

Media Release **No. 538**

For immediate release 19 March 2014

PORT KENNEDY SOCIAL SERVICES WORKSHOP AIMS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY

The Port Kennedy Association is hosting a workshop on March 26 and 27 to develop a business plan to establish a Torres Strait Regional Service Hub.

Representatives of the lead agencies Mura Kosker, Lena Passi, Women's Shelter, Kaziw Meta, Youth and Recreation, Home and Community Care, Torres Strait Coop will attend, alongside delegates from the outer islands and members from government agencies.

The two-day workshop has been coordinated with the support from the Torres Shire Council and Torres Strait Island Regional Council . The workshop is being funded by the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) through a community grant.

The TSRA Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu, said aligning the community service agencies and creating a regional hub would ensure more effective delivery of services to all families in the Torres Strait.

“Key partners and stakeholders will be brought together over two days to discuss sustainable solutions for improving the delivery of information, referral, support and advocacy services to vulnerable families in the region,” Mr Elu said.

“There are a number of important services currently operating in the Torres Strait Islands.”

“The integration of the resources available in the Torres Strait to form one designated hub for all social services will provide families with access to a more comprehensive level of support and care.”

Mr Elu said up to 70 people would be attending the workshop to develop a business plan for Local, State and Commonwealth agencies to support the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Island Regional Plan.

“The main objective of the workshop is to identify the immediate actions that need to be taken in order to further progress the integration of the social services in the region. It is important that we identify and eliminate any waste caused by duplications of services, and identify where the gaps are in service delivery for all communities,” Mr Elu said.

“Representatives from government agencies such as Child Safety, Medicare Local, Queensland Health and the Police will also attend the workshop to collaborate with the non-government organisations to determine the actions required from each agency and organisation to more efficiently and effectively deliver plan.”

ENDS

TSRA Media Contact – Marnie O'Brien 0431 876 628