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Federal Independents urged to back Julia Gillard

The Northern Territory’s Indigenous Policy Minister, Malarndirri McCarthy today called on the three Federal country Independents to back a Gillard Labor Government.

Ms McCarthy urged Bob Katter, Tony Windsor and Rob Oakeshott to look at the achievements in Indigenous affairs made under a Labor Government.

Ms McCarthy also said Cape York Indigenous leader Noel Pearson is wrong when he says Tony Abbott would make a better Prime Minister for Indigenous Australians.

“Noel Pearson does not speak for the majority of Indigenous Australians and his support for Tony Abbott is purely about single issues relevant to his Cape York community and not for the greater good of Indigenous Australians across the nation,” said Ms McCarthy.

“The Coalition made no positive or encouraging commitments to Indigenous Australians during the election campaign.

“The Coalition will dismantle the SIHIP program; remove the permit system on Aboriginal land, and abolish the Building the Education Revolution program.

“Federal Labor has made a significant investment in Indigenous Australians including $5.5 billion for remote Indigenous housing over 10 years; $1.57 billion for Indigenous health over four years; $564.4 million for early childhood development over six years; $228.9 million for Indigenous economic development over five years; and $291.2 million to improve remote service delivery over six years.

“Federal Labor is also committed to ensuring Constitutional recognition for Indigenous Australians, jobs in remote and regional Australia, and the roll out of the National Broadband Network which will connect all Australians wherever they may live from Arnhem Land to Redfern to Cape York.

“Julia Gillard is the Prime Minister that will deliver better outcomes for Indigenous Australians.”

Media Contact:: Ursula Raymond  0457 825 507