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### **Council Demonstrates Commitment to Community Betterment through Community Development Program**

In 2024 Roper Gulf Regional Council proudly announces its continued dedication to improving the lives of residents within its region through its Community Development Program (CDP), a commitment to the betterment of communities throughout the Roper Gulf Region.

The Community Development Program is a critical cornerstone of Roper Gulf Regional Council's mission to empower and uplift the communities it serves.

The CDP program in the Northern Territory is a federally funded initiative through the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) and administered in communities through collaboration with local councils and various organizations.

The program is specifically designed to address the unique needs and challenges faced by residents in the Northern Territory and the Roper Gulf region, where remote and Indigenous communities require tailored solutions for employment and sustainable development.

One of the key differentiators of Council's approach to the CDP is its pledge to reinvest all profits generated through the program directly back into the communities it supports.

This financial commitment underscores Council's dedication to making a tangible, lasting impact on the lives of its residents and commitment to the region.

The reinvestment of profits ensures that the benefits of the CDP are felt at the grassroots level, promoting economic growth, social development, and community well-being.

Through the Community Development Program, Roper Gulf Regional Council has successfully initiated a wide range of projects aimed at improving infrastructure, education, health, and employment opportunities in the region.

These initiatives are carefully tailored to address the specific needs and aspirations of each community, reflecting Council's commitment to respecting and preserving the cultural heritage of its residents.

"The Community Development Program is not just about job placements, it's about holistic community development," said Marc Gardner, CEO of Roper Gulf Regional Council.

"Our approach ensures that the benefits of the program ripple through our communities, fostering a brighter and more sustainable future for everyone."

“We are able to directly invest in more community infrastructure like roads, parks, sports facilities, swimming pools, directly employing more local based people, even through to community events.”

“The programme benefits everyone in our Council, it doesn’t go into an individual’s or a company’s back pocket interstate or even outside the Council area, it all stays right here in our region for everyone.” Mr Gardner said.

Council's dedication to reinvesting CDP profits locally ensures that the program remains a powerful model for positive change and one it will integrate with other funded programmes.

As Roper Gulf Regional Council continues its work through the Community Development Program redesign, it remains persistent in its goal to strengthen communities, create opportunities, and improve the quality of life for all.

Council's commitment to bettering the Northern Territory through its approach to community development is a shining example of what can be achieved when communities come together for a common purpose.

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**Attachment 1: Community Development Program Participants in Mataranka**



Pictured left to right: Ross Lirriwe, Thomas Joe, Robin George, Neil Doctor, Lewis Roy posing in Mataranka Library after the Community Development Program renovated the area for community use.

## **Attachment 2: Community Development Program Participants in Numbulwar**



Pictured: CDP Participants assisting Artback NT set up stage area for the Numburindi Festival

## **Attachment 3: Community Development Program Participants in Borroloola**



Pictured: Participants and staff from the Roper Gulf Regional Council Community Development Program in Borroloola.