Aboriginal Interpreter Service offices open in Wadeye and Nhulunbuy

Indigenous Development Minister, Malarndirri McCarthy today announced that the Aboriginal Interpreter Service (AIS) opened an office in Wadeye last week with another office set to open in Nhulunbuy in early July.

Minister McCarthy said that locally employed staff in each of these offices will support the interpreters and offer assistance where necessary.

“These support staff will also assist with the establishment of two full-time equivalent interpreter positions in each of the Growth towns,” she said.

“There are 20 interpreters living in Wadeye and 57 interpreters living in the east Arnhem region so two new regional offices will also create more employment for local interpreters in their home region,” she said.

“From July there will be eight AIS offices opened by the Northern Territory Government in major regional centres with a further office to be opened on Groote Eylandt in the near future.”

Minister McCarthy also announced today that in 2009/2010 a record 42 individual interpreters and translators have applied for accreditation testing and recognition through the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI).

“Additionally, 113 candidates have expressed interest in becoming interpreters across 36 languages. Of this number, 52 have satisfactorily passed the fluency assessment and completed the required compulsory training.

“There have also been 6,445 requests for interpreting and translating this financial year, compared to 5,562 in 2008/2009.

“The Territory Government is committed to building the professional capacity of the AIS and it has gone from strength to strength in its ten years of operation.”

The AIS now has offices in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs, Maningrida, Wadeye and Yuendumu.

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