

# Henderson outraged at hostel discrimination

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**Northern Territory Chief Minister Paul Henderson says he is appalled at news an Alice Springs backpacker resort refused to accommodate a group of people because they are Aboriginal.**

A group of young leaders from Yuendumu was asked to leave The Haven resort at the weekend because other guests felt frightened.

The resort asked the people to leave after they'd checked in, telling them they only accepted international tourists.

Chief Minister Paul Henderson says racism is unacceptable.

"It was truly appalling and I'd call on all of those women affected to immediately make a complaint to the Anti-Discrimination Commission so that the commission can immediately use its powers to get to the bottom of the matter," he said.

Bethany Langdon from the Yuendumu Young Leaders program says this is her first experience of overt racism.

"They said, because you're Aboriginal, other tourists were making complaints that they were scared of us," she said.

"I felt like I wanted to cry, because it made me feel like I wasn't an Australian."

The group are seeking an apology.

Tourism Central Australia's manager Peter Grigg says he has been unable to contact the hostel so far, and is not aware of individual hostels' policies on accepting Australian visitors.

"This is very concerning in that Tourism Central Australia, we work very actively and have structures in place that work with Indigenous cultural experience and Indigenous operators and I'm actually sitting in on a meeting of that content this morning," he said.

"We will definitely be trying to contact The Haven and see what their side of the story is."

The Alice Springs mayor Fran Kilgariff says it's an appalling situation for the group involved and for the town.

"I saw this group of young women and that's just what they were, a group of young women, come in to do some training for lifesaving. They didn't deserve to have this happen to them and I regret that on their behalf."

The ABC's attempts to contact the hostel this morning have also been unsuccessful, though the hostel has released a



*Bethany Langdon and her travelling companions are seeking an apology. (Lateline)*

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- [Audio: Hostel allegedly orders Aboriginal women out \(AM\)](#)
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statement saying it caters for international backpacking tourists.

The hostel says it sought alternative accommodation for the group, which it also offered to pay for.

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