



Plan to create social harmony

Daniel Burdon

A GROUP of community-spirited people have created a leadership program in Alice Springs.

It is aimed at fostering understanding between indigenous and non-indigenous people.

The project spearheaded by the Desert Knowledge Australia team, the Alice Springs Desert Leadership Program is supported by Social Leadership Australia

and the National Australia Bank.

The idea is to help develop the next generation of community leaders dedicated to the town and surrounding region through a two year mentor program and skills development opportunities.

DKA chief executive officer John Huigen said it would help give younger leaders in their late 20s to early 40s the chance to work together in a cross-cultural format to take

their potential to the next level.

He said: "We believe Alice Springs will deal with its issues and thrive only when leadership comes from within, from people living in and committed to the potential that can be seen.

"We believe this leadership can be deliberately developed and nurtured if the community is willing to participate in the work.

"The program is about building the leadership

capability and capacity of Alice Springs so that it can more effectively tackle its challenges into the future.

"It is targeting the next generation of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal leaders, getting them learning from each other, learning how to work with each other and learning from present leaders who can mentor them."

Mr Huigen said DKA was seeking public expressions of interest.