

Contact Children's Mobile

Clean Up Australia Day in Utopia Homelands

Building Community Wellbeing

Many campaigns are advertised all over Australia for communities and groups to partake within, creating opportunities for volunteering and community pride and 'Clean up Australia Day' is no exception. With this in mind, the Contact Children's Mobile (CCM) actively promoted and explored this campaign within defined Utopia Homelands communities. Although this activity was completed in the last reporting period, this is attached to further illustrate a case study of CCM approaches to working in the community to further engage and support community involvement in contracted programs. This example is another success story for Prime Minister and Cabinet's awareness to illustrate a community working together to achieve shared goals.

Process

In the first instance, CCM team sought approval from Urapuntja Aboriginal Corporation to float the idea with the communities that CCM works within Utopia Homelands. CCM representatives spoke with the Elders at Soapy Bore and Atheley and they were unanimous they wanted the team to go ahead with the idea - *"Yes we want a clean community"* and *"we will all help"*. With this indication, the CCM team got underway in organising two events.

The lead up and delivery of the Utopia Homelands resulting Clean Up Australia events incorporated a union of service providers offering their help and things they can do to also be part of the morning.

It did not matter that the "official" Clean Up Australia garbage bags and gloves were not available as CCM had been discussing the idea along with other service providers, including Arid Edge and My Pathways who offered gloves, rakes and their assistance with the collection of the rubbish and help with rubbish removal. CCM supplied the garbage bags, Arid Edge supplied the gloves, My Pathways supplied drinking water and this led also to the beginning of a water bottle collection idea to recycle bottles to earn money on community. Michael, CEO of Urapuntja Aboriginal Corporation (UAC) offered to cook some pancakes on the BBQ to feed the communities and ensure the children had a good 'breaky' before departing for school.

Everyone felt it was going to be a great morning and there was much positive anticipation!

CCM team were up early and headed out to Atheley, walking around the community handing out rubbish bags and advised everyone, when the bag was full to bring it up to the Arid Edge vehicle and put it in the trailer. It was not long before the children began to pick up rubbish and put it in the bags and bring them over to the vehicles to ask for more and more bags. The whole community soon joined in with borrowing rakes and gloves and making their camps tidy. The morning seemed a perfect way to get to know several other community members and make the connections with how they fit in with the children that we teach.



Staff from My Pathways and Arid Edge assisted with the collection of the rubbish, and community members both young and old were filling up the bags. You could just feel the positive energy amongst the group as everyone delivered their bags to the trailer.

The place was looking cared for, camps were raked and tidy, and houses were free of rubbish clutter. Frank from Barkly Shire soon arrived to assist with taking large items of rubbish away and Freddy the Elder expressed we should do this every week, he seemed very pleased with how his community of Atheley was looking. Freddy asked for the supply of garbage bags to be delivered every week - perhaps this is something the Arlparra Shop could become involved with and work towards in the future.

Urapuntja (UAC) were cooking away on the BBQ as the community came together to enjoy a breakfast to reward everyone's big efforts of cleaning up the rubbish. Soon the school buses came and the kids hopped on the buses off to school.

The following morning, the CCM team and Arid Edge, My Pathways with Urapuntja and Barkley Shire, headed into Soapy Bore to do the same again.

Key Considerations

CCM is funded to deliver early childhood and family engagement programs designed to enhance children's future educational outcomes and then school education engagement. As indicated, this success story is provided to illustrate CCM service delivery holistic model approach when working within the community to engage and develop child, family and community relationships, belonging and connections. The success of the early childhood child and family programs delivered by CCM within the Utopia Homelands has been built through communication, trust and relationships with the community and the Clean Up Australia campaign is an example of the underpinning strategies that have been incorporated throughout to achieve these results.

