

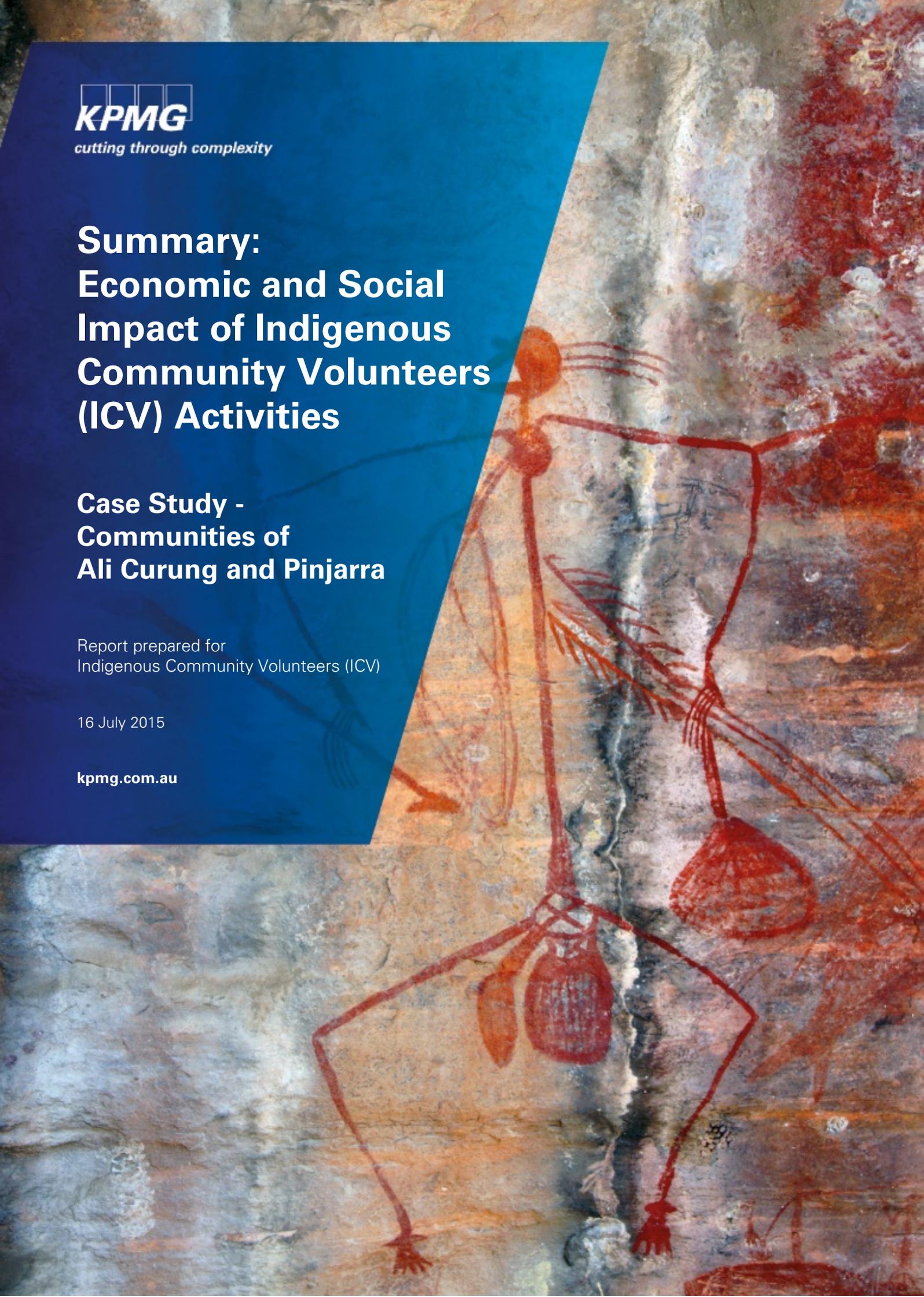
# Summary: Economic and Social Impact of Indigenous Community Volunteers (ICV) Activities

## Case Study - Communities of Ali Curung and Pinjarra

Report prepared for  
Indigenous Community Volunteers (ICV)

16 July 2015

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# Summary of Findings

KPMG was engaged to conduct an assessment of Indigenous Community Volunteer's (ICV's) involvement in two Indigenous communities – Ali Curung in the Northern Territory and Pinjarra in Western Australia. ICV works with a range of communities (169 communities across Australia over 2013-14) in an effort to enhance reconciliation and work in partnership with the community (and at their invitation) to realise their development goals. The assessment of ICV activities in Ali Curung and Pinjarra sought to uncover and explore the social and economic impacts of ICV's involvement in the communities, both facing unique and varied development challenges. The impetus for this assessment was to test ICV's recently developed Story of Change and to articulate the value of the ICV activities to the stakeholders involved in the community development projects. The approach to this assessment included KPMG working in partnership with ICV during the course of the assessment.

