



# Media Release

## Senator Alan Eggleston

### Liberal Senator for Western Australia

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## Real jobs and training needed for Indigenous development

8 February, 2011

Western Australian Senator Alan Eggleston has welcomed the launch of a new service to support youth and prevent crime in the West Kimberley, but says what Indigenous youth really need is tangible skills, training and employment.

The West Kimberley Youth Justice Services were formed under the Royalties for Regions program and aims to divert young people away from the formal justice system.

“These services are a step in the right direction, but they need to be backed up by guaranteed training and employment opportunities,” Senator Eggleston said.

Senator Eggleston said the proposed gas development in the James Price Point area provided an ideal platform for local Indigenous communities to lift themselves out of a cycle of abject poverty and unemployment.

“This project will be an investment in the future of Indigenous youth, providing tangible skills and training and real, lasting jobs for young people,” he said.

The James Price Point gas development is a unique opportunity to make significant inroads into the widespread social crisis within the Kimberley’s Aboriginal population, with guaranteed training and employment opportunities being offered as well as over \$1 billion in benefits which will flow to Indigenous communities.

Indigenous communities in the West Kimberley region suffer from high unemployment rates, disproportionate youth crime and high incidences of alcohol abuse.

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