

Preamble Noel Pearson



Thirteen years since its creation, the Family Responsibilities Commission (FRC) is continuing to build people's capabilities and empowering them to take responsibility for their lives.

The original design of the FRC reflected the people of Aurukun, Coen, Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge's belief that poverty was not just a function of poor income but poor capabilities.

Today the FRC is the embodiment of this capability-building approach, working in all four Cape York communities and Doomadgee to lift our people's capabilities and support them to make life better for themselves.

This approach has resulted in over 63 percent of all referrals to support services supported by our people, with Doomadgee recording an eleven-fold increase in the number of agreements to attend support services. This is a great advancement in the adoption of personal responsibility by clients and testament to the FRC's people-centred approach.

The FRC's deep engagement with and knowledge of the communities in which they work, has allowed them to establish important partnerships with local service providers to improve their support to our people.

I commend the Local Commissioners for their tireless work and congratulate them on presiding over 83 percent of all conferences independently. I also congratulate them on their unwavering commitment to capability-building, resulting in the referral of 359 clients to local support services, the highest number in the FRC's history.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Commissioner Tammy Williams and Deputy Commissioner Rodney Curtin on their leadership of the FRC. Their unwavering commitment and dedication to their team and our people has played an enormous role in producing such tremendous results.

Noel Pearson