



## PREAMBLE - NOEL PEARSON



*The FRC has over 11 years demonstrated again and again the great power of self-reliance and responsibility for families to be supported to take control of their lives. The dedication and work of the FRC is the highest expression of self-determination that I have seen in Australia and, on behalf of my own people, I am so very grateful for the work of the FRC and the scores of lives that have been affected and saved.*

*At the heart of the FRC are the courageous Local Commissioners of Aurukun, Coen, Doomadgee, Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge, who work so tirelessly and with great love to motivate and support their people to take up and manage their most fundamental responsibilities to themselves and to their families. Their carriage of this great power and love never sleeps and never rests and the Commissioners have been resolute and steadfast in their dedication to serve their people.*

*The ongoing uncertainty over the future of the Queensland Government's support for the FRC and its core principles is incredibly disappointing and must end. The current lack of support for the FRC by the Queensland Government is a defining moment for its future.*

*The FRC was at the outset, and remains today, a cutting-edge innovation. It stands alone in providing a model of highly targeted Income Management, with authority for Income Management decisions vesting in Local Commissioners, not with the state. Income Management is the primary tool used to great effect by Local Commissioners as an instrument of support rather than punishment.*

*The FRC and the Australian Government are clearly focussed on making the FRC the strongest and most effective vehicle of Indigenous agency, authority and responsibility that it can possibly be. This means by necessity that the FRC must be supported in its endeavours to expand to those communities that have asked for the FRC's support and to continue to build on the hard-won gains of the past 11 years. An expanded FRC has great opportunity to continue to build up the effectiveness of the FRC model of Income Management, with an expanded armoury of services for families to get the support that they need to build their capabilities and take responsibility.*

*I thank former Deputy Commissioner Rod Curtin for his service to our people, and particularly for the work that he has done to help the Doomadgee Local Commissioners to establish their FRC over the last five years.*

*Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the absolute dedication of foundation Commissioner David Glasgow. I can think of no finer measure of his service than the deep and abiding esteem he is held in by the Local Commissioners. Thank you, David.*

Noel Pearson