



## INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY SANITATION PROGRAM

The PTEU has partnered with industry, Western Australian, Northern Territory and Victorian aboriginal communities to improve sanitation standards in remote communities and increase the job prospects of indigenous Australians.

- We improve sanitation in remote communities; and
- Enhance the job prospects of indigenous Australians.

### Why is it important?

Sanitation – the access to clean water, proper sewerage and the means to maintain them are vital to the health of all Australians – and it is something most of us take for granted.

Many self-administered communities do not have qualified plumbing tradespeople within them, and basic sanitation needs suffer as a result.

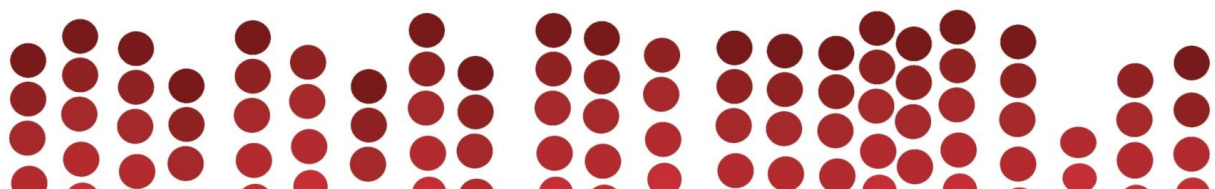
Plumbing is the front-line of defence against disease and promoting better health in indigenous communities. Improving plumbing and sanitation in remote communities is a key outcome of the program.

At a time when the construction industry continues to report skills shortages in most trades – especially in Northern and Western Australia, the opportunity for development of this program and the possibilities for community benefit are significant. It makes a direct contribution to building sustainable, trained, confident and self-determining communities and workers.

### How does it work?

The Indigenous Community Sanitation Program (the program), sees indigenous Australians placed in apprenticeships in plumbing in host employers, mainly based in Victoria.

Some of these apprentices then go to work in for a not-for-profit company that services indigenous communities in remote Australia that have sub-standard sanitation. A not-for-profit company, NUDJ, has been established out of Broome, and performs many important sanitation works in communities.





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### Who's involved?

There a number of host employers, the Federal Government provides financial assistance and the Plumbing Industry Commission is a supporter.

### Stories of success

TEHANI MAHONY, originally from Broome was the only female Plumbing Apprentice to travel from Western Australia to complete her training. Upon leaving school Tehani began training as a nurse, she soon found a more practical application for her skills when she decided to return join the Warang Jarri Lianproject.

Her initial induction was with Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Corporation and upon completion she travelled to Victoria to complete her trade training. Tehani has returned to Broome to work with the newly established not-for-profit plumbing company NUDJ, along with AJ Moore. Tehani was also awarded the PBA Safety – Peter Pratt Family Indigenous Apprentice Award.

MUNGARA BROWN is a Victorian Koori, an accomplished footballer and now a qualified plumber. In 2008 he received the VICTEC Excellence Award for 3rd year Plumber of the Year.

He undertook his training with AG Coombs, C.L. Godfrey, Syfon Systems and Chadoak Plumbing and Draining. Mungara now works permanently with AG Coombs and is a father to two young children. Watching Mungara complete his trade has sparked the interest of his peers and resulted in other young Victorians taking up the opportunity. Mungara continues to be a role model within his immediate family and community.

### Jarlmadangah Burru

Jarlmadangah Burru Aboriginal Community, south east of Derby in the Kimberley region of Western Australia, was the first major project undertaken by the program, which saw a complete overhaul of the community's sanitation, allowing them access to quality and available fresh water and sewerage for the first time.

### How can you get involved?

You can attend one of our fundraising functions. Funds raised will go towards providing accommodation and materials for apprentices and conducting sanitation audits of remote communities and obtaining vital materials for NUDJ so they can continue their work.

Host employers are also sought for our apprentices.

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