

MEDIA RELEASE

Hon Jane Aagaard MLA Committee Chair
Ms Kezia MLA Committee Member

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Territory Presents views on Statehood to Senate Committee

The Chair of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee (NT) Jane Aagaard and fellow Committee Member Deputy Leader of the Opposition Kezia Purick are in Brisbane today to appear before the Senate Select Committee on Reform of the Australian Federation.

They will discuss the matters raised by the former Statehood Steering Committee in a submission made to the Senate Committee in mid 2010.

The submission stated that Northern Territory Statehood provides a key opportunity for deciding who does what best and how the States and the Commonwealth might determine their roles and responsibilities.

The Territory submission also says that Federalism should encourage the promotion of regional and local solutions for local and regional problems and that the Commonwealth should in conjunction with the Northern Territory Government develop a draft document for publication and consultation outlining the proposed terms and conditions for Northern Territory Statehood.

Mrs Aagaard and Ms Purick agreed that the Senate hearings were an important opportunity to express the views of the Territory about who should be responsible for different Government services and the opportunity we have with Statehood to get things right.

Mrs Aagaard said: "Today's hearings may help set the agenda for better engagement between the states and the Commonwealth and the inclusion of the Territory as a State in our Federal system is an important part of that."

Ms Purick agreed that "The hearings are vital to progress the Territory as a fully functioning participant in the Australian system of government."

The Statehood Steering Committee's submission can be viewed on the Senate website:

http://www.apf.gov.au/Senate/committee/reffed_ctte/reffed/submissions.htm

Media Inquiries Michael Tatham 0458 228 021

www.ntstate7.com.au

Northern Territory Office of Statehood

Toll free: 1800 237 909 Email: statehood@nt.gov.au

Phone: (08) 8946 1437 Fax: (08) 8946 1419
GPO Box 3721, Darwin NT 0801

