New Aboriginal Interpreter Service recruits for Katherine region

10 December 2014

A recruitment drive by the Aboriginal Interpreter Service (AIS) has resulted in seven new interpreters for the Katherine region.

Minister for Community Services Bess Price said this is a great result and will support the increase in demand for the service.

“These new interpreters will go a long way towards improving the ability of the AIS to meet current demand,” Mrs Price said.

“Through work related activities and pounding the pavement, the recruitment drive helped get 10 new recruits through the door with language assessments, resulting in 7 attending an induction/refresher course for new recruits and interpreters returning to active duty.

“The AIS helps English speakers and Aboriginal Territorians who do not speak English as their first language talk to each other and engage in meaningful communication through the use of interpreters.”

A 24 hour booking service provides interpreting services for the majority of Aboriginal languages of the Northern Territory.

The AIS operates from offices across the Territory including Darwin (main office), Katherine, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs and Maningrida.

With more than 400 registered interpreters, the AIS is one of the largest employers of Aboriginal people in Australia. Collectively, these interpreters cover more than 80 languages and dialects of the Northern Territory.

Interpreting services include:

· face-to-face interpreting interviews
· telephone interpreting
· interpreting at community meetings
- regular rostered sessions (i.e., at court, hospitals)
- audio recordings

The AIS delivered more than 230 training courses during 2013/14, incorporating professional development for interpreters and delivering interpreter training for public servants.

Interpreters delivered more than 31,000 hours of interpreting in 2013/14, which was a 12% increase over 2012/13.

**Media Contact:** Lauren Crawley 0417 145 050