

**Commonwealth Grants Commission  
Indigenous Funding Inquiry  
Submission**

**From: Maningrida Council Inc  
“Factors Indicating Greater Requirement for Increase funding in  
Maningrida and Remote Areas Generally”**

**Submission No.: IFI/SUB/0039  
Date Received: 03/07/2000**

# *Maningrida Council Inc.*

Factors indicating greater requirement for increase funding per person in Maningrida and remote areas generally:

1. Financial disability of living in a remote area:
  - Cost of Fuel
  - Cost of Buildings
  - Freight Costs
  - Electricity Costs
  - Telecommunication Costs
  - General cost of living
  - Necessity of providing Staff Housing. Which is generally not funded
  - Difficulty and cost of attracting staff to remote locations
2. Uniqueness of the location is indicated by the wet season isolation.
3. Low economic base of the area means there is a great difficulty in raising the revenue needed.
4. Less opportunity of employment and activity.
5. Responsibility on the Council funds for economic development.
6. Responsibility on the Council funds for the provision of training assistance.
7. Failure of education in the provision of basic numeracy and literacy.
8. All the above factors place added burden on the Council, which provides excess services, which are either not funded or heavily underfunded. It is incidental whether the funding is by grant or by contracted rates for services. For example, contracted rate for services is done on the equivalent rates existing in Darwin, with no allowance for location, housing or other costs.
9. Road funding, a major component of Council's expenditure is based upon inappropriate maintenance components designed for Southern States.
10. For the core health of the community the importance of outstation road access cannot be overstated.
11. Roads funding is based on maintenance, not development. With the discontinuance of the Commonwealth strategic roads program there is no funding for development. Further there are continuing costs associated with the dropping of the program which have placed extra burdens on Council resources.
12. As clearly indicated above, Council's dependence on Commonwealth grants is more substantial than in many other geographical locations.