Kids In Town Engaged in School (KITES) is a new school program for kids from remote communities staying in hostel accommodation in Alice Springs.

The program gives school children visiting Alice Springs with their parents and carers the chance to attend the KITES Program at Sadadeen Primary School. Kids attending the program also catch a free bus between the school and hostel.

KITES Program Coordinator Jenny Buckley says the program provides parents and carers with an opportunity to ensure their child keeps going to school even when in town and is a great way to re-engage kids in school.

"Some kids do go regularly to school out bush but a lot of the kids we come across don't have regular schooling, so it's about re-engaging them and making it interesting for them so they can see a purpose for going to school," said Ms Buckley.

"I have had to come up with ideas of how best to teach these kids in such a challenging way because you have different kids from different communities, from different language groups and different ages from day to day."

"I report to the schools each week. I email to say I have had this child for these dates this week and then when they leave I email to say have you seen this child so then the school knows to go our and look for them when they return to their community."

"I had a lady from Elliott whose kids had attended the program before - she sent me text to say they were coming back to Alice and wanted her kids to attend the program whilst visiting Alice Springs."

New Role Provides Opportunities And Challenges For Six Public Housing Safety Officers

An eager and optimistic group of six new Public Housing Safety Officers (PHSOs) began their first day on the job in Alice Springs this week.

The six come from diverse backgrounds, but all agree they are looking forward to the opportunities and challenges their new roles present. The PHSOs will provide an after-hours service working with tenants, neighbours and visitors to resolve issues of antisocial behaviour in and around public housing, and support the work Territory Housing officers do throughout the day.

So who are they...

David Miller, 45, is Alice Springs born and bred and most recently worked as an assistant manager at the Apmere Murrue Visitor Park. Prior to that he had a 22-year career as a corrections officer.

Leon Spurling, 39, is best-known to Alice Springs residents as a long-standing local musician, however has also worked with the Department of Health in the patient transfer area. He said he was looking forward to making a difference to the quality of life for public housing tenants.

Another familiar face to local residents will be that of Alex Nebkasov, 44, who for the past three and a half years has worked as a ranger with the Alice Springs Town Council. Prior to that Alex spent most of his working life in the area of security, most recently working as the assistant security manager at Yulara.

Kerry Petersen, 38, was working at Mnte 10 when he decided to take up the challenge presented by the new PHSO positions. Prior to that he worked for Outback Stores in Balgo, Western Australia. Kerry loves living in Alice Springs and is keen to contribute to making it a better place to live.

Ben Kerin, 35, has been busy working as a stay-at-home dad since the birth of his seven-month-old son. He and his wife, who is a nurse, will now take turns looking after the baby and their three-year-old daughter, so shift work will work well for him. He also brings to the position seven years of experience working as a housing officer with the Salvation Army.

Tracey Moloney, 46, moved to Alice Springs in January when her husband started work as a prison officer. Tracey spent many years working as a warehouse manager, but prior to that worked as an ambulance officer in South Australia.

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