December 1, 2005

TASK FORCE TO IMPROVE TOWN CAMPS

Housing Minister Elliott McAdam today announced the establishment of a task force that will examine and report on social conditions and governance arrangements relating to town camps in Alice Springs.

“This task force will assess the current state of town camps in Alice Springs and identify the key issues of significance to the stakeholders,” Mr McAdam said.

“This includes town camp residents, service delivery agencies and the wider Alice Springs community.

“I am keen to identify where and how conditions can be improved for people who live on the town camps in the Alice Springs area.”

Mr McAdam said the task force will focus on a number of areas, including:

- Assessing the impact of visitors and overcrowding on town camps;
- Identifying gaps in services and suggesting ways of improving services;
- Assessing the capacity of current service providers to provide relevant and sustainable services to town camps;
- Considering roles that other stakeholders and service providers might adopt to improve the livelihoods of town camp residents and communities;
- Assessing the potential for increased employment and training opportunities for young adults living on town camps;
- Identifying strategies to improve relationships between people living on town camps and the wider Alice Springs community;
- Reviewing governance arrangements on town camps with a view to strengthening services and encouraging partnerships and development opportunities;
- Assessing the current state of housing on town camps.

Mr McAdam said the task force would be chaired by Olga Havnen, from the Department of Chief Minister and would report back by the end of the financial year.

“Representatives from key service providers, such as Federal and Territory departments and of course Tangentyere Council, have been invited to join the task force,” he said.

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