

Comments on Regional Connectivity Program

We're concerned that telco's will take large chunk of these funds rather than having grass roots organisations/people gaining the bulk of the benefit from this funding. Our original recommendations was to exclude telcos from accessing this pool.

There seems a focus on a councils, state level and seems to exclude small local organisations such as Aboriginal Corporations, small not-for-profits or small business entities (eg cattle stations).

I can understand the need for "skin in the game" however small not-for-profits providing a service to a small local community (eg remote Aboriginal communities which may only have a population of 30-100 people) may not have the 50% cash contribution. For not-for-profit and small entities this needs to change to at least recognising in-kind contributions. Again, I'm worried that this is missing the targets we were aiming at...

Peak industry bodies and not-for-profits should be key "sources of information".

Need to recognise there are other satellite internet services that communities may need to access eg Gilat satellite service (mining grade) provided to Laynhapuy Homelands. NBN satellite is not yet adequate for telehealth (see recent HISA paper for relevant evidence) but with NBN's new products coming onto the market this may change quickly. There are varying models of satellite service provision. There needs to be a value for money proposition and it may be that a dedicated network – as deployed at Laynhapuy Homelands may provide a better (more robust and cost effective) solution

It is important to recognised that tech is changing very quickly and a life of 3-5 years for infrastructure use may be more reasonable. Eg low level satellite services may come on-line in the near future and provide a much better solution....

Need to allow for small community based projects which may be in the order of \$45k for infrastructure (eg satellite) and connectivity for possibly the first year (might be in the order of \$80k. From memory Laynhapuy was in the order of \$120k for infrastructure (3 sites) and about \$80k for 12 months connectivity for 3 sites. We could have put an additional 4 sites in for just the \$45k per site and share the connectivity over 7 sites.

Need to have the option of in-kind contribution (not cash) for small not-for-profit or community based organisations and possibly small business entities such as remote cattle stations.