

Case Study: Umoona Community Council

Umoona Community Council represents the interests of Umoona Community, located on Antakirinja Matu-Yunkunytjatjara Country in Cooper Pedy, South Australia.

As the Community is in a remote area, the organisation faces resourcing and capacity challenges. The organisation currently generates income by leasing out Umoona Opal Mine and Museum and Umoona Tjintu service station, as well as managing B&Bs.

The Community Council also delivers a variety of government funded programs: a *Return to Country Program* to facilitate remote transport for community members, Umoona Tjitji Tjapu Tjuta Childcare Centre, Umoona Playgroup, Sobering Up Unit and MAP programs, and employment programs through the CDP (and now RJED), providing jobs in their plant nursery/garden, *Solid Mulga*, and in the building and maintenance crew.

Goals: To establish and promote business, employment, and training opportunities for the Community and its members by exploring new ventures, including Solid Mulga, bush foods, and an art gallery and café.

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"I'd like to see more employment – a lot of people in this community and town [not working]."

"Our Board didn't function as good before.. now we have regular meetings.. Board members are attending."

"If Many Rivers were to leave, we would be in the lurch – we wouldn't know where to go with what we've started."

–Dean Walker, Chairperson of Umoona Community Council

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"Many Rivers has been very instrumental in helping myself to navigate all the businesses and four funded programs, and particularly the application for most funding for more programs."

–Dora, GM of Umoona Community Council

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Umoona Community Council 2024-25

1975

Umoona Community was established.

Joined the CED program

with support needed in improving their governance and management structure.

Many Rivers supported the organisation to develop the CY2022 strategic plan document. Many of these goals are now achieved or in progress.

Umoona Community Council CY2022

2020

Many Rivers supported with the funding application for Children and Parent Support Services program, which funds the delivery of **First Nations Playgroups**.

2022

Many Rivers supported with the lease out of the **Umoona Tjintu service station**, which was previously operating at a deficit.

2024

Many Rivers supported with the funding application for six roles through RJED, including for the nursery.

2025

Following significant progress made on the **CY2022 strategic objectives**, the organisation developed the 2024-25 strategic plan (pictured left).

The future for Umoona Community

The organisation intends to increase tourism in the Community by establishing a gallery and café next to the current art centre. The organisation is also exploring other business ideas, such as expanding Solid Mulga, opening additional B&Bs and a bush food garden, as well as planning for Community leadership of Umoona mine.

Bar chart icon

2024

Many Rivers is providing ongoing assistance with **lease renegotiations** for Umoona Mine and Museum

2025

Many Rivers supported with the **application and management of a BHP grant** to assist with works to set up a café collocated with the Arts Centre.