MEDIA RELEASE

29 July 2021

Ombudsman strengthening links in the regions

Staff from the offices of the Ombudsman and the Energy and Water Ombudsman will be visiting Halls Creek and Kununurra from 30 August to 3 September 2021.

The visit is an integral part of the office's Regional Awareness and Accessibility Program, which is intended to ensure awareness and accessibility to our services by regional and Aboriginal Western Australians and the services of the Commonwealth Ombudsman, the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office, the Equal Opportunity Commission, the Corruption and Crime Commission and Consumer Protection.

Western Australian Ombudsman Chris Field said that improving awareness of the office's services, and strengthening relationships with regional communities, were key priorities.

"We want to ensure that our services are as accessible as they can possibly be to Western Australians living and working in the regions," Mr Field said.

The events taking place in Halls Creek and Kununurra include:

- Drop-in clinics where members of the public can bring their complaints;
- Meetings with the Aboriginal community; and
- Visits to, and liaison with, public authorities and community organisations.

For details of events for the visit, please go to: <u>http://www.ombudsman.wa.gov.au/Community/RAAP.htm</u>

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Energy & Water Ombudsman Western Australia