Creche help

Matt Garrick

TWO remote Central Australian creches have reopened this week, after their doors were closed in August because of a funding stalemate.

The childcare centres in Harts Range (Attijere) and Yuelamu will now be serviced by newly-formed organisation the Alice Springs Group School Management Council.

The council, registered as a Territory Government entity in March this year, will also take control of similar service in the Nyirripi community in the near future.

Funding to run the centres will come from the Federal Government, which has loaded the centres’ reopening.

Federal Minister for Education and Training Simon Birmingham said the council would manage the centres until June 30, 2016.

“This new funding agreement demonstrates the Government’s commitment to ensuring Australian children, particularly indigenous children in remote communities, can access high-quality early childhood education and care services,” he said.

“It not only ensures continuity of service for these creches and the families who use them, but secures the ongoing employment of the local creche workers who run these centres, and who were displaced when they were closed.”

The creches closed when negotiations on funding broke down with the Central Desert Regional Council, which had been managing the centres.

NT Minister for Education Peter Chandler said management of each centre would now be co-ordinated through local schools.

“This agreement means we can again offer the children in each of these communities a holistic approach to learning and a seamless transition from an early childhood learning environment into the school environment,” Mr Chandler said.

“We want to see this generation become a job-ready generation and early education is a great place to start.”

Bid to butt out high Aboriginal smoking rates

A $10 MILLION campaign will launch to reduce smoking in Aboriginal communities.

Rural Health Minister Fiona Nash said according to the 2012-13 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health survey, more than 40 per cent of indigenous Australians over the age of 15 smoked on a daily basis.

“We must reduce indigenous smoking rates and this campaign is one tool in our drawer,” Ms Nash said. “Tobacco smoking is responsible for around one in five deaths among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Tobacco smoking is the most preventable cause of ill health and early death among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

“This is why we are building a range of targeted programs and promotions to address this significant issue.”

ALICE Springs Turf Club and Probuild have been fined $713 each for unauthorised rubbish disposal at the racecourse.

The NT Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has also ordered both parties to develop and implement a waste management plan for the site.

Earlier this year, an unidentified source informed the media of illegal dumping. The EPA verified the report and ordered an environmental audit.

EPA chairman Bil Fredland said the audit revealed there was no hazardous material at the site, but confirmed it had previously been used for the unauthorised burial of building materials for some time.

“As well as preparing a strategy to manage the waste, each party has been issued with infringement notices for breaching the Waste Management and Pollution Control Act,” Dr Fredland said.

The waste management plan is subject to EPA approval following its review by an appropriately qualified independent person.

Turf club chief executive Des Friedrich said the matter was now closed. He said it had previously been unaware of the need to obtain approvals and would do so in future, but there were no plans for more waste to be buried at the track.

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“We want to see this generation become a job-ready generation and early education is a great place to start.”

HARTLEY the travelling saltwater croc didn’t quite know what to make of the iconic Uluru on his recent visit.

“I tell them he lives in a special enclosure, because I had a proper cabinet built for him to travel in,” Mr Mclean said.

The Mcleans have been travelling the country for two years with Hartley and were in Alice Springs this week.

Next stop for Hartley to stretch his legs is Devil’s Marbles.

Croc snapped heading for Uluru

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Homemaker Nutritional Drink Blender
Model No. SA-RB-13409

Available at Kmart between June 2015 - September 2015.

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