Media Release

John Elferink, Member for Port Darwin
Minister for Correctional Services

New resource provides ‘light bulb’ moment for offenders

8 July 2015

For the first time a newly developed resource allows offenders and their relatives to listen to court and parole orders in language, bringing about a better understanding for not only the offender but their families and the wider community.

The new Indigenous Language Resource, which is accessed on an iPad, has been developed in plain English and nine Indigenous Languages: Warlpiri, Kriol (Eastside), Yolgnu Matha (Djambarrpuyngu), Pintupi Luritja, Central Arrernte, Western Arranta, Kunwinjku, Warumungu and Murrinh-Patha.

“A need to improve communications in this area was identified.

“Over the past 18 months extensive consultation and testing has taken place which involved Community Corrections staff, Indigenous Elders, persons on a court or parole order and other government agencies.”

“The new resource simply and clearly explain the role of Community Corrections in the community and the types of orders Community Corrections are responsible for supervising,” Minister for Correctional Services John Elferink said.

Two eStories describe 16 common conditions and what it is like to be placed on a court or parole order.

In addition, the 16 common conditions are also available in sticker form to place on a physical wallet card for offenders to take away and 12 fact sheets with audio capability.

Minister Elferink said that the new Indigenous resource will assist not only the offender but also their families in acknowledging behaviour that is not acceptable in relation to their court and parole orders and the conditions applied.

Commissioner Ken Middlebrook said “This is a fantastic achievement that could not have been possible without the collaborative efforts of everyone involved. I am confident that this tool will assist offenders have a greater understanding of their court or parole order conditions.”
He went on to explain that Community Corrections staff who have trialled the tool have said that they noticed a ‘light bulb’ moment with offenders when they listened to their conditions in their own language.

“Hopefully this will continue and assist in reducing the incidences of offenders breaching their court or parole order conditions.”

The resource has been developed in conjunction with Northern Territory Department of Correctional Services Community Corrections, Creative Territory and Aboriginal Interpreter Service.

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