Police community safety precinct to be set up for our youth

9th June 2005

A police youth safety precinct will be set up in Sanderson, Peter Styles the Country Liberal Party’s Candidate for the seat announced today.

The precinct will be centred around the Sanderson High School and provide youth in the northern suburbs with a safe environment after school and on weekends where they can gather to meet, work or learn – free of bullying and the threat of physical assault. An initial grant of $300,000 will be provided for its establishment.

“For the purpose of the pilot program Sanderson High school, is the provider of the infrastructure and facilities and the program is co-ordinated by a police officer under the Police Citizens Youth Club banner,” Mr Styles said.

“This is about providing a safe environment for our kids to participate in after school activities which can continue into the evening with a police presence. It’s about providing people who don’t have the money, facilities or support to attend other clubs in the northern suburbs with a place to go.”

Mr Styles said the safety precinct pilot program has been costed at $300,000 and was put together after many years of working as a police officer with youth in Darwin’s northern suburbs.

“Often I hear from youth that they roam the streets because they have nothing to do. This program aims to give young people a real choice.

“The major issue for young people is finding a location where they feel safe and secure to pursue their activities without being threatened or assaulted by the young thugs who plague our community.
“The pilot program utilises existing equipment and facilities already in place at Sanderson High School. If successful other youth safety precincts will be established.

“The precinct will utilise volunteers in the same way any other club seeks support from parents and other members of the community. Retired members of the community who still have a lot to offer and pass on to the younger generation will be encouraged to participate.

The Community youth safety precinct will have four key features as the basis for its success- safety; fun; support by Government; and involvement of the local community.

Implementation of the pilot safety precinct will occur within six months of the election and reviewed for progressive expansion into other areas across the Territory within 2 years of commencement.