



ACADEMY OF THE SOCIAL
SCIENCES IN AUSTRALIA



CENTRE FOR ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC POLICY RESEARCH

Communiqué to the Prime Minister on Homelands/Outstations

Over the last two days the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA) and the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) have hosted a forum on homelands/outstations and similar small remote Aboriginal communities across Australia. This national forum brought together experts from peak Aboriginal organisations and homeland resource agencies, along with leading social scientists, education and medical researchers.

ASSA and CAEPR undertook this task in response to policy currently being implemented by government which:

- Is not informed by available evidence from research
- Is not based on the aspirations of residents of homelands/outstations
- Will not deliver substantive equality
- Has the potential to widen the gap in life expectancy
- Is not consistent with Australia's international obligations.

The forum calls on you to:

- Recognise the cultural, environmental and strategic importance of nearly 1,000 homelands/outstations located on the Aboriginal estate including along the northern coastline
- Recognise the unique significance of homelands/outstations for Aboriginal livelihoods, health, education and well-being and in the provision of environmental services
- Recognise the importance of homelands/outstations for linguistic diversity and Indigenous Knowledge
- Call a moratorium on COAG and other government processes, like the reform of CDEP, that are undermining the positive contributions made by homelands/outstations to Closing the Gap
- Assess the compatibility of current policy on homelands/outstations with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which your government endorsed earlier this year
- Refer the issue of homelands/outstations to a parliamentary inquiry such as the Senate Select Committee on Regional and Remote Indigenous Communities.