



**Karl Hampton**  
MINISTER FOR PARKS AND WILDLIFE

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## **Sturt Desert Pea Enterprise Grows Literacy and Numeracy**

Students from the Indigenous Transition Unit at Centralian Middle School will be marking the end of a successful joint program with the Alice Springs Desert Park with a plant sale today.

Parks and Wildlife Minister Karl Hampton said the 12 students have grown more than 700 native plants through the Sturt Desert Pea Enterprise, which was launched in April.

“The program is designed to provide educational, social, commercial and environmental outcomes for students from marginalised backgrounds,” Mr Hampton said.

“The students learned how to grow and care for the plants as well as learning important workplace skills regarding budgets, advertising and customer service.

“The Sturt Desert Pea Enterprise has given these students valuable skills in maths and English, which will help them transition into mainstream classes.

“The Enterprise is the second joint program between the Park and the school, following a successful program last year in which Park staff helped the school’s special needs unit grow native pines as Christmas trees.

“The Park is committed to sharing its skills and working with the community towards a sustainable future.”

The students have worked closely with Desert Park nursery staff during the past few months who provided their expertise and a nursery facility to help the students grow the plants and pot them into tubes for sale.

The plant sale began today and will continue until the plants are sold.

“The profit from the sale will be used to cover costs of this year’s program and contribute to next year’s program,” Mr Hampton said.

For more information on the Sturt Desert Pea Enterprise contact Gary Dinham on 8951 8740.

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