

time.
In cases of severe defects, motorists could be refused permission to drive away and would have to arrange for the vehicles to be towed away.

tations. Avlaries were the most popular exhibit and people aged between 25 and 40 the most frequent visitors, with most visitors spending an average of three hours in the park.

Warlpiri dictionary on way

The western desert Aboriginal language Warlpiri may become one of 40 traditional dialects to become enshrined in written word.

The Warlpiri language could be among a number of Aboriginal languages the Federal Government is funding to produce written dictionaries.

The dictionaries will be prepared by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATIS).

A submission before the Aboriginal Affairs Minister Robert Tickner named the Warlpiri language spoken by Aborigines in the western desert region of the NT as a possible dialect to be translated.

The eventual 40 languages will be selected by the AIATIS.

All 40 dictionaries will have both English/Aboriginal and Aboriginal/English translations.

The list of languages and dialects include several no longer spoken.

Mr Tickner said the \$150 000 project was in response to studies showing a desperate need for Aboriginal language materials.

"The 40 languages will include a handful from capital city areas which are no longer spoken, researched from archives and other historical sources," Mr Tickner said.

"In some cases the production of the dictionary may be the first

time the language has been written down."

Mr Tickner said there had been a dramatic reduction in the number of Aboriginal languages since white settlement in 1788, when between 200 and 250 languages involving 700 dialects were spoken.

"The maintenance, recognition and continued use of Aboriginal languages are an important part of retaining Australia's unique cultural heritage," he said.

He said Aboriginal languages had made a large contribution to Australian English, particularly in providing words for places and animals.



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