

FIRST NATIONS WORKERS ALLIANCE : FACT SHEET

All Australians deserve the opportunity to have a good, steady job and the dignity of work. The Turnbull Government's Community Development Program (CDP) is depriving tens of thousands of people of that opportunity. It's punitive, heavy-handed and racially discriminatory and the Union movement is determined to see it removed.

The Problem

CDP workers are not actually classified as workers. They get well below the minimum wage (the dole pays \$11.60/hour or \$290/week) for working for 25 hours a week for non-profit and now for-profit businesses.

They are not covered by the Fair Work Act, they don't have Federal OHS protections or workers compensation and they can't take annual leave, sick leave or carer's leave.

Those under the CDP are forced to work up to three times longer than city-based jobseekers to receive welfare payments. Since July 2015, less than 3,500 Indigenous participants found full-time or part-time work lasting six months or more.

CDP workers have 70 times the financial penalties imposed upon them than non-remote dole workers.

Fines for missing activities under CDP – which covers a tiny fraction of the population – account for more than half the total penalties across the entire welfare system.

The (CDP) Community Development Program Facts:

1. The Community Development Programme (CDP) covers about 33,000 unpaid workers.
2. The Community Development Programme (CDP) commenced on 1 July 2015.
3. Of the 33,000 people on the CDP, 31,000, or 80%, are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

What the union movement is doing about it?

We are working with CDP workers and the community to give a voice to these workers who are being exploited.

The First Nations Workers' Alliance is a new organisation which will campaign to end the CDP and replace it with a program that works for Indigenous people rather than oppressing them.

Launching on Friday 9 June, 2017 at the Indigenous Workers Conference in Townsville with ACTU Secretary Sally McManus and Indigenous Officer Lara Watson.

CDP workers join for free, Indigenous union members can get a \$26 per annum membership and non-Indigenous people can become a supporter for \$52 per year.

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