MINISTER FOR CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

ALICE SPRINGS YOUTH BOOT CAMP TRIAL BEGINS

09 September 2013

The Territory’s second Youth Boot Camp trial commences today, where 10 male youths aged from 12 to 14 years embark on a 10-day wilderness trek at Walkabout Bore, approximately 150 kilometres south of Alice Springs.

Run by the Alice Springs-based Tangentyere Council, the camp will feature a 150 kilometre camel trek with physical and mental challenges.

Minister for Correctional Services John Elferink said cattle and farm work would also be part of the camp which is designed to engage young people at risk of offending.

“As with the Operation Flinders trial in South Australia last month, participants were identified through an inter-agency forum consisting of members from the Departments of Correctional Services and Education, the Office of Children and Families and Police.

“Reports from those who took part in the Flinders Ranges trial were very positive and I’m certain this group of young people will be similarly challenged.

“The Government will review the results of both operations before deciding on its preferred tender.”

Mr Elferink said follow up contact with participants and their families and providing links to further education or training to build on the experience were also features of the Tangentyere model.

“These male youths from Alice Springs will be out of their comfort zones for the next 10 days and will face personal and group challenges.

“I hope the participants use this opportunity to turn their lives around for the better.

“Nothing would please me more than having them return with positive plans for their future lives.”

Media Contact:
Danielle Lede 0404 515 414