The Minister for Community Development, John Ah Kit, has announced the release of the first report of the ground-breaking Kurduju Committee, representing members of committees at three Central Australian Aboriginal communities.

The Kurduju Committee was established as an initiative of the local capacity-building program of the Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs.

The Committee has spent several years researching and recording successful strategies which have been developed to deal with a range of social issues at the communities of Ali-Curung, Yuendumu and Lajamanu.

Mr Ah Kit says the first Kurduju Committee report identifies a variety of categories of family violence which occur on remote Aboriginal communities and then looks at strategies the communities have put in place to deal with those problems.

The report has also looked at strategies which don’t work and why they don’t work, and has concluded that outside (or non-Aboriginal) conflict resolution techniques are inadequate for cross-cultural purposes and can only provide short-term, often unsatisfactory, crisis intervention which aggravates or defers problems.

The report also concludes that Aboriginal control and management of initiatives such as safe houses, night patrols and boosting the role of Aboriginal dispute resolution strategies are essential for long-term positive results.

Mr Ah Kit said the Kurduju Report made it clear that the most effective way of dealing with violence in Indigenous communities was by using the strengths of Aboriginal Culture rather than the policing, criminal legislative and external intervention which have preoccupied Government thinking for years.

Mr Ah Kit thanked the Chairperson, Gwen Brown, and members of the three communities who had put so much work into the report.

"Gwen Brown urges other remote area communities to do as Ali-Curung, Yuendumu and Lajamanu have done and include their culture in the search for answers to their own problems, and I endorse that suggestion", Mr Ah Kit said.