

Gerald McCarthy

Minister for Housing and Community Development



Media Release

SUPPORTING TERRITORIANS TO STAY CONNECTED: INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION DAY

30 September 2017

Minister for Housing and Community Development Gerry McCarthy today congratulated interpreters and translators on their work to help Territorians stay connected to their communities and government services on *International Translation Day*.

The Territory Labor Government injected an additional \$1 million into the *Aboriginal Interpreter Service* (AIS) this year to help almost 35,000 Territorians who speak one of 104 languages and dialects to engage in local decision making.

Mr McCarthy said the AIS and *Interpreting and Translating Service NT* (ITSNT) both provide crucial services for people who do not speak English as a first language to understand health, housing and legal services.

“We are building inclusive, fairer and stronger communities right across the Territory – the AIS and ITSNT are pivotal to this,” Mr McCarthy said.

The AIS are assisting the Government to roll out its \$1.1 billion remote housing program in true partnership with remote Aboriginal communities.

“We are determined to restore local decision making and interpretation is crucial to effective two way communication,” he said.

“We are investing in interpreting services to support people make decisions about issues that impact their communities and achieve goals they set for themselves.”

Last month, the AIS completed 426 interpreting services (2473 hours) across 31 Aboriginal languages, and the ITSNT received 406 bookings for interpreting services across 23 languages.

Interpreting and translating is a highly skilled and intellectually demanding role.

“I thank all AIS and ITSNT employees for their dedication – both services are in high demand and critical for members of our community to understand what services and resources are available and what rights and entitlements people have.”

The AIS installed video conferencing facilities in November last year to allow more people in remote areas to access interpreting services.

“We are fortunate to live in a rich multicultural society and I congratulate the AIS and ITSNT for their outstanding contribution to fostering vibrant and harmonious communities,” Mr McCarthy said.

For more information visit <https://nt.gov.au/community/interpreting-and-translating-services>.

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