



Media Release

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Council Supports Transport & Breakfast Program

For immediate release – Tuesday 13 October 2009

Lord Mayor Graeme Sawyer will urge the Northern Territory Government Department of Justice to continue the transport and breakfast program for people released from the Darwin City Watch House.

The trialling of the transport program provided by Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation and funded by the NT Government Department of Justice concluded in late June 2009 and Council was advised that the service would cease.

At last night's Ordinary Council Meeting, Lord Mayor Graeme Sawyer said that it was vital that this program continue.

"The success of this program is well noted and to remove funding for it would seem ill-advised," Lord Mayor Sawyer said.

Since early 2009, Darwin City Council has asserted the efficacy of providing a transport program to assist people released from the Darwin City Watch House.

"We've seen very positive results and the program has supported vulnerable people released from the Darwin City Watch House, ensuring they are returned to their accommodation or linked to an advocacy agency".

Lord Mayor Sawyer said that Council's General Manager of Community and Cultural Services, Mr John Banks had conducted a meeting with Ms Priscilla Collins, the Chief Executive Officer of the Northern Australian Aboriginal Justice Association (NAAJA) to discuss a raft of shared issues of concern regarding the vulnerability of Aboriginal people in the Darwin locale, including people released from the City Watch House.

Mr Banks indicated that NAAJA's CEO remained concerned about the vulnerability of Aboriginal people upon their release from the Watch House and supports the re-introduction of a transport service.