



Media Release

Senator Alan Eggleston

Liberal Senator for Western Australia

Macklin and Conroy deny indigenous media of funding: Eggleston

25th September 2009

Liberal Senator Alan Eggleston called on Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to ensure future funding for Goolarri Media Enterprises, after his Ministers continue to rob indigenous business enterprises of funding opportunities.

“This is an organisation that is doing so much for the local indigenous community and Minister Macklin is going to let it fall over,” Senator Eggleston said.

Goolarri Media Enterprises was launched in 1991 and now facilitates and manages the development the development of both indigenous and non-indigenous media and communications.

It is understood that Goolarri Media Enterprises are seeking \$1.4 million that would have been received under previous funding arrangements from the Department of Families, Community Services, Housing and Indigenous Affairs, but there is no replacement program.

“In fact, last time Minister Macklin was in Broome, she reneged on a meeting that she was to have with the group. This reflects her true commitment to indigenous affairs,” said Senator Eggleston.

“Further, where is Minister Conroy in supporting their move into digital media? Surely a project such as this is worthy of additional funding, given its reach into substantial areas of the Northern Territory and far north Queensland.”

Senator Eggleston complimented the work of Managing Director Kevin Fong, Chief Executive Officer Jodie Bell and Chief Operations Officer Kira Fong in finding donations to create further opportunities for the indigenous and non-indigenous youth in the area, such as the Balyarr Open Learning Centre.

“The Balyarr Open Learning Centre is giving the children in the Kimberley the opportunity to learn computer skills and working with digital media. By aiming to involve participants in the researching, recording and storyboarding of cultural stories, they will gain a sense of ownership of the project and an enriched and deeper learning experience,” he said.

Goolarri Media Enterprises are also a Registered Training Organisation and the work that is being done in provided traineeships, Certificate III in Media and a variety of other courses which are supported by the wider Kimberley community.

“It is clear that Ministers Macklin and Conroy are happy to go along in their own little world and forget about the big issues affecting the indigenous communities in the Kimberley and Pilbara. The Prime Minister should be stepping in to ensure that a program such as this is not lost.”

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