



Professionals needed in Outback Australia

In recent months, our media has highlighted situations of abuse and neglect on many indigenous communities in the Northern Territory, and our Government's response. There is little doubt that Indigenous Australians are among the marginalised, poor and disempowered people of our country. If we believe that following Jesus means showing love and compassion 'to the least of these' then we must respond accordingly. Global Interaction has links with six communities and employs staff to support indigenous church leadership. The message from those on the ground is loud and clear: committed, trained and supported Christians can contribute in a positive way into these communities and others around the Northern Territory.

The Government is always searching for people to take positions on all indigenous communities. Unfortunately, many employees are lured by the impressive salary and care little for the role or people. Many stay for very short periods of time. We believe that reliable and committed Christian professionals can have effective ministries working in these roles and can make a significant difference. Some roles include administration, management, community health, clinical nursing, school teaching, nutrition, mechanics, infant welfare and youth workers.

The Baptist Union of Australia and Global Interaction have suggested a way forward:

1. Baptist networks spread the word that there are opportunities available (i.e. forward this document)
2. Global Interaction representatives in Darwin, John and Di Gronow are monitoring the Northern Territory and Federal Government websites and employment gazettes for positions available. Interested people can contact John and Di (jgronow@bigpond.net.au) to locate specific roles that suit their skills.
3. Individuals apply to the positions as usual through the relevant government processes.
4. Successful applicants will be offered training with Global Interaction, additional to what is required by the government. This may include Context Training Course (1 week), reading plans, conversations with the outback staff and networking with others in similar roles. Global Interaction can not provide pastoral care support for all workers, as we only operate in six communities, but networks and links can be formed with others who may engage in pastoral care roles (e.g. Baptist Union of Northern Territory). The individuals will not be official Global Interaction staff members, but can access the resources and training that we provide for our cross-cultural staff.

More information available from your Global Interaction state director or John and Di Gronow

www.globalinteraction.org.au (03) 9819 4944