Media Release

Bess Price
Minister for Community Services

**Discovering emerging Indigenous leaders**

2 July 2014

The Northern Territory Government is calling for expressions of interest from Indigenous Territorians who would like to contribute to Government decisions on Indigenous policy.

The First Circles program is looking for 30 members from across the Territory.

Minister Price today attended the official launch of the First Circles program in Alice Springs.

“The Giles Government wants all Territorians to be engaged in discussions and decisions about how they would like to see North Australia develop and First Circles provides a pathway to achieve this,” Mrs Price said.

“We are looking for Indigenous Territorians who are keen to be actively involved in their region and community to nominate for the First Circles program.

“First Circle members will put forward ideas they are passionate about and develop projects which will be supported by departmental staff to make concepts a reality.

“Moving away from traditional representative and elder consultation models, the First Circles program will focus on future Indigenous leaders.

“Members will develop leadership skills while being actively involved in decision making around Indigenous issues.

“They will have the opportunity to attend one Cabinet meeting a year and work directly with Ministers, local authorities and government agencies to implement projects they nominate.

“The First Circles engagement program will increase participant’s knowledge and understanding of government processes and build the confidence of members to help them engage with community issues and improve the participation of the community in local decision making.

“This program has been developed through consultation with Indigenous communities and the focus on emerging leaders has widespread support.
The term First Circles combines the acknowledgement of the ‘First Peoples’ and ‘Circles’ which recognises the collaboration between people and communities as the main drive behind providing results.

Emerging Indigenous leaders can nominate for the First Circles program by completing an expression of interest form at http://www.communityservices.nt.gov.au/about_us/regional_services/first_circles or by calling (08) 8999 8583.

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