8 December 2010

Working Together for Better Futures in Yirrkala

Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Training and Member for Nhulunbuy Lynne Walker today joined representatives from the Yirrkala community to sign the Yirrkala Local Implementation Plan.

Lynne Walker said the signing of the Plan confirms the commitment from the Yirrkala community to work with all levels of government to close the gap of Indigenous disadvantage.

“Today marks a significant day in the development of the Yirrkala community, and the progress towards a better future for the people of Yirrkala and the surrounding communities.

“The Local Implementation Plan has been created specifically for the Yirrkala community and will enable the three tiers of government and the community to work together to improve conditions and services in Yirrkala.


“The Yirrkala Implementation Plan was formed through a collaborative effort between the Gurrutu’mirri Mala Reference Group, the Indigenous Engagement Officer, the Government Business Manager and the Yirrkala community and I’d like to personally thank everyone who worked on making this a reality.

“I’d especially like to thank the Mala leaders for their leadership role and, at the local level, look forward to on-going work with them, and the East Arnhem Shire, supporting implementation of the plan.”

Agreements in the plan include:

- Upgrade the school trade training area.
- Commenced passenger bus trial and look at other opportunities for passenger transport.
- Develop a Town Centre Design plan including community transport strategies.

“This is one of 12 Plans being signed across the Territory including for each of the Territory Growth Towns – I’m thrilled to see Yirrkala become the fourth Territory Growth Town to sign their Plan.”

Local Implementation Plans are being developed for each town where the Australian Government, the Northern Territory Government, local government and local people have agreed to work together coordinating work and improving services under the umbrella of the COAG Remote Service Delivery National Partnership Agreement.

The Plan will be reviewed, updated, amended and expanded annually for the life of the Plan until 30 June 2014 and is available online at: www.workingfuture.nt.gov.au

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