

Minister backs 'Kimberley regional authority' plan

Posted Monday, 6 October 2008

The Western Australian Minister for Indigenous Affairs has given in-principle support for the creation of a new body that would increase the involvement of Aboriginal people in the social and economic development of the Kimberley.

The Kimberley Land Council, the Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre and the Language Resource Centre say they have been pushing for the establishment of a 'Kimberley regional authority' for 30 years.

Minister Kim Hames says he is developing a plan to implement recommendations made by General John Sanderson which include the establishment of regional Indigenous councils.

"We have had discussions about how it would operate and what it would do if it was to be approved by the Government," he said.

"I think Aboriginal people in particular would be pleased with what it's trying to do, but also the wider community."

Dr Hames says the Government is also developing recommendations made by coroner Alistair Hope to address the high rate of suicide in Indigenous communities.