

Project Development Forum, 17-18 March.

Members of the Darlot Trust Advisory Committee (TAC) recently came together for a two-day forum held in Fremantle, organised by FAS, your trustee. The forum was a planning initiative to help develop Trust programs for the benefit of the Darlot.

It included a series of informative sessions led by experts in their fields who shared valuable insights for native title holders, and Aboriginal people more generally. Judging from the feedback gathered from the members of the TAC following each presentation, the forum hit its intended mark.

The main goal of the forum was to generate ideas and discussions to help TAC members decide how to invest your native title income in Trust initiatives and programs that meet the needs of the Darlot mob. By creating an environment for information sharing and open communication, TAC members explored the unique challenges and opportunities faced by the Darlot in the context of how to invest resources effectively for maximum positive impact now and future generations.

For more details on the forum discussions, please see the next page.



TAC members taking part in the Forum on shaping the future (from left): Allan Butson (FAS); Pearl Scott, Verna Vos, Travis Tucker, Ethan Day, Josephine Hill, Lena Abdullah and Phil Williams (FAS)

Forum topics discussed.



Financial analysis of native title agreements - Baynton & Co consulting firm highlighted the role of financial analysis of native title agreements in helping native title holders project long-term income and get the best from their agreements to provide opportunities for growth and development.



Financial literacy and training - Lacey Filipich from Money School, emphasised empowering communities to improve their financial health. She focused on available services for educating and training members to manage their personal finances, free themselves from debt, save and become financially independent.



Housing - *Hovm* are architect-led consultants who presented a unique housing method that uses off-site construction with a focus on quality, community involvement and cultural understanding during planning stages to meet diverse needs of the community members, as opposed to a one-size-fits-all model.



Community Survey – Paul Lane of DodsonLane Consulting discussed the importance of community surveys in Aboriginal communities and gave examples of other Aboriginal and native title holder groups who have gone down this path. Each survey is unique to the group because the survey questions are designed by the group. The survey can be an important tool in clarifying the group's needs and aspirations, making sure that trust programs are tailored to what they themselves need and want. This grassroots approach puts the Aboriginal group in control of their information and how to achieve their goals.



Health - with over 40 years of national and international experience in design, delivery and evaluation of community health interventions, Dr. Bruce Maycock's presentation focused on what determines good health. He highlighted how in addition to genetics, other important factors shape well-being throughout life, including social, physical and cultural environment.

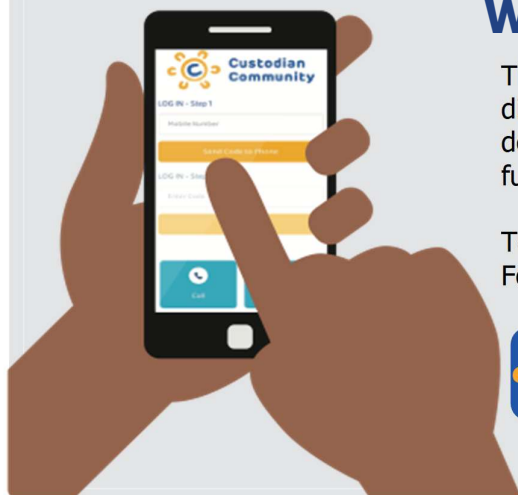


Whole-of-life planning - Allan Butson, FAS director and chartered tax advisor, presented the various financial life stages, from start of working life to retirement, covering important topics like superannuation strategies, insurance protection, investment management and retirement planning as strategies of making the most of the money you have.

What happens next ...

The April TAC meeting will consider feedback from the Forum discussions. The next step is to turn the feedback into action and decide on priorities and which Forum discussion topics should be further explored to be developed into Trust programs.

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