



Indigenous Development in Australia

A Canadian Perspective

*Pursuing Opportunity and Prosperity
2003 Economic and Social Outlook
Conference*

Melbourne Institute & The Australian

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A Level Playing Field

- Struggle for legitimacy
- Legal, constitutional, political recognition
- Chart a new path with focus on communities
- Similar struggle in Australia

Achieving our Vision



What Works?

- Genuine decision-making power in Indigenous hands
- Effective governing institutions
- Cultural match
- Partnerships
- Reliable information to inform decisions

Change in Social Policy Target Groups, Thamarrurr Region 2003-2023 (per John Taylor)

Age group	2003	2023	Net change	% change
0-4	350	642	292	83.4
5-15	626	1,140	514	82.1
16-24	396	672	276	69.7
25-49	530	1,075	545	102.8*
50+	132	304	172	130.3*
Total	2,034	3,833	1,799	88.5

Indigenous Governance in Australia

- Encouraging developments and interesting successes
- Emerging leaders have high expectations
- Partnerships with government, academia and industry

Indigenous Development in Australia

- Communities need:
 - Strong leaders, capable clerks and staff and knowledgeable members
 - Effective governing institutions
 - Governance information & training
 - Mentors
 - Clerks with appropriate experience, skills and attitudes

A Better Future:

- Indigenous-driven authority structures
- Best-practices governance training
- Legislative and constitutional reform
- A sustained effort