

## *Grow our Movement*

### **1. INDIGENOUS WORKERS & THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

1. A decent living standard, just wages, social protections, the social safety net and self-determined, fulfilling employment are at the heart of the Australian Union Movement. The Australian Union Movement will work to increase and empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander union members, workers and their communities for a strong representative voice to ensure these rights are maintained.
2. Our alternative vision is one where:
  - a) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are the architects of their place in Australia and are equal partners in the development and implementation of policies that effect their way of life;
  - b) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers are engaged in fulfilling employment with the standard conditions and wages afforded to other Australian workers;
  - c) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are respected; the diversity of cultures, lands and traditions are respected and seen as an integral part of the Australian identity; and
  - d) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have economic security, a decent social safety net and access to universal social services (health, education, essential services) which provide the foundation for a decent and fulfilling life with equality and opportunity
3. The current Turnbull government is overseeing some of the worst attacks on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers and community organisations in a generation
4. Not since the wins of the Wave Hill Walk Off have we seen government sanctioned wage discrimination.
5. The Community Development Program (CDP) undermines the industrial rights of 37,000 workers of which 31,000 are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers. The CDP forces workers into 25 hours of labour, provides no federal occupational health and safety or workers' compensation protection, provides no superannuation, no workplace employment standards and could be exploited by employers as a free source of labour
6. While the federally mandated maximum wage that oppressed the workers at Wave Hill is gone, the CDP remains, mandating that the people in remote communities work longer hours than people in metropolitan areas for the same welfare payments, or risk months cut off from government support.

7. Congress is committed to ending any employment discrimination against Australia workers and as such condemns the CDP and will advocate for the restoration of equitable treatment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers.
8. Congress will pursue the community, campaign, legislative and legal mechanisms it deems appropriate to end the CDP and fight shoulder to shoulder with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers in the pursuit of equality and fairness for all Australian workers.