Funding announced for Indigenous Knowledge Centre

Community Development Minister John Ah Kit today announced $172,700 for stage one of an Indigenous Knowledge Centre in the remote community of Galiwin’ku in East Arnhem Land.

"Galiwin’ku community will be the first Indigenous Knowledge Centre in Australia," Mr Ah Kit said.

"It will blend new and old ways of learning by developing special computer touch screen technologies and e-commerce platforms.

"The community wants to ensure safe transfer for special ceremonial objects so they can continue teaching Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in ways that ensure that the information is meaningful.

"I made a commitment to fund Indigenous Knowledge Centres in my Ministerial Statement in March and the Government has now begun to deliver on that promise.

"Community members see multimedia technology as helping the knowledge process. The community is also looking at repatriation of objects stored in other locations such as the Museum of New South Wales. The objects may also be made available to community members via digital images.

"Galiwin’ku community members have been committed to the development of a special place for the safe keeping of sacred objects for many years. Donations such as morning star poles have already been made, and discussions are taking place in relation to the site for the building.

"This project is further demonstration of our Governments’ commitment to encouraging greater community control for all aspects of cultural and economic development."

Members of the Galiwin’ku community will hold a special briefing on 8 July 2002 at the Museum to further explain their vision to Government agencies and partners in the project.