

## Cape York Partnerships' Wise Buys Project Success



*Aurukun resident, Bertha Yungaporta and Wise Buys Consultant, Oliver James, with her new fridge*

Cape York Partnerships is helping people in remote Indigenous communities to spend their cash bonus from the Federal Government wisely. Parents, pensioners and carers have now received their cash payments from the \$10.5 billion spending package, \$1.2 million of which went to the four welfare reform sites of Coen, Aurukun, Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge.

The 'Wise Buys' program was created to educate recipients on wise ways to spend their cash payments and to provide opportunities for them to order items from Cairns and have these items delivered to communities. Residents were also encouraged to spend their money on improving their homes, buying into the Pride of Place project.

So far, over \$25,000 has been committed for goods such as whitegoods, furniture and tools for home improvements.

"We're trying to show that if we support people to have connections with suppliers in towns they'll actually choose things that'll make their family life much better," says Cape York Partnerships Chairman, Noel Pearson.

"It's just in the absence of those facilities you end up with the money on the gambling table or money at the pokies or something."