



Marion Scrymgour
INDIGENOUS POLICY MINISTER

13th October 2008

Towards a New Outstations Policy

The Northern Territory Government today released an Outstations Policy Discussion Paper in the first step towards implementing a new Outstations Policy across the Territory.

Indigenous Policy Minister Marion Scrymgour encouraged Territorians to consider the paper and provide feedback.

“It’s important we develop an Outstations Policy to provide clear guidelines on how to address the challenge of managing outstations now and into the future,” said Ms Scrymgour.

“Outstations provide the opportunity for Indigenous Territorians to live on their traditional land and we value the contribution of these people.

“But there is a limit to the resources available to support outstations, and therefore the Northern Territory Government will only support established, permanent outstations.

“Adults are in a position to understand and make decisions about the advantages and disadvantages of living on outstations, including difficulties in accessing services, but children are not in a position to make these decisions.

“The Government needs to ensure all children, including those living on outstations, have access to a quality education and other basic services.”

Since taking over the responsibility of outstations from the Federal Government last year the Northern Territory Government has been consulting with a range of stakeholders to develop the discussion paper.

Putting the discussion paper out for public comment is the first of five steps towards implementing the Outstations Policy. The paper can be found at www.action.nt.gov.au

Ms Scrymgour announced today that respected Indigenous leader Patrick Dodson would lead a community engagement process to consult widely on the issues raised in the discussion paper before a policy framework is finalised and endorsed by the Northern Territory Government.

“I have confidence that Patrick Dodson will engage with all stakeholders and advise appropriate recommendations for a new Outstations Policy,” Ms Scrymgour said.

It’s hoped the policy will be finalised by July next year. And, as previously announced, throughout this process outstations have been provided with the certainty of continued funding until July 2009.

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