Chief Minister Clare Martin today expressed sadness at the loss of Gurindji leader Mr V Vincent, son of Vincent Lingiari, the leader of the Wave Hill Strike and Walk Off, nearly 40 years ago.

“Mr Vincent attended my government’s first Community Cabinet held at Kalkarindji in 2002,” said Ms Martin.

“He was a gentle, proud man who nevertheless was a forceful and passionate advocate for the Gurindji and other people of his region.

“From everything I have been told, he had many of the same attributes of his father, and his commitment and dedication was exemplified by his many years of service to his community of Daguragu, to his regional ATSIC council, and to the Central Land Council.

“To learn this sad news while a Community Cabinet was meeting in and visiting the Victoria River region was particularly poignant.

“To lose such a young man at such an important stage in the Territory’s history is a tragedy for us all.

“In so many ways the legacy of these two men—father and son—is emblematic of both the advances and continuing challenges faced by Aboriginal people in the region, and indeed throughout the Territory.

“On behalf of the Government, I extend deepest sympathies to his family and to the Gurindji people.”

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