Itinerants' project boosts moves to safe and peaceful communities in Darwin and Palmerston

The $500,000 Darwin-Palmerston Itinerant's Project is swinging into action, with a number of important developments announced today by Minister for Community Development, John Ah Kit MLA.

"The Community Patrols will boost its operations from seven to 14 hours a day over six days a week in early November, and the Sobering Up Shelter will be extended to a 24 hour operation," Mr Ah Kit said.

"In addition, diversionary programs will be run out of the office. These diversionary programs are aimed at giving people meaningful options for activity will eventually help reduce anti social behaviour.

"Our Government views anti social behaviour and the problems associated with homelessness as a major issue for our community.

"We all want to live in safe and peaceful communities, and the Itinerants' Project is aimed squarely at achieving this objective."

The strategies announced under the Itinerants Project are designed to begin to tackle problems in Darwin and Palmerston

Funding of $500,000 for the Itinerants Project was allocated in the recent budget and follows extensive research and consultation with more than 40 government and non government agencies who have a stake in managing the issues that involve itinerant and homeless people in and around Darwin and Palmerston.

"A Forum bringing together the workers in the various organisations and agencies that have hands-on contact with itinerant and homeless people is planned for 4 November at Nungalinya College," said Mr Ah Kit

"This is the first time that the full range of workers from patrolling to health and welfare staff have been brought together in the one place, and is a key strategy for the coordination and networking function of the Information and Referrals office."