Whole Community Needs to Fight Social Problems

Minister for Central Australia Karl Hampton today called for senior Aboriginal people to help find solutions to current anti-social behaviour and criminal activity in Alice Springs.

“I have been contacting senior members of Central Australia’s Aboriginal leadership group and have asked them to attend a meeting with me on Friday,” Mr Hampton said.

"There are many issues confronting us in Alice Springs at the moment.

"Current levels of anti-social behaviour and crime in Alice Springs are too high and totally unacceptable. "

“I think our leadership group needs to focus on how we can get people to do the right thing. I will meet with people on Friday this week, after the Legislative Assembly sittings.

"We must do all we can so that people accept a much higher level of personal responsibility for their actions. I believe it is time for people to step up to the mark and tell others that anti-social behaviour is completely unacceptable.

"Additionally I will be contacting Ministerial counterparts in Western Australia and South Australia about the large numbers of Aboriginal people from both States who are currently in Alice Springs.

"I am also calling on the Alice Springs businesses who are funding the current divisive television campaign to cease and to work with other sectors of the community towards finding solutions.

“We must approach these problems in a balanced way, with constructive solutions, without trashing the reputation of Alice Springs.

Mr Hampton said the NT Government continues to commit significant resources to crime problems in Alice Springs.

“Already through the Youth Action plan we have expanded youth outreach services, established a police beat in the Todd Mall and the Youth Hub and 24 hour CCTV surveillance of Alice Springs streets.

“Further new measures just announced include a new 24 bed juvenile justice centre, review of the Youth Justice Act, new police patrol co-ordinator, new short-term safe house accommodation, the expansion of the preventative Bush Mob alcohol and other drugs facility and a return to country blitz.

“We are doing so much, but there is more to do, and aboriginal people are a key part of the solution.

“I will not give up trying and we must we must all take some responsibility and work together to turn the current situation around.”

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