MARTIN SAYS NAIDOC 2006 IS TIME FOR PROPER PERSPECTIVE

The Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Clare Martin, told a NAIDOC week gathering today that NAIDOC was a chance for all Australians to acknowledge the contribution of Aboriginal people to the nation and that now is the time to discuss how to make a difference for future generations.

"There are many individual and community success stories in the Northern Territory," said Ms Martin.

"NAIDOC brings us all an opportunity to take a step back and look at what has been achieved and what needs to be done."

"This year's theme: Respect the Past. Believe in the Future, is a simple truth."

"I am proud of the many achievements being made in Aboriginal communities but more can be done."

"While there are no easy ‘quick-fixes’, Federal Government rhetoric must be replaced by action and real resources to achieve generational change in communities across the nation."

"I will continue to argue for a 20 Year Plan with long-term strategies and a long-term commitments from governments to address the real causes of the problems we're seeing."

"While the national negotiations continue, use NAIDOC to look at what are our successes."

"A perfect example is this year's Territory Day Award, given to a worthy winner in Raymattja Marika, who is a role model for educational excellence," said Ms Martin.

Media Contact Aaron Ross 08 8901 4000