

MEDIA RELEASE

21 April 2007

Sue Bradley AM, COMMITTEE CO CHAIR

STATEHOOD STEERING COMMITTEE - 2 YEARS ON!

The Statehood Steering Committee celebrates its second anniversary today (21 April) with energy and enthusiasm as we face the year ahead.

Since April 2005, when the original Committee first met, much work has been done to advance awareness and understanding of Statehood.

“With a few retirements and some new members, the Committee has remained vital and fresh and it remains very much part of the Northern Territory landscape as we talk to people about the Territory moving toward Statehood” Sue Bradley said today.

As part of its continuing program the Committee is actively involved in the Charles Darwin University Symposia for 2007 **Statehood and a Bill of Rights?**, where on May 10, the Committee Co-Chair will present on the history of Statehood from a rights point of view.

“We have been talking to Territorians through visits to shopping centres, the show circuit, schools and community groups, and people have brought up this issue of a Bill of Rights, so I am glad the University is providing a serious forum for further discussion on the matter” said Sue Bradley.

“The issue is specifically raised in the *Indigenous Constitutional Strategy* a document coming from the Batchelor Convention in 1998 which Land Councils have told us is still current”.

Information on the Symposium is available at www.cdu.edu.au

The Committee is also soon to publish a Community Discussion Paper (early May) which is a landmark survey of issues that are relevant to creating a Northern Territory Constitution upon Statehood.

The Paper – **Constitutional Paths to Statehood** will be released widely on the website as well as in hard copy and Territorians will have more than six months to comment on it. A summary companion paper will also be released in June.

At this two year point, the following benchmarks have been achieved:

- Education Programs in Schools
- Committee representatives have undertaken more than 100 community education presentations.
- The Committee presence on the 2005 and 2006 Show circuit has resulted in a raised awareness of Statehood issues



- The Committee continues to update its interactive website at www.statehood.nt.gov.au
- The launch of a recent radio advertising campaign to increase awareness and understanding
- The Committee has given away over 100 000 Fact Sheets since they were first published in mid 2005.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE STATEHOOD STEERING COMMITTEE

Members

Barbara McCarthy MLA (Chairman)

Sue Bradley AM (Co-Chair)

Daniel Bouchier

Loraine Braham MLA

Kathleen Chong-Fong

Wayne Connop

Pete Davies

Stuart Kenny

Brian Martin AO MBE

Jenny Medwell OAM

Terry Mills MLA

Irene Nangala

Harry Nelson

Kezia Purick

Jamey Robertson

Maurie Ryan Japarta

Margaret Vigants

Ray Wooldrige

Former Members

Kim Hill (2005-2006)

Elliot McAdam MLA (2005-2006)

Geoff Shaw AM (2005-2006)

Galarrwuy Yunupingu AM (2005)

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