



Karl Hampton
MINISTER FOR CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

25 February 2011

Indigenous Leaders Meet in Alice Springs

More than 70 Indigenous leaders and representatives from Alice Springs met with two Territory Government Ministers today to voice their concerns in the current debate on anti-social behaviour and alcohol fuelled violence in the regional centre.

The meeting nominated a representative group of 16 leaders from the Alice Springs and remote communities to meet with Chief Minister Paul Henderson on these issues next week.

Minister for Central Australia, Karl Hampton hosted the meeting and was joined by Indigenous Development Minister, Malarndirri McCarthy.

“Our role was to listen to what Indigenous people in Alice Springs are saying because they have been left out of the current debate and they are extremely concerned at what is happening in their town,” said Minister Hampton.

“What was made very clear is that Indigenous people did not shy away from the issues and agreed that anti social behaviour and alcohol fuelled violence is unacceptable.

“The meeting agreed that all Alice Springs residents and surrounding communities should work together on these issues.

“It’s no good shouting at each other. We all live here and we have to sit down and do the hard work required to tackle crime and anti social behaviour.

“Indigenous people also play a very strong role in the local economy – across all industries and as consumers and residents of the local community.”

Today’s meeting also supported the Lhere Artepe Native Title Holders and Traditional Owner of Alice Springs to work on this important issue.

Traditional Owner, Karen Liddle said that they would continue to keep working with the government and the Alice Springs community.

“It’s important for all of us to work together,” said Ms Liddle.

Minister Hampton thanked everyone who attended today and for their frank and forthright discussions.

Minister Hampton also said the Chief Minister, Paul Henderson would be in Alice Springs next week to meet with all groups.

Further announcements will be made about policing and anti social behaviour.

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