Tackling Sensitive Issues

An important and potentially ground-breaking meeting of Indigenous men is being held in Darwin today.

The group of 40 men will discuss various issues including:

- the film classification system
- controlling under-age access to R or X-rated film or printed material
- family violence
- sexual abuse

“This is extremely important work,” said Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Chris Burns.

“These men are respected within their own communities. They are essential in delivering appropriate messages and educating their communities in how the classification system works and the potential harm inappropriate material can cause.

“The workshop is also designed to help men in leadership positions identify and recognise inappropriate behaviour in their communities.”

Dr Burns and the Deputy Chief Minister Marion Scrymgour attended part of the workshop this morning.

Ms Scrymgour said the men come from a range of communities including Oenpelli, East Arnhem, Wadeye, the Tiwi Islands, Borroloola, Maningrida, Ti Tree, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs, Santa Teresa and Darwin.

“For such sensitive issues, it's important there is a broad range of communities represented as each has a different approach to education on such matters," she said.

“I am glad that so many strong men are willing to take on these important roles."

Today's workshop builds on previous meetings in major centres.

The Department of Justice will work with the men to provide practical support in educating others in their communities.

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