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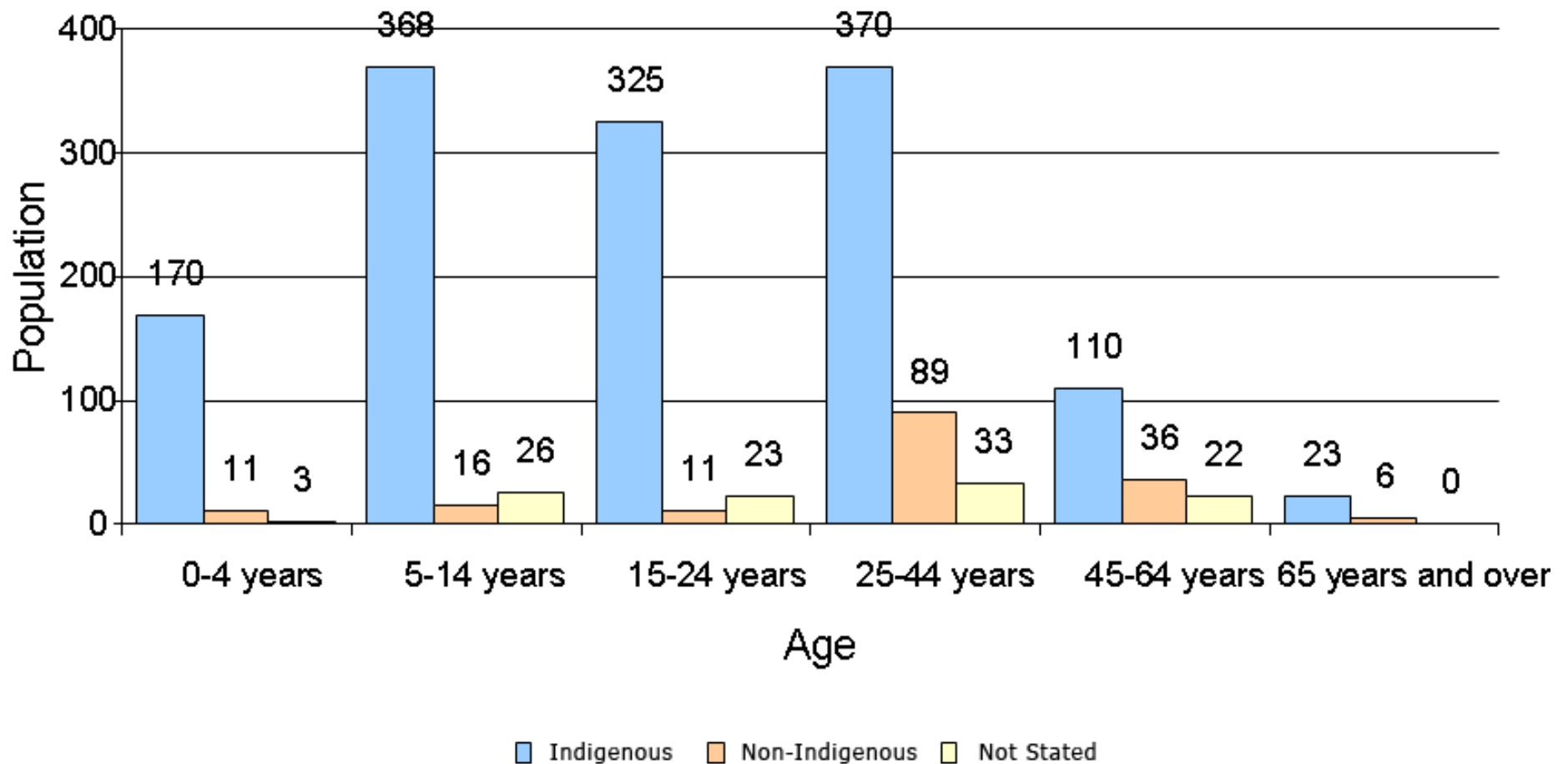
Living through a National Emergency: A view of the Intervention from Ground Zero

