Tuesday 11 November, 2008

Territory Fire and Rescue Wins National Award

Acting Chief Minister Marion Scrymgour today congratulated the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service on winning a national safer communities award.

Ms Scrymgour said she was delighted that the Fire and Rescue Service’s *Smart Sparx* campaign had been recognised at a national event in Canberra this morning.

“It’s a great campaign aimed at increasing fire safety in remote communities, with a focus on children,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“*Smart Sparx* is an innovative campaign, and gets the attention and interest of kids.”

The campaign includes lesson plans for teachers, an interactive DVD introduced by champion Indigenous footballer, Andrew McLeod, songs with fire safety messages and a story book that provides for the inclusion of local languages.

Ms Scrymgour said Indigenous communities faced particular fire dangers and educating kids was an important way to reduce the number of accidents.

“I congratulate the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service on the work they’ve put into this campaign,” she said.

“While winning this award is a great reward, the real reward will come in reducing the harm caused by fires in our remote communities.”

Smart Sparx won the Australian Safer Communities National Award after winning at Territory level. The National Award was presented to Smart Sparx in the education, training and research bodies category.

*Media contact Bethaney Jensen 0423593999*