Northern Territory Government Tackling Substance Abuse in Indigenous Communities

Acting Chief Minister and Minister for Indigenous Policy Marion Scrymgour said today the Northern Territory Government was continuing its initiatives to tackle Indigenous disadvantage, with another step in place to combat drug and alcohol abuse.

Ms Scrymgour said signs were now in place in Indigenous communities in the Katherine region to clearly communicate rules on alcohol and drug use.

“And that message is clear - alcohol in dry communities and drugs are not acceptable.”

Ms Scrymgour said communities had designed their own signs and used local languages.

“We believe this will help get the message across and help keep illegal substances out of the communities,” she said.

Ms Scrymgour said the NT Government was continuing to roll out and support measures to combat the issues facing Indigenous communities in the Territory – including substance abuse, child abuse and violence.

“One case of child abuse is one too many and we’ll continue to implement and support measures to tackle this issue.

“We are working with the Commonwealth to implement measures under the Intervention and our own Closing the Gap package to address these issues.

“We are committed to working cooperatively with Prime Minister Rudd and Minister Macklin to get better health, education, housing and employment outcomes for Indigenous communities.”

The signs are the result of a program run by the Northern Territory Department of Health and Community Services in communities including Borroloola, Lajamanu and Ngukurr.

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