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Jobs package focus of Canberra meetings

Local Government Minister, Malarndirri McCarthy has lobbied the Australian Government to continue its funding commitment to assist Indigenous families’ transition from CDEP to real jobs.

Minister McCarthy was in Canberra this week for a round of meetings with her Federal colleagues and for the Prime Minister’s third annual Closing the Gap report to Parliament.

“Transition funding from CDEP to real jobs expires on 30 June 2011 and it is urgent that we resolve this issue,” said Ms McCarthy.

“I have been working hard to secure real jobs for Indigenous families across the Northern Territory and this includes continued dialogue with the Australian Government and our Shires.

“In her Closing the Gap statement the Prime Minister outlined that finding and keeping a job was an important part of improving the health and lifestyle of Indigenous families.”

Minister McCarthy also lobbied Senator Mark Arbib, Minister for Indigenous Employment and Economic Development, to support the Territory Government’s Working Future policy and improvements to employment programs across the NT.

“In order to develop our Growth Towns we must engage with private enterprise across Australia and seek their support along with the Australian Government,” said Minister McCarthy.

“Representatives from our Growth Towns will travel around the country later this year to brief business leaders on how they can engage and assist with Indigenous economic development in the Territory.”

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