

AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR FREE ALLIANCE

Around one third of the world's uranium is located on Aboriginal land in Australia. Across the nation Aboriginal communities are facing growing pressure for new or expanded uranium exploration and mining projects. Aboriginal people are also in the front line of the federal government's plan to develop a national radioactive waste dump. Most of these projects are located in remote or regional areas where many Aboriginal communities have limited access to independent information, decision makers or the media. The Australian Nuclear Free Alliance seeks to address this imbalance by providing material and support to Aboriginal communities facing nuclear developments.

The Australian Nuclear Free Alliance (formerly the Alliance Against Uranium) brings together Aboriginal people and civil society groups concerned about existing or proposed nuclear projects in Australia. The network provides a key opportunity for sharing of knowledge and experiences of the uranium industry and planning coordinated responses.

The foundation meeting, held in Alice Springs in 1997, was a joint initiative of Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation and the Australian Conservation Foundation with the support of Arabunna elder Kevin Buzzacott, recipient of the International Nuclear-Free Future Award (2001) and current Alliance president.

Since then there have been regular annual meetings and these now consistently attract over one hundred people. The ANFA national meeting is the main forum in Australia for face-to-face information exchange between Aboriginal community members, national campaign planning and development of culturally appropriate resources for outreach and education on nuclear issues. It is an opportunity for people directly impacted by the nuclear industry to come together and find strength through the shared aims of protecting country, culture and communities.

Many prominent nuclear free campaigns have developed with support from the Alliance, including the internationally recognised campaigns to stop Jabiluka uranium mine in the Northern Territory (NT) and the proposed nuclear waste dump in South Australia (SA).

Meetings have often been held in rural and regional areas of SA and the NT. Affiliated networks like WANFA, the Western Australian Nuclear Free Alliance, have formed and helped increase the reach of the national network to remote areas.



ABOUT ANFA

After a decade of work, ANFA formalised its structure with annual election of a national committee and co-chairs. The Committee has members from all States and Territories where uranium projects are proposed or operating, along with representatives from trade unions, environment groups, medical and public health organisations.

The Committee holds monthly phone conferences and strives to be a forum for information and ideas to flow both to and from affected communities.

ANFA produces an annual report, which is circulated at the national meeting to assist delegates and the communities they represent in documenting the breadth of campaign work done over the year. This is also uploaded to the ANFA website for public access.

CONTACT ANFA

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND INITIATIVES

Over 15 years, ANFA has become the central point for development of national campaign initiatives and resources.

In 2000 the Alliance produced a national poster series titled 'Forever Country', addressing issues relating to uranium mining and the nuclear chain. The posters were developed in direct consultation with Aboriginal communities impacted by nuclear projects.

In 2008 ANFA produced a second poster series covering the topics: 'Radiation and Health'; 'Water and Uranium Mining'; 'Uranium and Radioactive Waste' and 'What Happens to Our Uranium?' Posters have been distributed to communities and schools across a number of states and have also been translated into Arrernte for use across Central Australia.

POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

ANFA regularly makes submissions to federal government inquiries on the uranium industry to present community opinions, make informed recommendations and highlight the limitation of government structures to represent and act on grassroots community perspectives.

ANFA representatives have been invited to attend key events such as the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples roundtable on 'First Peoples and Extractives Industries' held in August 2012, which was convened to provide information to United Nations Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Issues, James Anaya. ANFA members also engage with national and international Indigenous and nuclear free forums including conferences, seminars, media briefings and dedicated networking.

MEDIA RELEASES

ANFA responds quickly to changes and developments in the political and nuclear industry landscape by issuing media releases and opinion pieces. Co-chairs are often approached to make comment, particularly by Indigenous radio, television and print outlets.



"ANFA holds meetings and gives information to support Aboriginal people to stop uranium mining on our country. The meetings are very good for getting people together to talk about issues like uranium mining and exploration."

*Valerie Martin
(Yuendumu, NT)*

"I've been involved with ANFA for the last four years fighting the nuclear waste dump proposed for Muckaty near Tennant Creek. I think it's a very important resource for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in the Territory because we've got uranium exploration going on and ANFA is available for our people to get information through awareness, meetings and sessions when it comes to mining and issues like the nuclear waste dump."

*Barb Shaw
(Alice Springs, NT)*

FUNDING

ANFA has received philanthropic funding from the Poola Foundation (Tom Kantor Fund) and Dara Foundation for a number of years. The annual national gathering costs around \$30,000, with the majority of this subsidising travel for Aboriginal delegates whose country is affected or threatened by nuclear activities. Other costs include general meeting logistics including venue hire, accommodation and catering.

Many organisations assist in the running of ANFA and contribute in-kind resources, in particular Friends of the Earth Australia (as long-term secretariat) and the Arid Lands Environment Centre in Alice Springs (current secretariat).

Currently ANFA has not secured funding beyond 2013. This vital organisation needs help to continue its work and to help facilitate communication with those communities most directly affected by nuclear projects. Through funding outreach, ANFA aims to increase the profile and support of its work as well as generate the necessary funds to continue the annual meeting.

ANFA PARTNERSHIPS

Organisations are invited to become ANFA partners through a regular or one-off financial contribution. The suggested contribution for ANFA partners is \$1000 per annum for five years. All donations to the Alliance qualify for tax deductibility.

Contributing organisations will be published on the ANFA website and acknowledged in the ANFA annual report, which is available at www.anfa.org.au. Supportive organisations are invited to send a representative to the annual meeting (usually held in August/September) to connect with the ANFA committee, membership and campaigns. ANFA is able to offer articles for publication in e-bulletins, magazines or journals and would welcome the opportunity for co-chairs or committee members to address meetings and conferences where appropriate and possible.

"I support ANFA because it is supporting my family. We don't want uranium or waste travelling through country because of the dangers it presents. We want no uranium mining whatsoever, no nuclear freeways and safer living for all of us. Leave the poison in the ground, that's where it is meant to be. The national meeting brings us together to support each other, keep strong and see what ANFA can do to help us all."

*Sue Coleman-Haseldine
(Ceduna, SA)*

"ANFA is a voice to make Australian people aware of the uranium industry and its effects on our people. I became aware of ANFA when the WA government overturned the ban on uranium mining and it has played an instrumental role in connecting me with other Aboriginal communities around Australia who are facing the same situation."

*Richard Evans
(Leonora, WA)*

"Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) - the organisation established and run by the Mirarr people of the Kakadu region - is a founding member of ANFA. ANFA is a vitally important forum through which people can learn about and share responses to the nuclear industry. The Mirarr have lived with imposed uranium mining on their land for three decades. ANFA provides a unique opportunity to share this experience with communities from around Australia facing similar proposals and pressures."

*Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation
(Kakadu, NT)*