Media Release

John Elferink
Minister for Correctional Services

MINISTER AND PRISONERS REVVING UP FOR FINKE DESERT RACE

5 June 2014

Prisoners from the Alice Springs Correctional Centre have once again built and maintained a buggy that will race in this year’s Finke Desert Race.

The buggy, named Fugly, has been the basis for prisoners to learn engineering and mechanical skills with many of them going on to complete a Certificate 1 in Automotive.

Minister for Correctional Services John Elferink, who will drive Fugly during the two-day race, said it is important for prisoners to gain skills that can contribute to their employment opportunities when they are released.

“I want inmates who leave the corrections system to be more employable than when they first came into prison,” Mr Elferink said.

“Low-security prisoners who prove themselves in engineering and mechanical learning and other skilled programs can become eligible to take part in the Northern Territory Government’s Sentenced to a Job paid employment program.

“This is about reintegrating prisoners back into the community and having them employed in real jobs which they may retain when their sentence expires.”

Mr Elferink said the Country Liberals Government is committed to changing the offending ways of prisoners and reducing the Northern Territory’s high recidivism rates.

Inmates are also involved in the setup of the event, ensuring that they are giving back to the community which they offended against.
The Finke Desert Race is considered one of the toughest off-road events in the world and is staged in one of the most remote places on the planet.

Staff from the Alice Springs Correctional Centre will compete in the event for the 15th year.

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