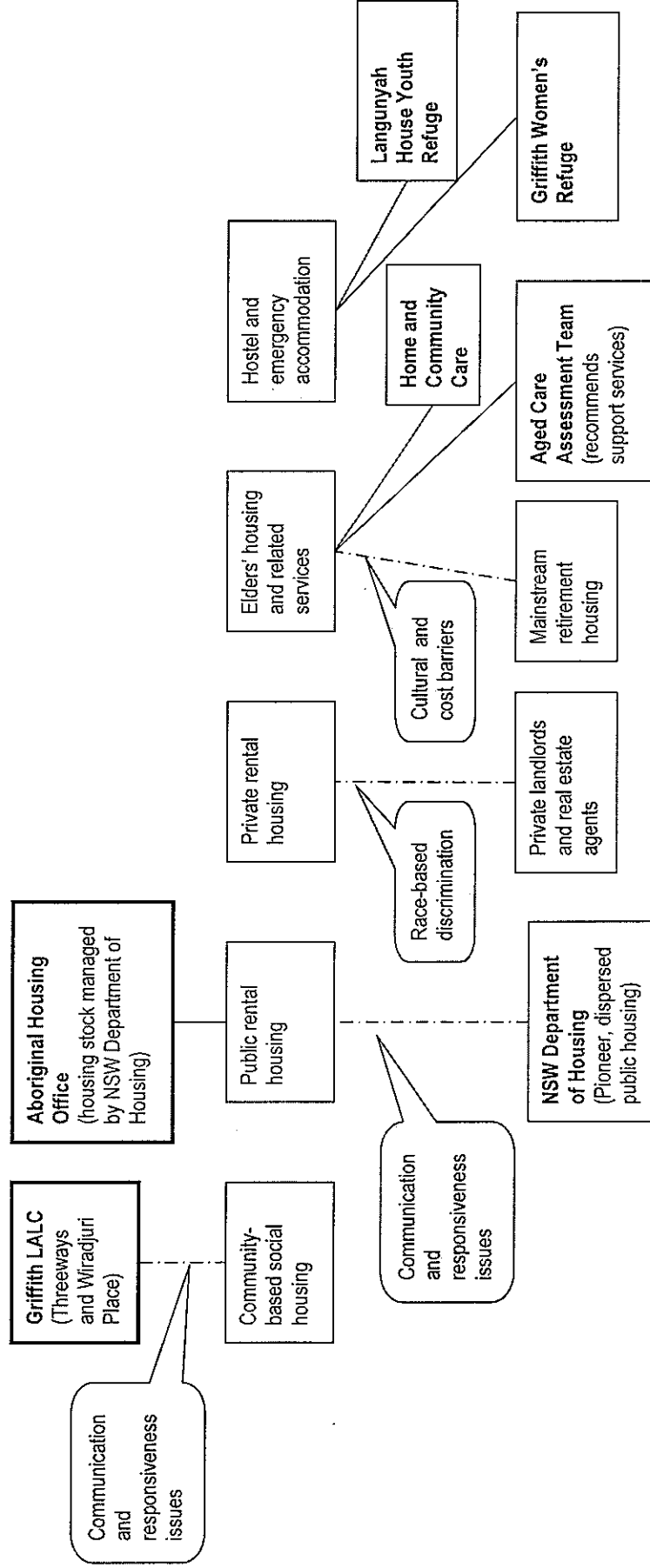
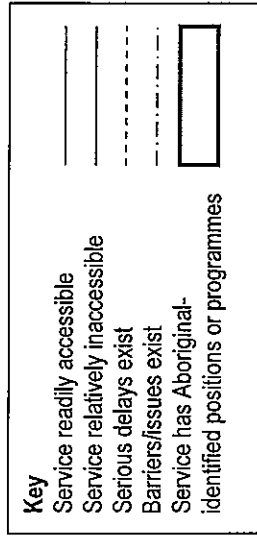
EDUCATION and CHILDREN'S SERVICES



