

MEDIA RELEASE

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ELLIOT McADAM MLA, COMMITTEE CHAIR

STATEHOOD REPORT CARD DELIVERED TODAY

A new report from the Statehood Steering Committee shows Territorians are starting to talk about Statehood again

The Chair of the Northern Territory Statehood Steering Committee, Elliot McAdam MLA will outline the achievements and activities of the Northern Territory Statehood Steering Committee when tabling the Report in Parliament today.

The Report reveals the Statehood Steering Committee has already surveyed 1595 Territorians about their level of knowledge on Statehood but less than half of those surveyed were comfortable with their level of understanding of what Statehood is.

The Report also detailed the publication of an information folder and the first 25 Fact Sheets on Statehood issues in response to the most frequently asked questions.

“The Statehood Steering Committee has had a busy first year” Mr McAdam said; “This Report highlights some of the milestones and achievements and shows Territorians where more work needs to be done.”

Committee Co-Chair Sue Bradley welcomed the opportunity for the Legislative Assembly and all Territorians to see what the Statehood Steering Committee has been doing: “The Report shows where we are starting from and the many challenges we face” She said. “I would like to thank the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly for supporting this continuing process with a truly community based committee and welcome their ongoing support until Statehood is achieved.”

Other highlights from the Report show:

- Committee representatives have undertaken more than 20 community presentations on Statehood
- The Committee presence on the 2005 Show circuit resulted in a raised awareness of Statehood issues
- The Committee has developed an interactive website now on-line at www.statehood.nt.gov.au
- The Committee has conducted four public discussion forums on Statehood
- Visits were undertaken to Alice Springs, Docker River, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Maningrida, Milingimbi, Daly River, Jabiru and Wadeye to discuss Statehood issues with community groups and organisations.

The Report also contains a detailed Work Plan including the proposed visits and activities for 2006 and beyond.



Mr McAdam took the opportunity to remind Parliament today that so long as the Northern Territory is not a State, the Territory Parliament will always remain vulnerable to the whims of the Commonwealth Parliament. It is only with Statehood that Territorians will take their place as equal citizens with the rest of Australia.

“Statehood remains a very important issue” Mr McAdam said; “we are progressing with our education and discussions. Territorians should continue to get involved, log on to our website or contact our office and have a say on Statehood”

The Northern Territory Statehood Steering Committee can be contacted by email at statehood@nt.gov.au or by telephoning (08) 8946 1437

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