



Northern Territory Government

Department of Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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RICHARD O'SULLIVAN Commissioner of Consumer Affairs

REGULATORS AND OMBUDSMEN TO VISIT OUTBACK COMMUNITIES

The Commissioner of Consumer Affairs Richard O'Sullivan is leading a contingent of regulators and ombudsmen to outback communities in Central Australia next week.

The Australian Industry Banking Ombudsman Colin Neave, the Deputy Telecommunications Ombudsman Victoria Marles and the Regional Directors of ACCC and ASIC will be travelling to Yuendumu, Haasts Bluff, Papunya, Ntaria and Areyonga on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Richard O'Sullivan said "I am delighted that the Ombudsmen are taking the time to visit the Territory, to meet community leaders and to see first hand the consumer issues that arise from living in remote isolated areas.

The visit will give community leaders in Central Australia the opportunity to discuss issues such as banking, ATM facilities (or lack of), credit card transactions and discuss the problems faced with telecommunications, especially telephone, internet services, and pay phones in the bush".

He said "This will also be a good opportunity for the ACCC, ASIC and Consumer Affairs to update themselves on emerging issues effecting both consumers and businesses".

END

NOTE: Mr O'Sullivan, Mr Neave and Ms Marles will be available for Radio/Television interviews on Thursday morning 12 August to discuss the results of the community visit/s.

Telephone Marilyn McDonnell-Davis on 0401 116 718 to set up a suitable time.