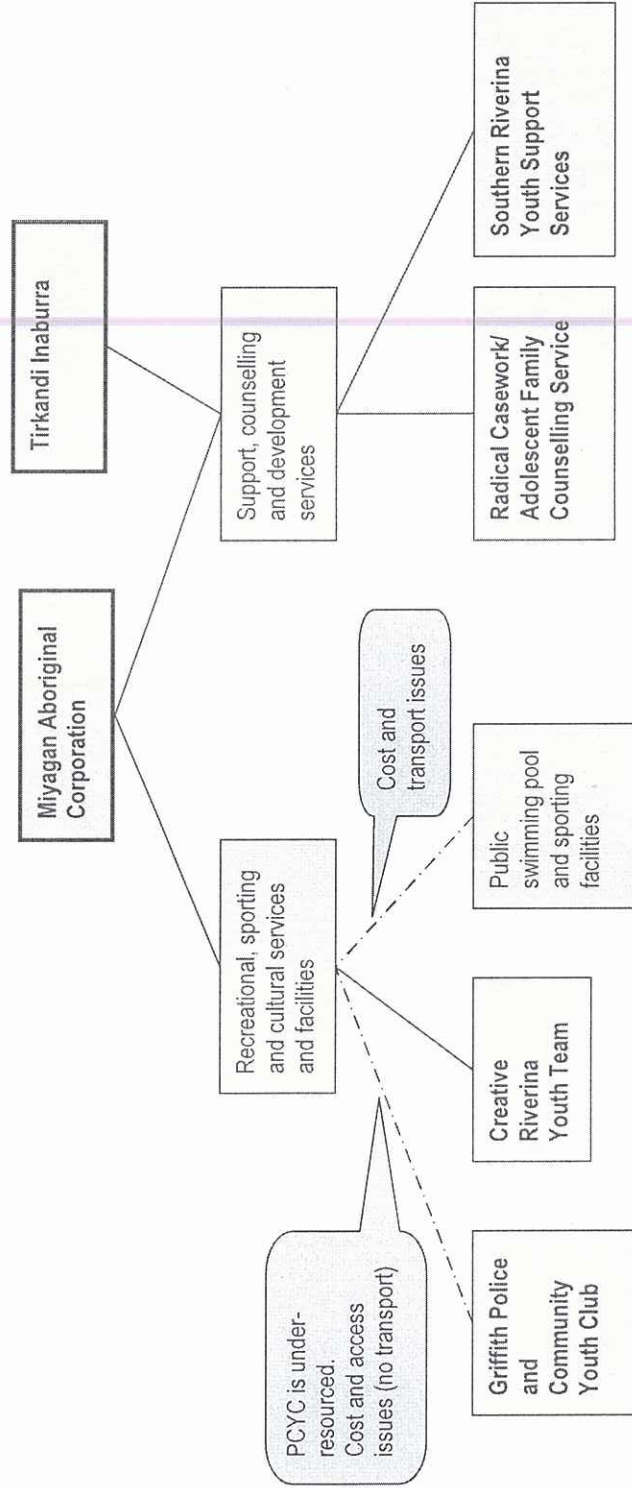
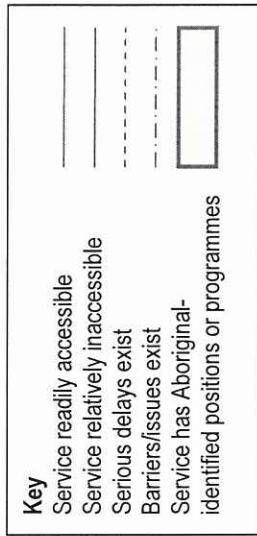
TRAINING and EMPLOYMENT



