REMOTE SERVICES AUDIT

October 7th, 2012

The Northern Territory Government will shelve the stand-alone office of Coordinator-General for Remote Services as part of an audit into spending in Aboriginal communities.

Minister for Indigenous Advancement and Regional Development, Alison Anderson, said the role of the Coordinator General will be undertaken by the Chief Executive of the Department of Regional Development and Indigenous Advancement, which is in line with other states.

“In her report the Coordinator General, Olga Havnen, identified significant wastage in remote services spending and questioned where the enormous sums of money directed to Indigenous programs is being spent,” Ms Anderson said.

“The time for answering those questions is long overdue.

“The Federal and Territory Labor governments have obviously failed to identify where money is being spent – which should be a concern to anybody who wants transparent and accountable governance in remote communities.

“The Indigenous communities audit will address the issues raised by Ms Havnen in her report and other previous reports questioning outcomes and transparency in Indigenous spending.

“The audit will be coordinated through the Department of Chief Minister and will assess the gap between money being spent and the actual delivery of services on the ground.

“The statutory office of the Commonwealth Coordinator-General for Remote Indigenous Services will continue to provide independent monitoring of remote service provision.

“We acknowledge Ms Havnen’s efforts and it is my wish that we now act on the report and identify where money is being spent to better target genuine areas of need.”

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