17 March 2009

No School No Service

Minister for Central Australia Karl Hampton today called on Alice Springs businesses to play their part in getting kids to school by supporting the No School No Service code of practice.

Mr Hampton said the No School No Service code was a key plank of the Alice Springs Youth Action Plan.

“Under the voluntary code of practice, local retailers will be able to refuse service to any school age child under the age of 15 without adult supervision in shops during school hours.

“School truancy is often associated with antisocial behaviour and youth crime and the No School No Service code will send kids the strong message that wagging is not okay.”

Mr Hampton said he had spoken to the Alice Springs Chamber of Commerce, who are supportive of the code.

“We will be working further with the Chamber and local businesses to further develop the code of practice.

“I am meeting with the Chamber and mall traders tonight to discuss how they see the No School No Service code operating and what support they need to make it happen.

“The Alice Springs Youth Action Plan is making an impact in the town, with security patrols continuing in the CBD, police announcing more patrols of the area, and planning and consultation going ahead about the formation of the Alice Springs Middle School and the Youth Hub.

“The Youth Action Plan is about helping kids and families to avoid trouble, but making sure they face the consequences of their actions if they do.”

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