



Clare Martin
CHIEF MINISTER



20 May 2006

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS FOR COAG AGENDA

Chief Minister Clare Martin has written to the Prime Minister requesting that the *National Agenda for Indigenous Affairs* be a priority item at the next meeting of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in July.

“The national agenda was adopted by all Governments in 2003, as the benchmark for progressing the many complex issues facing Indigenous Australia including housing, family violence and child protection,” said Ms Martin.

“Governments should approach COAG as an opportunity to review the progress of all actions taken since the Prime Ministers Summit of 2003 and COAG trials currently underway.

“There is a bipartisan commitment for indigenous affairs to be treated as an issue of national importance.

“COAG is the key leadership forum in the country to address these issues in co-operation with the Commonwealth.

“While joint action between Governments and the community have made some progress, clearly we must do more.

“We need to tackle alcohol and substance abuse, overcrowded housing, and achieve higher levels of health, education and employment to address the underlying causes of community dysfunction and violence in many communities.

“These challenges are not new and will not be solved overnight but we are committed to urgent and decisive action,” said Ms Martin.

A copy of the Chief Minister’s letter is attached.

Contact the Chief Minister’s Office: 08 8901 4000