SCAG to Meet in Darwin

Indigenous justice issues will be in the spotlight during this year’s first Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (SCAG) meeting in Darwin.

SCAG is a national Ministerial Council that provides a forum for Federal, State, Territory and New Zealand Attorneys-General to discuss matters of mutual interest and progress law reform.

The Northern Territory Attorney-General Peter Toyne will host the two-day meeting which begins tomorrow.

He said one issue being considered by SCAG for endorsement is the development of a national clearing house for Indigenous justice research.

“This would be a great development for a jurisdiction like the Territory where resources are finite for this type of research. It will assist decision makers in all jurisdictions to find evidence relevant to their needs,” he said.

“The Attorneys-General will receive local presentations about the Aboriginal Interpreter Service and the Mawul Rom Project, which involves training Yolngu people in mediation and leadership from two cultural perspectives. There will also be a WA presentation on fine enforcement strategies.”

Dr Toyne said recommendations of the Australian Law Reform Commission’s Report on the Uniform Evidence Laws will be considered – specifically whether a national approach should be taken to adopt a confidential relationship privilege, such as journalist might have with a source.

The Ministers will also take part in a hands-on presentation by the Interactive Entertainment Association of Australia on a range of technologies designed to assist parents to monitor and control which computer games their children access.

Other items on the SCAG agenda include workforce privacy, personal property securities law reform and SCAG harmonisation projects.

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