

Tangentyere Council welcomes Federal commitment to Town Camp services.

Federal Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Mal Brough, met yesterday with leaders of Tangentyere Council, the organisation responsible for management of Town Camps in Alice Springs.

William Tilmouth, Executive Director of Tangentyere, welcomed the visit of the Minister and took him on a tour of several camps. "The Minister is aware of the complex problems facing Town Camp residents and we welcome his commitment to improving services."

"The Minister has previously noted that new initiatives must be developed in consultation with affected communities and Tangentyere looks forward to seeing what his 'multi-layered' approach with the Territory government will mean for Town camp residents", Mr Tilmouth said.

Minister Brough has indicated that he is looking at transferring certain municipal services from Tangentyere to the local council. He will meet with Territory government representatives today. Tangentyere Council, who have been fighting for equal services and infrastructure on the camps for three decades says many of these services, currently managed by Tangentyere, offer employment to Aboriginal people.

Mr Tilmouth said Tangentyere supports any initiative that benefits Town Camp residents but noted, "If the services are handed over we look forward to seeing what employment initiatives the government will offer to ensure that the Aboriginal people currently working in those services do not end up unemployed".

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