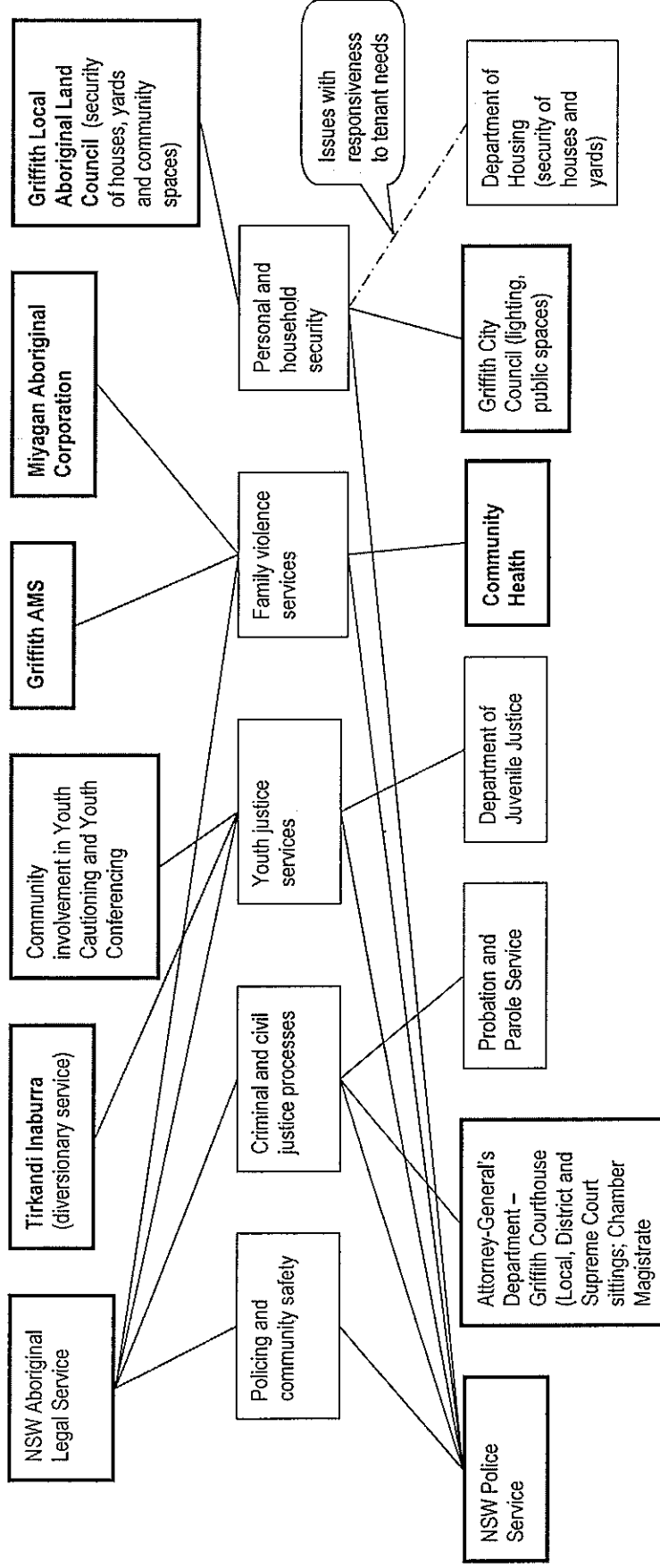
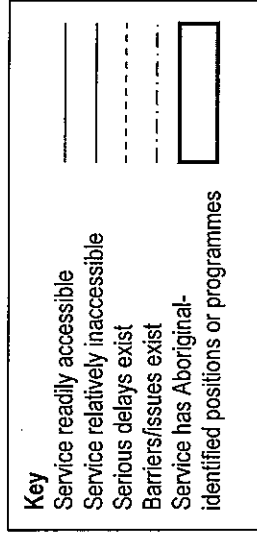
ACCOMMODATION



YOUTH SERVICES



SAFETY, SECURITY and JUSTICE



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