



TANGENTYERE COUNCIL MEDIA RELEASE

Alice Springs loses Patrol services

Due to the inability to secure ongoing funding, the Tangentyere Council Day Patrol Services will cease operations on 1 February 2006. This will mean that there will be no Day Patrol services available to the town of Alice Springs. The Night Patrol will continue to Patrol Town Camps however the 6 day a week Day Patrol service that patrols all problem public spaces in town, services the hospital and police and ambulance service and general calls from the public and business will no longer be available.

Despite extensive discussions with the Northern Territory Government for the past 11 months, there has been no resolution to the funding crisis.

The funding ceases after an original 3 year funding partnership between the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation and the Northern Territory Government. This funding supported an extra day for Night Patrol making it a 6 day a week program. It also supported a Day Patrol team that serviced the business, residential and public areas of town outside of the Town Camps. It supported a referral team of 2 people to do follow up case management and support for individuals and families affected by alcohol and other drugs. It also supported a database operated to record all the work of the patrol and referral services. The limited ongoing funding from the Northern Territory Government will continue to support a smaller referral office team.

Acting Executive Director Tracey Brand says, "This is an extremely disappointing outcome. Losing this service is a huge loss to Alice Springs. The Day Patrol is able to intervene early and address social behaviour issues using their cultural expertise. The lack of ongoing funding means the loss of critical Indigenous employment and services to this town."

The loss of the service comes at the same time that the Northern Territory Government is announcing Anti-Social Behaviour legislation, Volatile Substance Abuse Prevention legislation and the Alcohol Court Bill.

Ms. Brand said, "The Day Patrol deals with issues of alcohol and inhalant substance misuse as part of their daily work. How can the Government on the one hand say that are addressing these serious issues through legislation and on the other hand watch the closure of a service that will compliment this legislation and responds to the prevention of these issues every day? Unfortunately we have to apologise to the Alice Springs Community, as we will no longer be able to respond to any requests for support after the 1st February this year."

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