

# More focus needed on strong Indigenous leadership in communities



## Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre

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The Productivity Commission's 2016 'Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage' report released today has underlined the need for more effective leadership and governance in Indigenous communities.

The report points to the wellbeing of Indigenous Australians 'stagnating or worsening' in critical areas which include imprisonment rates, mental health issues and self-harm.

While the statistics outlined in the report are alarming, it does clearly show that programs run by Indigenous organisations at the grassroots level are working.

Particularly, community involvement in program design and delivery, as well as a cooperative approach to addressing community issues has been identified as key to achieving positive outcomes.

Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre CEO, Belinda Gibb, says that investing directly in communities is the most effective way to encourage progress.

"Indigenous people don't want the answer imposed upon them, they want to be part of the answer," Ms Gibb says.

"When we look at the things that are actually working, community led intervention and involvement in program delivery is a common factor in the success of many of the case studies in the report.

"We as an Indigenous organisation impact on this by empowering Indigenous people to be good leaders and giving them the tools identify and address the problems facing their communities.

"There is a big part to be played by us and other organisations to empower Aboriginal communities, and create national networks for people to talk about what is working in their communities."

## Contact for AILC media enquiries:

CEO Belinda Gibb | 02 6251 5770

Please contact Belinda Gibb's Executive Assistant via email [Dannielle.Johnson@ailc.org.au](mailto:Dannielle.Johnson@ailc.org.au)