MINISTER FOR CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

POSITIVE RESULTS FROM FIRST BOOT CAMP TRIAL

15 August 2013

The first phase of the Territory Government’s first Youth Boot Camp trial has ended with the return to Darwin today of 10 youths from South Australia’s Flinders Ranges.

The group comprised of six male youth from Darwin and four from Katherine who had been identified as being at risk of offending in the future.

Over the past eight days, the group completed a challenging 100 kilometre trek through the harsh South Australian outback.

Minister for Correctional Services John Elferink said initial reports indicate that despite a testing first couple of days, the group successfully completed the program.

“Those involved were challenged as individuals and as part of a team in a range of skills including bushcraft, navigation and abseiling.” Mr Elferink said.

“This hasn’t been an easy experience for these youth, with the program designed to confront them with difficult mental and physical situations.

“This has been a tough and confronting course designed to make them take a good, hard look at themselves and their futures.

“I will be looking forward to a full report from the service provider, Operation Flinders, and from staff at the Department of Correctional Services who accompanied them on the journey,” Mr Elferink said.

Mr Elferink said the next phase of the initial trial involves working with families to transfer the lessons learned by their children to be continued in their daily lives.

A second Boot Camp trial will be undertaken by the Alice Springs-based Tangentyere Council later this month.

“I look forward to completing the next trial program and working to positively change these youth’s lives,” Mr Elferink said.

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