Alice Springs to Host SCAG

The Northern Territory will host the next meeting of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (SCAG) in Alice Springs on August 6 and 7.

Attorney-General, Delia Lawrie, said Indigenous justice would be the main issue discussed at the meeting.

“The meeting will discuss the establishment of a National Indigenous Law and Justice Framework which will seek to address the underlying causes and ongoing consequences of crime,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The numbers of Indigenous people involved in the justice system or incarcerated remains too high and well above the numbers for non-Indigenous Australians.

“There is a real need for a collaborative national approach to help tackle Indigenous justice issues that includes working with Indigenous people and their communities to address the over-representation of Indigenous Australians in our justice system.”

Findings in the *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Report* found:

- Indigenous adults were 13 more times more likely to be incarcerated than their non-Indigenous counterparts;
- Indigenous juveniles were 28 times more likely to be incarcerated than their non-Indigenous counterparts;

“Efforts to reduce representation in the justice system must be undertaken in conjunction with efforts to reduce crime, reduce alcohol and drug abuse and increase community safety,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The Territory Government has introduced a range of initiatives designed to address antisocial and low level offending behaviour under our Public Safety Model.
“Initiatives such as the Alice Springs Youth Action plan and the First Response Patrol are also helping to curb levels of anti-social behaviour.

“However more needs to be done including a national effort to reduce the representation of Indigenous Australians in the justice system.”

Other items to be discussed on the SCAG Agenda include organised crime and a national judicial framework.

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