MINISTER FOR CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

1 February 2011

YOUTH ACTION PLAN GRANTS SUPPORT SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Minister for Central Australia Karl Hampton today announced a total of $252,000 in Youth Action Plan grants going to Alice Springs schools to support attendance and crack down on truancy.

Mr Hampton said all nine Alice Springs government schools will receive funding as part of the Youth Action Plan.

“These grants will be distributed to schools in the first semester of 2011 to support innovative programs that get kids to school and encourage them to stay there,” he said.

“The grants support the Every Child, Every Day strategy, which stresses the importance of going to school each day and getting a good education to prepare them for a working life in the future.”

Mr Hampton said the school projects to receive funding include:

- Bradshaw Primary will run a program to increase the attendance of targeted students by working intensively with children and families;
- Braitling Primary will extend its family liaison position and run a program to support town camp and high needs students. There will also be a program aimed at students with anger management issues;
- Centralian Middle School will receive funding to assist in transporting students who live outside scheduled bus zones;
- Gillen Primary will run a program to assist students and families to transition from playgroup to preschool and on to school;
- Acacia Hill will use the funding to run a social skills development program that encourages social co-operation among high needs students;
- Larapinta Primary will extend the positions of the male Aboriginal Resource Office and the Beginning Strong worker to support the attendance of preschool and transition students;
- Ross Park Primary will run a program encouraging increased literacy and numeracy outcomes; and
- Sadadeen Primary School will receive funding to provide clean uniforms to students with high needs.

Mr Hampton said all schools would also receive extra funding to assist Aboriginal and Islander Education Workers to engage parents in activities that increase student outcomes.

“I congratulate these Alice Springs schools for coming up with innovative programs designed to break down barriers that may hinder some students from engaging in education.”

“The Alice Springs Youth Action Plan aims to support children and families to do the right thing, while cracking down on those who don’t, and supporting kids to get a good education is vital in breaking the cycle.”

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