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ATTORNEY-GENERAL HEADS TO HOBART FOR SCAG

Attorney-General Syd Stirling will head to Hobart today for the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General, also known as SCAG.

Mr Stirling said a range of issues would be discussed at the two day SCAG meeting, including progress in the implementation of the nation’s DNA database.

“The Territory has taken the lead in implementing a strong DNA database, and other States and Territories are now following suit,” said Mr Stirling.

“All jurisdictions are passing legislation to ensure that information is shared across borders in order to more easily catch criminals and link them back to crimes committed in different States and Territories,” he said.

“It is good to see other jurisdictions supporting the Territory’s DNA database, which involves DNA being collected and stored permanently,” said the Attorney-General.

Syd Stirling will also deliver a presentation on Indigenous Justice issues to the SCAG meeting.

“Around 40% of offenders reoffend, and as a result the Territory has introduced innovative strategies to reduce this rate,” said Mr Stirling.

“We have introduced alcohol courts, community court programs and have strengthened community corrections, and these initiatives will help to turn around the rate of recidivism among Indigenous offenders” he said.

The Territory’s Attorney-General will also send a clear message to the Federal Government about the Commonwealth intervention on child abuse.

“The Territory Government is committed to tackling child abuse and provides in principle support to the Commonwealth’s intervention,” said Mr Stirling.

“Justice is working hard to introduce complementary measures, including reforms that make it easier for children to give evidence in sex offence cases and removing the presumption for bail for serious offenders,” said Mr Stirling.

“However, I will also stress that the Territory Government and Indigenous Territorians believe there is no link between the permit system and child sex abuse – and that the permit system should be left in place.”

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Moving the Territory Ahead