Police Minister Paul Henderson will today officially welcome into the NT Police the first Aboriginal Community Police Officers (ACPOs) to be trained in Central Australia for Central Australian positions.

The four men and three women, ranging in age from 20 to 47, began training last Monday.

“There is no doubt that many of the issues faced by police in Central Australia are different to those in the Top End, so it is a very worthwhile initiative that for the first time these new ACPOs are being trained in the region where they will be on the beat,” Mr Henderson said.

“With the Government’s four-year $75M Building our Police Force Plan delivering 28 additional ACPO positions I am sure that we will see more of this kind of region-specific training in the future.”

The squad is currently in Phase One of their training, which will cover a range of topics including Code of Conduct, Police Powers, Officer Safety Techniques Training and Domestic Violence.

Following this phase of training two of the officers will be stationed in Tennant Creek and five in Alice Springs for more ‘on-the-job’ training before being considered for postings to more remote communities.

“ACPOs play a vital role in policing in the Territory and I wish the Territory’s seven newest ACPOs all the best in their new career,” said Mr Henderson.

Mr Henderson will meet the new ACPOs at 2:30pm today (Thursday) at the NT Emergency Services training rooms on Wilkinson Street, Alice Springs. He will be joined by Commander Gary Manison.