MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS ADVANCEMENT

EMERGENCY SUMMIT MEETING A SHAM

February 27th, 2013

“The Territory Government understood today’s Alice Springs emergency summit was intended to be a gathering of politicians, bureaucrats, police and other key stakeholders,” says Indigenous Advancement Minister Alison Anderson.

“On that basis, it was extremely disappointing Tangentyere Chief Executive, Walter Shaw, excluded a number of key organisational executives including Northern Territory Police Commissioner John Mc Roberts and Ingerreke’s Chief Executive Scott McConnell,

“Before the meeting started Commissioner McRoberts was asked to leave the meeting venue and shortly after, Mr McConnell was asked not to attend.

“This situation was intolerable and I made a decision to also not attend in support of Commissioner McRoberts and take a stand against Tangentyre’s attempt at censorship.

“It’s appalling that key stakeholders were excluded from the meeting with no reasons given.

“There was genuine representation from Government departments as evidence of our willingness to engage with stakeholders.

“Ingerreke also sought representation at the meeting as the second largest service provider to Alice Springs Town Camps.

“I’d like to see an emphasis by Tangentyere Council on better services and delivery, rather than excluding key stakeholders and service providers from summits they organise.

“The responsibility falls back on Tangentyere Council to provide services to Town Camps and it has become obvious that dysfunction and violence in some Town Camps means the service they provide is inadequate.

“I call on Tangentyere Council to engage in meaningful dialogue and encourage Town Camp residents to apply pressure to ensure they get the services they require, for which all levels of Government are contributing.”

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