02 March 2003
Anti-discrimination services extend to the centre

The extension of services by the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner to the Centre will be formalised with the official opening of a new office in Alice Springs this week.

Attorney-General and Minister for Central Australia Dr Peter Toyne said the extension of services to the centre will be welcomed by the community, and is long-overdue.

"The Anti-Discrimination office has been operating for ten years from Darwin with no avenue or shop-front for people to make discrimination inquiries in Central Australia.

"This new service in the centre will mean residents will not have to travel to Darwin or make inquiries over the phone," Dr Toyne said.

The Alice Springs Anti-Discrimination office will be co-located with the Ombudsman’s office with staff trained to give preliminary advice and referral.

The Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, Tony Fitzgerald, will be available regularly and preside over hearings in the Centre.

The service has been trialled since early December and has worked effectively. If there is sufficient demand over time the office will be staffed full-time.

"As Member for Central Australia it is particularly pleasing to see the extension of the service, and it is another example of the Martin Government’s commitment to govern for all Territorians," Dr Toyne said.