

PARNPAJINYA COMMUNITY, NEWMAN — ALCOHOL MANAGEMENT PLAN

1527. Mr T.G. Stephens to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs

- (1) Did a representative from the Department of Indigenous Affairs attend a recent community meeting held in Newman to discuss concerns at Parnpajinya; and
 - (a) if not, why not; and
 - (b) if so, what was the outcome of that meeting?
- (2) With overwhelming community support for a Newman Takeaway Alcohol Management Plan, will the Minister support its immediate implementation; and
 - (a) if not, why not?
- (3) Will the Minister make funds immediately available for this community to employ a Community Coordinator; and
 - (a) if not, why not?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

- (1) The Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA) arranged for Mrs Maureen Kelly, Regional Officer from DIA's Pilbara Office, to attend a community meeting convened at short notice by BHP Billiton to discuss issues surrounding the alcohol problems affecting both Parnpajinya and Newman. Mrs Kelly was in Newman undertaking a survey for the Newman Alcohol Management Plan to collect information on the reasons Indigenous visitors travel to Newman to consume alcohol and the duration of their stay. At the last moment Mrs Kelly had to withdraw from attending due to a family medical emergency.
- (2) The implementation of a restrictive Takeaway Alcohol Management Plan is being actively promoted by the Newman Police, however, the final decision and approval rests solely with the Director of Liquor Licensing. The Director is seeking further clarification of the process before making his determination. The takeaway arrangements if implemented will form only one part of a more comprehensive plan that is being assembled by the Drug and Alcohol Office with the support of the Shire, DIA, the Police, non-government Indigenous organisations and BHP Billiton. The wider plan will include an educational component, a liquor patrol and sobering up and treatment centre.
- (3) BHP Billiton already provides a person to undertake community development support for the Newman Aboriginal community including Parnpajinya. The Department of Housing is currently investigating options for the delivery of housing management services to the Pilbara region which includes the possibility of basing a housing management team in Newman from 1 January 2010.