

# *Our Business*

Far West Coast Investments Pty Ltd ATF Far West Coast Aboriginal Community Charitable Trust  
Far West Mining & Civil Pty Ltd

In this edition we explain the new Trust Fund arrangements as all assistance provided to Far West Coast Native Title Holders will now come from a community controlled Trust Fund. There will be no more decisions being made in Melbourne or Perth by a corporate entity that has no connection to the Far West Coast.

The Trust has employed a Trust Coordinator who's based at the Ceduna Office of the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation.

## **WELCOME TO JASON WILD**

The Directors would like to welcome Jason Wild as the Trust Coordinator for the Far West Coast Aboriginal Community Charitable Trust.

Jason will be processing Trust applications and coordinating the approval process.

Most Far West Coast Aboriginal people know Jason from his time working at Scotdesco Community and the Indigenous Coordination Centre. He's also been involved in Far West Coast football for many years as a player, coach and administrator with Western United.

We wish Jason well and hope he enjoys this important role, assisting Far West Coast Aboriginal people.

Jason's contact details are:

Jason Wild

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## **WHAT ASSISTANCE MAY BE AVAILABLE FROM THE TRUST?**

Please note that trust funds are available to assist Far West Coast Native Title Holders but do not take the place of Government funding or family/parental responsibility.

It is also worth noting that funding is dependent on availability within the budget. The Board of Far West Coast Aboriginal Community Charitable Trust develop a yearly budget that is based on the previous year's earnings.

The Trust can only spend funds that it knows it has and does not speculate or base the community benefit budget on assumptions of projected earnings.

The following is a brief outline of what types of assistance may be available, however it's recommended that each person applying for assistance obtains a copy of the funding criteria prior to lodging an application.

Assistance may be sought by members of the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation (Native Title Holding Body for the Far West Coast), for the following purposes:

- Education Support that exceeds reasonable parental responsibility;
- Sporting Club and Individual Sporting Support;
  - Sporting Clubs may be eligible for a contribution to costs where there are beneficial outcomes to the Far West Coast Native Title Holding Community
  - Individual Athletes may be eligible for a contribution to costs where they are selected for higher level competition and/or representative duties
- Leadership Development and Exceptional Individuals Support may be applied for where an opportunity exists for an individual to further their professional development and/or career prospects, leadership potential, etc.
- Community Events and Initiatives that celebrate Far West Coast Aboriginal Peoples, Culture and achievements may be eligible for a contribution towards costs. Community Events funding is restricted to events held within the Native Title Area.
- Micro Business Development Support may be provided to members to establish an enterprise. This may be provided as either; in kind or as a financial contribution to establishing business systems, strategic plans, management advice, etc. Please note that this is a small grants program and does not fund capital items, pay for rental premises/property, or vehicles.
- Funeral Support is available to assist with funeral expenses when a Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation Member passes away. This is capped at \$2,500 per funeral and its use will be determined by a nominated member of the deceased person's family.
- Medical Support may be accessed where a member has a specialist appointment that's not in the location of their usual place of residence. Supporting documentation must be supplied such as: a referral letter from a General Practitioner, evidence of the appointment and all applicants are to apply to the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme prior to lodging an application with the Trust.
- Serious Illness Support may be approved for travel where a Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation Member is in a critical condition and medical specialists need to consult with the immediate family. Mobility aids may be considered where a need is demonstrated and all State and Commonwealth funding avenues have been exhausted.
- Heritage and Cultural Support may be available and it's recommended that members, who are interested in accessing these funds, check the criteria prior to lodging an application. The criteria is consistent as to what is expressed in the Iluka Agreement.

There are no cash payments made to individuals who apply. Support is provided by the Trust paying the invoices of suppliers. With this in mind, it's recommended that applicants provide quotes from suppliers with their applications on lodgement.

Funding limits are applicable due to the high demand and need for assistance.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Firstly, people need to be organised and not leave their applications until the last minute. The Directors and staff require an adequate amount of time to process applications.

We understand that sometimes there's an urgency and we'll do our best to accommodate where there is a need, however we'd appreciate it if people could be as organised as possible. For example: please don't apply for Medical Assistance to attend an appointment the next day when you have known about this appointment for a week.

Members can access application forms and copies of the funding criteria from the office in Ceduna at 52 O'Loughlin Terrace or by emailing [communitytrust@fwctla.org.au](mailto:communitytrust@fwctla.org.au)

Completed applications can be delivered to the Trust via email, post, fax or hand delivered to the office between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

Enquiries can be made by phoning (08) 8625 3340 during office hours, Monday to Friday.

Once an application has been received, it'll be subject to a criteria check by the Trust Coordinator and the approval of the Trustee Directors.

Once approved, the applicant will be notified and suppliers will be paid and/or purchase orders supplied.

## **WHAT WON'T BE FUNDED?**

The following items will not be funded by the Trust:

- The purchase of motor vehicles
- The hire of motor vehicles
- Bar stock for sporting clubs or community events
- Payment of drivers or vehicle mileage
- Mechanical repairs on motor vehicles

## **WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF PAYING SUPPLIERS & HAVING YOUR OWN TRUST COORDINATOR?**

The advantage in paying suppliers is in the turnaround time between lodging an application and being assisted. For example: if a member needs to get to Adelaide to attend the bedside of an ailing family member, a purchase order can be provided the minute approval is given.

Under the old system, there was a wait for funds to be transferred into bank accounts and this meant that it could take up to 24 hours, after approval, for the applicant to receive assistance. Sometimes this process was taking up to five days, from lodgement to delivery, to complete.

Being a Charitable Trust, the trust must provide evidence that funds have been used for charitable purposes. By paying suppliers, the trust receives the invoices and this maintains the integrity of the Trust and Trust rules under Charitable Trust Law.

## **SUMMARY**

The aim of Far West Coast Investments Pty Ltd and Far West Mining and Civil Pty Ltd is to ensure that there's money in the Trust account long after mining has stopped on the Far West Coast.

To do this there has to be a balance between investment, retention and distribution. This year's distribution budget is \$700,000 and, while this figure sounds large, it will be expended due to the level of need in the Community. .

The Trust provides many people with assistance and while, people might feel like they're not getting much, a lot of people are actually getting something.

Investment needs to continue so that the Trust isn't relying on mining money and can continue once mining has stopped.

Retention of money is important so that each year's distribution budget can be guaranteed. The Trust can only make distributions if it has money in the bank.

Distribution and assistance is why the whole Far West Coast business structure exists at all.

Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation as the Native Title Holding Body does the important work of giving Native Title Holders the right to speak and negotiate on land use in the Far West Coast Native Title Area.

Land use agreements provide compensation through Indigenous Land Use Agreements. Land Use Agreements provide communal funds for the benefit of the Native Title Holders. These funds then need to be managed, invested and distributed for the longer term benefit of Native Title Holders.

To do this there must be a business structure and a management system in place that protects the long term interests of Native Title holders into the future.

The Trust rules are designed to ensure that people who need assistance can get a contribution towards their costs. In the case of Medical Assistance, the Trust has taken the place of the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) due to the way PATS is funded. Patients are expected to pay their own travel costs and claim these costs back, however a lot of our members don't have the funds to pay these costs upfront.

The Trust ends up paying because our members require the proper and urgent medical attention. We're currently trying to work out how the Trust can claim these expenses back from PATS. If we're able to come up with a way to do this, we'll require the assistance of our members to ensure that we're getting the all the PATS paperwork signed and returned to the office.

Remember, what's good for the Trust is good for everyone