Police Minister Paul Henderson has congratulated the seven Aboriginal Community Police Officers (ACPOs) who will be sworn in for duty in Central Australia in Alice Springs tomorrow.

“These seven officers are the first ACPOs to have been trained in Central Australia for Central Australian duty, and I congratulate them all on their hard work throughout their eight week induction course,” Mr Henderson said.

“Having the course in Alice Springs marks the start of a new era in Territory policing, giving the officers the opportunity to train in the environment they will be working in and as such a strong start in their career.”

Of the seven ACPOs, who range in age from 20 to 47, five have come from the Territory and two from Queensland.

Throughout the past eight weeks they have studied a range of areas, including police tactics, accident investigation, traffic safety and domestic violence.

“Two will now be stationed in Tennant Creek and five in Alice Springs to continue their training on the beat,” said Mr Henderson.

“The Martin Government’s $75M Building our Police Force Plan is delivering 28 extra ACPOs by the end of 2006, and I look forward to welcoming more ACPOs on the beat to deliver safer communities.”