Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Minister for Indigenous Affairs

**New public service Aboriginal employment target**

17 February 2015

Chief Minister Adam Giles has set out the Government’s priorities for 2015, announcing a new five year target for Aboriginal employment in the public service.

“Today I outlined the direction the Government plans to take in 2015-16 with community best interest at the centre of all our decision-making,” Mr Giles said.

“My team is committed to making people’s lives simpler, easier and safer and we want to assure Territorians that we intend to work in partnership with them to achieve these goals.

“Our focus remains on reducing the cost of living through rapid land release and direct financial assistance for parents with our Back to School payments and Sports Voucher Scheme. We’ll also be working to create jobs in our booming economy, to build the infrastructure we need to grow into the future and promote our great Territory lifestyle.”

Part of this Government vision is also a more representative public service with a greater proportion of Aboriginal employees.

“My first order of business as the new Minister for Indigenous Affairs is to announce the Government’s intention to set an Aboriginal employment target for the public service,” Mr Giles said.

“Around 30 per cent of the Territory population is Aboriginal and yet on coming to Government we found that only eight per cent of the public service is of Indigenous heritage. This is unacceptable.

“I have announced today that I want to see the proportion of Aboriginal public servants double from eight per cent to 16 per cent by 2020.”

This target will be achieved through a detailed range of initiatives which will be unveiled in the coming months.

“I want to give Indigenous people an opportunity to have a real job in government and a chance to contribute to breaking the cycle of welfare dependency that has crippled Aboriginal people for too long,” Mr Giles
"We are standing up for the economic rights of Aboriginal Territorians – something our Labor predecessors were never willing to do.

“We have already amended Labor’s diabolical super shires which cut Aboriginal people out of the decision making process. In their place, we have set up new Regional Councils and established and funded 63 Local Authorities that are already restoring local voices.

“This is all part of setting up the enabling framework that will empower Aboriginal people and give them a voice.

“I want Aboriginal people to know that the Country Liberals Government is working to reverse years of centralisation by Labor Governments.

“We are empowering Aboriginal Territorians to take back control of their affairs and driving reform in an effort to improve educational outcomes, as well as employment and business opportunities.”

***Please see full Ministerial Statement attached***

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Ministerial Statement