



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER AFFAIRS

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 17 June 2009

Acting Chair – Mr Andrew Laming MP

A regional recovery for remote Aboriginal communities in the West

At a public hearing in Canberra this week the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs will meet with Lieutenant General John Sanderson AC, former Governor of Western Australia (2000-2005) and Chairman of the state's new Indigenous Implementation Board.

Established in January 2009, the Indigenous Implementation Board comprises Indigenous and non indigenous members committed to change the way the state engages with Aboriginal West Australians. It is the first such body dedicated to the coordination of government efforts and to building Indigenous input from the regions up. Lt General Sanderson has stated:

“The object is to build alliances and to ensure that the relationship is not adversarial in nature but one based on shared vision and objectives. In a sense the Board is about brokering a new relationship between Aboriginal people and those who have a statutory authority for their wellbeing.”

The Committee's inquiry into remote community stores will benefit from the experience of Lt General Sanderson. Acting as Special Adviser on Indigenous Affairs to the Western Australian Department of Premier and Cabinet from 2006, in November 2008 he was charged by the new Western Australian Indigenous Affairs Minister Dr Kim Hames to investigate systems of store operation and food supply in remote communities.

Lt General Sanderson has had a distinguished career in the defence forces and has been awarded the Member of the Order of Australia (1985), the Officer of the Order (1991), the Companion of the Order (1994), The United States of America Legion of Merit (Commander Class) and the Grand Cross of the Royal Cambodian Order (2006).

He has been a strong advocate of human rights as the basis of national and international reconciliation. He has published extensively on the philosophy and the practical dimensions of international intervention and lectured on peace studies. Lt General Sanderson brings this into focus in his work for the Indigenous people in his state.

Public hearing: Thursday 18 June 2009 Venue: Committee Room 1R2

12.15 pm Lieutenant General John Sanderson AC (Private capacity)

1.15 pm Adjourn

For media comment, please contact the Acting Chair Mr Andrew Laming (02) 6277 4258

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