The major steps in the approach to the assessment included: identifying outcomes included in the ICV Story of Change; identifying stakeholders; conducting consultations; triangulating the data from multiple data sources; and assessing the impacts of the activities in economic terms, where feasible.

The findings were based on the stakeholder interviews and an array of further information that was analysed in the assessment. Common findings arising across both communities were as follows:

- **Local invitations** – ICV was invited into both communities by local people who needed additional skills or experience to create change in the community.
- **Discrete projects** – The ICV activities were well defined discrete assignments with a particular focus.
- **Positive asset based work** – All stakeholders consulted articulated the value of the ICV activities to them personally; in particular the contribution of the volunteers and commented on the positive ripple effect that was created by the visit of the volunteers.
- **Building on existing work** – The activities were built on existing work in the community. In this sense they were not 'one off' activities without a history but built on past work (by ICV or others).
- **Partnerships** – There were many organisations that were working on the same issue or collaborated with the ICV team on activities creating a strong collective approach.
- **Sustainability** – Although recognising the positive impacts from the activity and the success of each activity, some stakeholders could see the size and scope of the broader issue raising the need about how to sustain the positive changes in the community arising from the activities.



Dogs in Ali Curung

## ICV Activities in Ali Curung:

The ICV activities in Ali Curung consisted of community education around the connection between dog health and human health. Children at the Alkerange School were the target group for the activities. The outcomes uncovered through this assessment were: classes delivered to students that focus on dog health, human health and dog dreaming; engagement with broader community groups through more informal means; teaching resources that are community owned (e.g. posters

explaining the connection between dog and human health); a short video that delivers messages related to how to keep kids and their dogs healthy; 'Dogs Day out' (community sausage sizzle and games); students presenting to Barkly Shire Council on dog health issues and making recommendations for dog desexing and community education; multiple visits by vets and children involvement in their visits and visits to the school by the Health Clinic Nurse.

There was in the community recognition that the partnership approach employed by ICV was effective in engaging the community. Stakeholders reported learnings on both sides, and within the partnerships, the benefits were shared mutually. All the stakeholders reported that the ICV activity had been a learning experience which had had a positive impact on them personally and a positive impact on the community.

The ICV project in Ali Curung has the potential to contribute to ongoing economic and social impacts within the community. These impacts include - an improvement in animal health and management; a reduction in dog related illness among the community population (particularly children); improved community pride and well-being; and strengthened community connectedness.



*Community leader with ICV staff*

### **ICV Activities in Pinjarra:**

The ICV activities in Pinjarra focused on the renovations of the cultural centre, which then culminated in a series of diverse activities that involved ICV. The outcomes uncovered through this assessment were: development of architectural plans for the centre; renovations of a half size basketball court; renovations of the centre (and an open day for the centre); a community vegetable garden, training in governance and policy; regular cooking classes held at the centre; homework classes and renovations of the youth centre (current).

There were many varied outputs of the activities including the installation of the roof, a renovated centre, installation of a community garden, production of an annual report and a community handbook. There was also a successful community opening of the centre which was well-attended.

The outcomes and impact that have been identified by stakeholders surpass the building of a structure. The renovation of the building was a practical project but also symbolic for the community. There are a number of potential social and economic impacts of outcomes in Pinjarra, including: enhanced community resilience and empowerment; and improved nutrition.

### **Recommendations:**

The assessment led to a range of recommendations that focus on harnessing ICV's Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation capabilities and enhancing this to improve practice. KPMG acknowledges that ICV is committed to improving their Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning capabilities. ICV is currently undertaking a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Review and implementing reform pertinent to evaluation systems and processes.

Based on the findings of the assessment, it is recommended that ICV continues to endorse their model and partnership approach to community development, as the findings of the assessment highlight the strengths and advantages of a genuine community development approach.



**Full report available on: [Indigenous Community Volunteers Website](http://www.icv.com.au/socialimpact)  
<http://www.icv.com.au/socialimpact>**

*This report is delivered subject to the agreed written terms of KPMG's engagement.*

*This report provides a summary of KPMG's findings during the course of the work undertaken for Indigenous Community Volunteers (ICV) under the terms of the engagement letter 4 May 2015. The contents of this report do not represent our conclusive findings, which will only be contained in our final detailed report.*

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Cover image: *Ubirr Mabuyo rock art*

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