11 February 2010

New Measures to Tackle Truancy and Anti-Social Behaviour

Chief Minister Paul Henderson, Minister for Central Australia, Karl Hampton and Police Commissioner John McRoberts today announced new measures to combat truancy and anti-social behaviour in Alice Springs.

Speaking in the Alice CBD, Mr Henderson said swift, visible and tangible action would be taken to address these issues.

“We acknowledge there are problems with crime, youth and anti-social behaviour and today we’re announcing further, immediate action,” Mr Henderson said.

“As part of the Government’s Alice Springs Youth Action Plan, these new measures include greater cooperation between schools, NTFC workers and police and greater police visibility.

“We need a partnership between the community, parents, government agencies and police to target these crime, youth and anti-social behaviour issues.”

Mr Hampton said specific measures would include the use of family responsibility agreements to help serial truants and their families improve school attendance and general behaviour.

“We need young people getting to school regularly and learning to read and write so they have options to pursue further education, training or a job later in life.
“Parents have a big role to play in this and must take responsibility.”

New measures coming into effect from Monday:

- School based police officers to commence dedicated street patrols targeting groups of youth and teenagers during both school hours and after dark;
- Police to immediately issue loitering notices to repeat offenders of anti-social behaviour and kids congregating in CBD areas;
- Police will seek courts to apply bans from designated areas to recidivist youth who don’t abide by loitering notices and warnings;
- Police to work with school family liaison officers to target known youth who have a long history of poor school attendance;
- Parents of such children will be engaged through family responsibility agreements, which will require improved school attendance;
- NTFC will take into care ‘at risk’ children at night who don’t have a home or don’t wish to go home for safety reasons; and

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- New response arrangements will be developed between Police and NTFC to provide more immediate care for these children and find them emergency accommodation.

The Chief Minister is this afternoon travelling to Perth for meetings with gas industry stakeholders.

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