

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Workers & Government Initiated Employment Programs

1. A standard of living which includes, 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 by establishing a strong representative voice to ensure these rights are maintained and improved.
2. Australia should be a society where:
 - a. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are self-determining in the development and implementation of policies that effect their way of life;
 - b. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers are engaged in meaningful, culturally fulfilling employment with the standard conditions and wages afforded to other Australian workers;
 - c. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first peoples of this continent are respected; the diversity of Nation's and custodians of cultures, lands, waterways and traditions are an integral part of Australia; and
 - d. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have economic security, a respectful and decent social safety net and access to universal social services (health, education, culturally informed essential services) which provide the foundations for a decent and fulfilling life with equality and opportunity.
 - e. Government employment programs should not undermine the industrial rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers. Every employment program must provide permanent and sustainable work, comply with health and safety legislation and provide workers' compensation protection, superannuation, workplace employment standards
 - f. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants of Government employment programs cannot be exploited by employers as a free or underpaid sources of labour.
3. History shows colonial government systems and structures have overseen some of the worst attacks on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and their communities, and community organisations across Australia and Congress is firm in the belief that this history must never be repeated.
4. The First Nations Workers Alliance (FNWA) will lead Australian unions to oversee and monitor any government employment program that replaces the racist and punitive Community Development Program. The union movement will be vigilant and ensure any future employment program does not exploit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers.
5. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers will continue to have a voice through FNWA.