Bill Fogarty and Marisa Fogarty



Maningrida Township

Population Distribution - Maningrida



Total Population 2950 (Non-Indigenous Population approx 200) (ABS 2007)

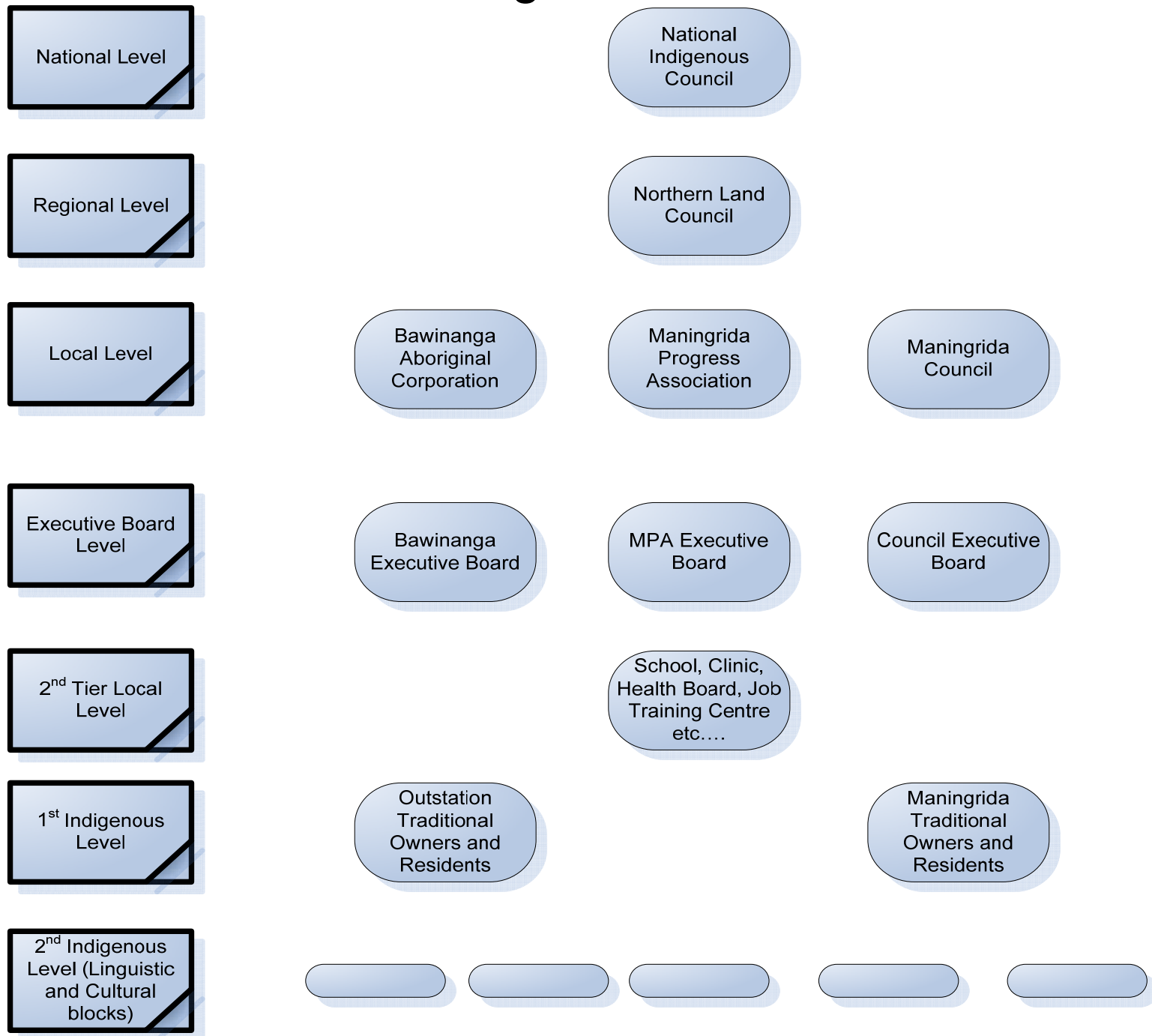


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Mediating Institutions



Extract from Letter (28/06/07)

