Chief Minister attends Garma Festival

Chief Minister Paul Henderson today attended the Garma Festival in East Arnhem Land and the official opening of the new Surf Life Saving Club in Yirrkala.

Mr Henderson said the Garma Festival was a unique combination – celebrating the strength of Indigenous culture and being a forum for developing ideas and policies to benefit Indigenous people.

“My Government has a strong agenda to improve the lives and living conditions of Indigenous Territorians and remains a strong supporter of the festival,” Mr Henderson said.

“Garma provides an opportunity for Indigenous and Government leaders to come together to discuss ideas and the best way forward in Indigenous policy.”

The Territory Government provides $190,000 in funding and in-kind support to the Garma Festival, which this year has the theme of Creative Industries.

Mr Henderson met with Indigenous leaders and the Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin.

“We are determined to improve outcomes for Indigenous people in housing, health, education, employment and community safety,” he said.

“For the first time, we have a strong working relationship between the Australian and Territory Governments to Close the Gap on Indigenous disadvantage.

“We are working closely with the Australian Government to deliver on programs such as SIHIP – the biggest housing program of its kind ever undertaken in Indigenous communities – and our Working Futures Policy to improve services in remote parts of the Territory.”

Mr Henderson also joined Minister Macklin at the opening of the Walngawu Djakamirri Surf Life Saving Club at Shady Beach in Yirrkala.

“I’m sure this will be a great facility for Yirrkala, boosting social participation, health and fitness in the community.”

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