

Foundations for employment and full participation in remote areas

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Jan Ferguson's presentation will describe some of the work of the Cooperative Research Centre for Remote Economic Participation (CRC-REP) and evidence of the practicability of economic participation in more remote areas. CRC-REP began operations on 1 July 2010. It is focused on delivering solutions to the economic challenges that affect remote Australia and providing practical responses to the complex issues that can restrict full economic participation in such areas.

CRC-REP is a partnership of more than 50 bodies, including the Australian Government, four state and territory governments, non-government organisations, universities, private businesses and industries, including mining, pastoralism and tourism. Thirty per cent of its membership comes from Aboriginal organisations and communities.

The goals of CRC-REP are:

- to develop new ways to build resilience and strengthen regional communities and economies across remote Australia
- to build new enterprises and strengthen existing industries that provide jobs, livelihoods and incomes in remote areas
- to improve the education and training pathways in remote areas so that people have better opportunities to participate in the range of economies that exist.

Jan's presentation will give some examples of entities whose approaches have successfully surmounted the barriers that exist and established robust, dynamic and viable enterprises that can serve as models and sources of inspiration to others.

