Media Release

John Elferink, Member for Port Darwin
Minister for Correctional Services

Tough love for youths

9 July 2015

Twenty-two youths have strapped on their boots and begun their eight day journey at Loves Creek Early Intervention Youth Boot Camp Program (EIYBCP).

The EIYBCP has been specifically developed with assistance from Operation Flinders and is unique to the Northern Territory.

“The program aims to help youths become aware of the impact of their choices and encourages them to change their attitude with new skills learnt at the camp.”

“The program provides the youths with tools to deal with alcohol and drug abuse issues, helping to improve their physical and mental well-being,” Minister Elferink said.

At Loves Creek participants will take part in a range of structured activities including hiking and physical challenges such as abseiling and cultural activities.

“These young people will face challenges and be encouraged to participate in validating and safe dialogue in a structured and supportive environment.”

“They will be encouraged to develop increased insight about themselves and their choices,” Minister Elferink said.

Issues of displacement and lack of cultural identity are common amongst the youths participating in the EIYBCP and the presence of Elders will provide a therapeutic benefit.

Up to 60 youths (a mix of male and females) aged between 12 and 17 years of age will participate in the Loves Creek Station program this year.

More than $200,000 has been spent to date establishing the Loves Creek Station in preparations for the EIYBCP and additional funding has been allocated to expand the current capacity and capabilities.
Loves Creek Station was chosen as the ideal location by a panel (consisting of representatives from across a range of agencies) from a list of nine potential sites across the Territory.

In partnership with the traditional owners, Loves Creek Station provides a valuable opportunity to enhance the cultural content of the program by preserving the land and teaching the youths to care for Country.

The Country Liberals Government is committed to the prevention and management of youth crime and is fully supportive of the EIYBCP.

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