'As the Traditional Owners of Maningrida we consider the safety and welfare of our children as paramount. In reply to the Australian Governments 'emergency response' to the Little Children Are Sacred Report and more specifically, Mal Brough's media release titled National emergency response to protect Aboriginal children in the NT we do not support the following three measures proposed by the Government:

- Acquiring townships prescribed by the Australian Government through five year leases including payment of just terms compensation
- Scrapping the permit system for common areas, road corridors and airstrips for prescribed communities on Aboriginal land, and;
- Appointing managers of all government business in prescribed communities

As the Traditional Owners, we view these measures as directly compromising the welfare, safety and futures of our children.' (28/06/07).

Maningrida Tribal Justice Committee

The following 10 point plan has been developed by 37 of Maningrida's senior leaders who have the cultural and organisational authority to speak for this community. The ideas behind this plan recognize that we have some serious social problems and that with the support of the Australian Federal Government we can use our own strength and leadership to make a safe and successful future for our children and our Community. This plan is a work in progress and is organized around 10 key areas and some practical strategies we know will achieve our goals. We ask that our ideas are taken very seriously. This is not a wish list. We are taking responsibility for our future but we need support, time and understanding to achieve this.

10 Point Plan

The following ten points all work together, and together, we will make them work:

- Protecting our children-Protecting our Community
- Bettering Our Children's School education
- Supporting our Outstations
- Making our Community healthy
- Policing our Community
- Looking after our money
- Educating and training our adult Community
- Managing our Land and Sea Country
- Developing our Strengths
- Growing our economy and jobs

Abuser Appointed to Shield Children

Ashleigh Wilson | *July 21, 2007*

AN Aboriginal man convicted of having unlawful sex with his teenage promised wife five years ago has been appointed to a tribal justice committee set up to protect children from abuse in a remote Top End community.

Excerpt from Media Release from MTJC

The Maningrida Tribal Justice Committee
26th July 2007

In the past few days the media has carried a number of stories concerning the 'appointment' of Mr. Pascoe to the recently formed Maningrida Tribal Justice Committee. Mr. Pascoe was never 'appointed' by either his own 'clan/language' group or the Committee. He attended the first meeting and sub-sequentially, unintentionally ended up on a draft list of Committee members. The Committee agrees that he has a criminal history that absolutely makes him unsuitable to be a part of the committee. Mr Pascoe has subsequently been asked not to be involved in any aspect of the Committee and he has agreed. The media's representations of the Committee have carried a number of inaccuracies pertaining to the establishment and role of the committee which need to be clarified.

.....
We hope everyone will work with us and recognize that, although this community has its problems, there are many good and hardworking people here.

Maningrida Tribal Justice Committee.

Major General Chalmers

I think there's always scope for discussion, for consultation, for working with people. The solutions are in the end going to be solutions that we develop with Indigenous people, not for Indigenous people. I think this Government thoroughly understands that and, of course, now as we move to the 12-month mark of the intervention the Government had committed and is committed to conducting a review where we'll examine all aspects of the intervention and this will be independently done, and where many views will be canvassed and people will be consulted as we shape the way forward.

Lateline 14/04/2008

There can be little doubt that Aboriginal people and their representative organisations across the Northern Territory would willingly be involved in a genuinely consultative process. Communities have consistently expressed their desire to be active participants in the longer-term measures that the Australian Government plans to take to prevent child abuse in their communities.

Social Justice Report (2008)