



Media Release

Senator Alan Eggleston

Liberal Senator for Western Australia

Minister fails at Indigenous Media issues: Senator

17th September 2009

Senator Eggleston called on the Prime Minister to step in to either find a new Minister to deal with Indigenous Affairs or direct her to finding a program that can assist Goolarri Media Enterprises, along with other indigenous media outlets.

Senator Eggleston wrote to Minister Conroy regarding Goolarri Media Enterprises and a loss of funding due to the end of the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP).

"I wrote to Minister Conroy in October to ask about funding options for Goolarri Media Enterprises, as they are important in training indigenous youth through the provisions of traineeships, Certificate III in Media and a variety of other courses which are supported by the wider Kimberley community."

Minister Conroy responded with a list of potential grant options, under not only his own department but other departments that do not report to him.

Senator Eggleston pointed out that he was yet to hear from the Minister for Families, Community Services, Housing and Indigenous Affairs, Minister Macklin, and questioned why she maintains Indigenous Affairs within her portfolio.

"Clearly Goolarri Media Enterprises are valued for their work in the media, but not for ensuring future employment opportunities for the indigenous people of Broome and the wider indigenous community throughout the Kimberley".

The work that has been done by Managing Director Kevin Fong, Chief Executive Officer Jodie Bell and Chief Operations Officer Kira Fong is being reflected by the quality of functions being organised by previous trainees, such as Kimberley Girl 2009, who recently crowned a new winner in Amy Howard. While there is community support for this event, the contestants take part in professional and personal development workshops to gain confidence and public speaking and leadership skills.

The fact that the Minister for Families, Community Services, Housing and Indigenous Affairs is not assisting Goolarri Media Enterprises in ensuring that they can continue to assist young indigenous people to become more confident and more employable is deplorable, and the Minister should take a serious look at her department as to why they are not working with Goolarri Media Enterprises to keep these programs going", said Senator Eggleston.

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