



Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities

Media Release

Monday 29th November 2010

Minister Malarndirri McCarthy, NT Government, invests in AMRRIC's expertise and guidance

AMRRIC continues to assist the NT shires with animal management in Indigenous communities

AMRRIC today announces the strengthening of its relationship with the NT government through working in partnership with the shires to improve the outcomes of animal management programs in remote communities. Minister McCarthy has granted a one year funding agreement, of \$125,000 for AMRRIC to employ a Program Coordinator.

AMRRIC Executive Officer, Julia Hardaker, stated today that, "AMRRIC is genuinely grateful to Minister McCarthy for her investment in AMRRIC to continue to assist the shires in animal management. AMRRIC has a firm footprint nationally and we are keen to focus on the NT more closely through this funding as we are most in need of resources and development here."

The current program manager, who has been undertaking the Program Coordinator role nationally over the past 3 years, has now been funded to work explicitly with the NT government. AMRRIC will promote its model of best practice as it works alongside shires and communities to meet these goals across the NT.

"The Program Manager will be a critical link between stakeholders including the NT Governments relevant departments, designated Shire staff and each of the individual communities, AMRRIC affiliated veterinarians, education service providers and AMRRIC to ensure goals are achieved," explained Ms Hardaker. "The Program Manager will assist the shires and communities requesting assistance to develop strategic frameworks for animal management, develop strategies to manage emergency control

and welfare situations, develop appropriate tender specifications for vets, assist in the coordination and facilitation of dog health programs, provide objective veterinary advice to shires and communities and develop job descriptions for shire animal management staff.

The role will also provide training, link AMRRIC Accredited Veterinarians to animal management programs, provide advice and resources and disseminate legislation information through supporting the shires to provide community education program regarding animal welfare.

The Program Manager will work closely with the NT Government funded AMRRIC Education Officer to ensure key messages and resources/information is passed on to the relevant shire staff to deliver AMRRIC's Education Strategy across the shires.

BACKGROUND

AMRRIC is a national not-for-profit organisation originally set-up by veterinarians to improve the health and welfare of companion animals and improve the overall health and wellbeing of people in Australia's Indigenous communities.

AMRRIC's dedication to cross-cultural sensitivity and understanding has enabled it to develop an appropriate model for veterinarians and others to work within Indigenous communities whereby human rights, capacity building, grass-roots approach and local empowerment are promoted.

The links between healthy animals and healthy people and environment are obvious. If we treat the animals against parasites, control dog numbers, discourage aggression and address environmental factors, we see improvements in the overall health of Indigenous communities.

AMRRIC – promotes their best practice guidelines for animal management in Indigenous communities.

-ENDS-

For more information, case study and interview opportunities please contact:

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