



# ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WORKERS, THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM & FUTURE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

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. Australia should be a society where:
  - a) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples 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 peoples are respected; the diversity of cultures, lands and traditions are respected and seen as an integral part of Australia; 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 found action for a decent and fulfilling life with equality and opportunity.
3. The current coalition 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) or its replacement undermines the industrial rights of 40,000 workers of which 38,000 are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers. The CDP forced workers into 20 hours of labour, provided no federal occupational health and safety or workers' compensation protection, provided no superannuation, no workplace employment standards and could be exploited by employers as a free source of labour.
6. The First Nations Workers Alliance with support from Australian Unions won their four-year campaign to end the racist and punitive Community Development Program, and it will end in 2023. We need to be vigilant to ensure its replacement doesn't exploit remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers and CDP workers continue to have voice through FNWA.

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 any racist and punitive employment programs and will fight shoulder to shoulder with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers in the pursuit of equality and fairness for all Australian workers.