



COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME

PROJECT EVALUATION REPORT



This project is funded by the Waste Authority
through the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account

Contract number:	774
Organisation:	Kununurra Neighbourhood House
Project Title:	KNH – Recycling goes Bush
Grant Amount:	\$15,133 excl GST



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ORGANISATION & PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A brief overview of our organisation:

Kununurra Neighbourhood House is a not for profit organisation, which has provided a range of family and community services since 1979. Principal funding for programs is through a grant from Dept. of Communities. The organisation is based in a small repurposed house in Kununurra, under a long term lease through Dept. of Housing.

Kununurra is a regional centre in the East Kimberley, located 3,200km from Perth & 1,044km from Broome. A population of around 8,000 are engaged in mining, horticulture, pastoral and service industries, with 44% of population being indigenous (ABS 2014). A number of more remote surrounding communities are 90+% indigenous

Staff (seven part time) and number of community volunteers deliver a range of family and senior programs, including a small op shop. Demand and supply of items has exceeded the amount of space available, and the funding application was focused on delivering a new service, to supply items to remote communities.

The grant has allowed for the structured processing of items, especially clothing, which is then supplied to remote sites in labelled plastic packaging. Workers at the site have a wide range of skills, volunteers especially are keen to give forward of their time, which will contribute to the success of the project.

A detailed description of the project:

Historically unwanted clothing and unwanted clothing have been disposed of in the local municipal landfill, as no other recycling system existed in the East Kimberley. KNH responded to a community need, allocating one small room to an Op Shop.

The project provided a more structured reuse / recycle process for clothing, small household items etc, whilst addressing significant demand in remote indigenous communities.

The process has allowed for the redistribution of clothing and household items, with a new warehousing process, sorting, packaging and supplying items to remote communities. Unsuitable items are donated to a local indigenous owned training workshop (Kununurra Regional Economic Aboriginal Corporation) for use as cleaning rags.

Purchase of a container, suitable storage shelving and an enclosed trailer, via this grant has allowed staff and volunteers to sort, store, package and redistribute recycle items which would not occur without the equipment being requested.



Remote community families have benefited from access to clothing and household items, which is unavailable in community based stores, which usually prioritise provision of foodstuff. As most community members are on low income, due to welfare dependence, and have limited transport, the availability of recycle items has contributed significantly to quality of family life. It is important to note that some of these communities are up to 600km from any larger regional centre, transport costs are a major cost burden to residents.

EVALUATION / RESULTS - DATA

What kind(s) of project data/information did you collect?

Our process has been for volunteers to sort donated items based on community demand. This includes the laundering of some items, clothing is then packaged and labelled. The sorting and package process takes about twenty minutes per bag, each includes 4-6 items – see photos.

Currently items some are supplied to Billiluna/Mindibungu Community School, who on “sell” the bags for a gold coin donation. The funds generated are utilised to support their healthy breakfast program. This school based initiative targets anaemia in community children, by supplying an iron rich breakfast.

Despite wet season travel restrictions the program has supplied 176 bags to Billiluna, as well as several boxes of children’s books. Further to this KNH have a full trailer load of cold weather clothes ready to transport. Balgo, Kalumburu and Yiyili have received around 60 bags of clothes, and books through a new agreement with Kimberley Aged and Community Services.

Was your project successful in the way you expected? Did you achieve what you set out to do?

YES

NO

“Recycling Goes Bush” has been successful in sourcing needed recycled items to remote communities, generated interest in reducing textile waste in Kununurra, and assisted in the building of positive relationships between KNH, remote community residents & regional service providers. As outlined, below, it has become part of a larger process to reduce waste, and will be an ongoing positive venture.



Do you feel your project made a positive difference in your community and why?

YES

NO

Whilst the project was developed as a method of providing resources to outstations in response to 'over supply' of donated clothes etc in Kununurra it has evolved to become part of a larger response to textile fabric and waste. Research identifies Australians purchase 27kg of textile items annually, of this 23kg are discarded to landfill p/a. Less than 15% is recycled (Australian Bureau of Statistics).

The "Recycling Goes Bush" program has evolved to become a four tier process at KNH, with the goal that all fabric is utilised. This has developed into –

- Clothes and household items donated are sold for \$1 in the Kununurra op shop.
- "Recycling Goes Bush" volunteers sort, wash package and label clothes for remote communities based on feedback – currently baby/children's wear, men's clothes and cold weather clothes – very seasonal (May, June, July).
- Fabric recycle / upcycle – a new program funded by external grant of \$5,000 from Sea Farms Community Grants – allowed purchase of industrial sewing machine, and equipment such as heavy duty fabric shears, etc.
- Waste rags are consigned to a local indigenous groups Work for the Dole mechanical workshops.

Support and feedback for the project has been very positive, and KNH volunteers have contributed significant time and efforts to provide the most suitable items to remote communities. Further to this on the infrequent occasions people from outstations such as Ringers Soak (Kundat Djaru) Balgo, Halls Creek etc, travel to town they now utilise services at KNH, which has built a positive relationship with the wider community.

As an expansion of the initial concept, KNH are now supplying similar items, ie clothes, books and small household items to other remote sites, including Balgo, Kalumburu and Yiyili, through Kimberley Aged and Community Services, at the request of the community.

