ACTION ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

Chief Minister Clare Martin will take her call for a nationwide 20 year plan to address indigenous issues to the Council of Australian Governments next month.

Ms Martin said it’s important that Australia gets a long-term, sustainable approach to these long-standing problems.

“A 20 year national plan is essential to achieve generational change – and it must build on the work already being done to tackle these challenges,” Ms Martin said.

“The Northern Territory Government has worked hard for the past five years to address Aboriginal issues and that will continue.”

In the short to medium term we will:

- continue to roll out Alcohol Management Plans – tailored to individual towns
- continue to roll out Secondary Education into remote communities
- amend the liquor act to allow urban dry areas – starting with Alice Springs
- start Alcohol Courts and restricted premises provisions on July 1
- introduce public housing management for all new housing in town camps
- encourage public housing tenants on communities to buy their own homes
- increase police presence in remote areas
- introduce a Child Protection Taskforce including Police and FACS
- improve governance in local governments outside urban areas
- push the Federal Government to introduce welfare reforms and promote employment opportunities in Aboriginal communities

“These short to middle term initiatives are important to address problems in aboriginal communities – but in the long term a national 20 year plan is needed.

“We urge the Federal Government to take up this call for national action to achieve generational change.”

Media Contact: Richard O’Leary 040111 9586