19 February 2009

ALICE SPRINGS YOUTH ACTION PLAN

Chief Minister Paul Henderson and Minister for Central Australia Karl Hampton today released a no-nonsense action plan to tackle youth crime and antisocial behaviour in Alice Springs.

Mr Henderson said the comprehensive plan would make the community safer while supporting children and families.

“This action plan will help young people avoid getting into trouble but make sure they face the consequences of their actions if they do the wrong thing,” he said.

“The plan has been developed in a bi-partisan manner, with input from all Central Australian MLAs, Alice Springs Mayor Damien Ryan and local youth services.

“The action plan will make a real difference in Alice Springs and I hope this support continues.”

Mr Henderson said under the Alice Springs Youth Action Plan the Northern Territory Government will:

- Set up a staffed Police Beat this year in the Todd Mall and continue CBD security patrols until the Police Beat is established;
- Establish a new position within police of Youth Services Coordinator to ensure government and non-government services are effectively coordinated;
- Establish a Youth Hub, including a Police Citizens Youth Club, at the Anzac Hill campus;
- Create an Alice Springs Middle School, uniting Anzac Hill and Alice Springs High campuses;
- Set up a boarding school facility for young people in Alice Springs who cannot live at home;
- Make available additional safe house and emergency beds;
- Support the development of a voluntary ‘no school no service’ code with local businesses;
- Provide additional funding to the Gap Youth Centre to provide recreation services;
- Support the expansion of Alice Springs Town Council ranger services and the better coordination of transport services to make sure kids are off the streets and in a safe place late at night.

“This plan will make sure young people have safe places to go and aren’t on the streets causing trouble at all hours of the night,” Mr Hampton said.
“Other initiatives raised at the bipartisan meeting earlier this month will be investigated over the coming weeks.

“This action plan will have long-term benefits for our community and will make Alice Springs an even better place to live and visit.”

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