How many people in total do you think your project has reached/affected?

Items were sent to remote communities with estimated populations of:

Kalumbaru 500

Balgo 400

Billiluna 250

Yiyili 80

Each community was able to use the goods as they saw fit.



LESSONS LEARNT

What lessons were learned through the project – what worked and didn't work?

What, if anything, would you do differently if you were to do the project again?

Initial reliance on one external project partner to transport items to remote communities has to some extent limited the amount of goods delivered.

Although the grant timeframe has finished KNH are continuing with the project, and have recently brokered agreement with other providers to deliver items to sites beyond the initial scope of the concept.

Did you encounter any problems/challenges in carrying out the project? If so, what were they?

The project was very labour intensive and relies on input from volunteers. This does not always align with the quantity of goods being donated (oversupplied on occasion), hence secure storage in the sea container funded through the project has contributed and will continue to contribute to the effectiveness of supplying remote sites with clothing.

What advice would you give to other groups considering undertaking similar projects?

Where possible reliance on volunteers should only be sought from a committed group who will reliably provide the hours committed to.

Working with external partners for contributions like transport, can be problematic, where possible more than one project partner to provide this could be sought.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT / PROMOTION

Does your organisation (or project) have a website or Facebook page?

www.kununurraneighbourhoodhouse.org

www.facebook.com/knh.house

How did you acknowledge the Community Grants Scheme funding you received?

The funding body has been acknowledged with signage on the two major items, the 40ft sea container, and the trailer (signs are 900mm long and 600 mm wide) – see photos. Smaller items such as the washing machine have been identified with stickers provided.



Did you purchase any capital equipment with your grant money? (this includes things like sheds and large pieces of equipment)

Yes

- 40 ft sea container & shelving



- Tandem trailer





- Washing machine



Were there any promotional / media opportunities for the project? (newspaper articles, photos) If yes, please ensure you attach copies or include screen prints

YES

NO

A 'good news' story regarding the volunteers and the project is currently being written by a journalist who has moved to Kununurra in the last week. This will be forwarded to CWG when completed.

Did you produce any promotional material for the project? (flyers, brochures even screen prints of online promotion – Facebook posts etc) If yes, please ensure you attach copies or include screen prints

YES

NO



VARIATIONS & EXTENSIONS

Were you able to complete your project in the approved timeframe?

YES

NO

FUTURE PROJECTS

Did any opportunities or ideas arise during the project?

YES

NO

The opportunity to provide items through other service providers who travel to remote communities to service their contracts.

Do you now have ideas for other future projects?

Yes, as identified the concept has become a part of a four tier process to reduce textile waste.

KNH is currently in process of constructing a purpose designed \$2.5 million community centre, the waste reduction process has become part of our ethos.

To expand on this we have recently received a \$10,000 (Water Corporation) grant to construct an eco-friendly water wise community garden.



PROJECT PHOTOS

Container with signage



Representative sample of clothes packaged for community

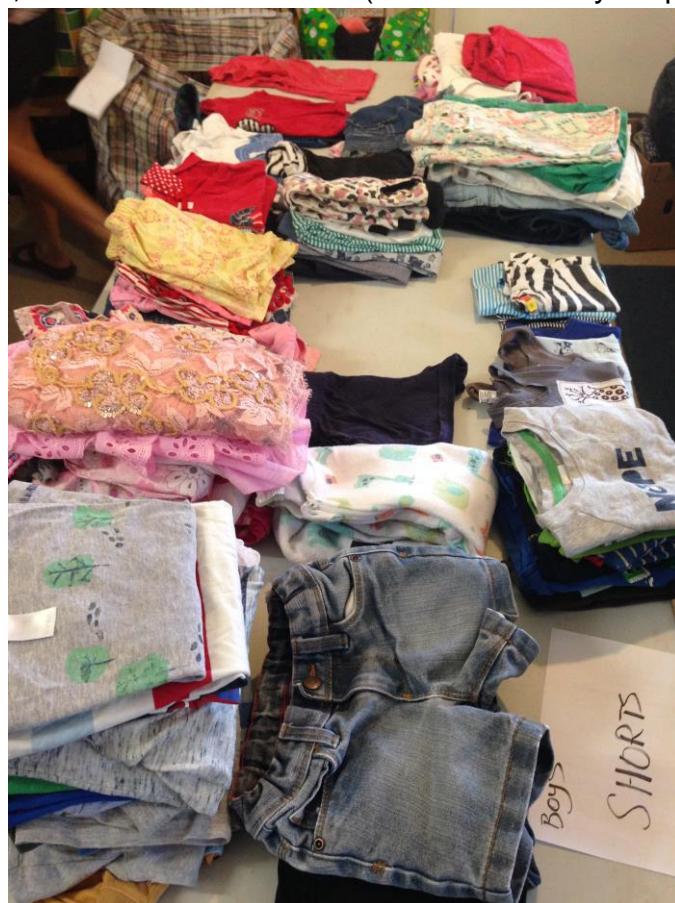




Volunteers hard at work, making the program happen



Clothes, clothes & more clothes (Washed & ready for packing)





Trailer

