



Claims NT hostel ejected Aboriginal group

The federal and Northern Territory governments have condemned the owners of a backpacker hostel in Alice Springs accused of asking a group of Aboriginal people to leave because of the colour of their skin.

Sixteen Aboriginal women and children from the community of Yuendumu

had travelled to Alice Springs to attend classes organised by the Royal Life Saving Society Australia.

After checking in at the Haven Hostel at the weekend, they say they were then asked to leave, with management telling them that other guests felt frightened.

The owners of the hostel initially

issued a statement saying the group had been asked to leave because the Haven catered for international tourists only. It said the group had been found alternative accommodation and the hostel offered to pay for it. A second statement, issued later yesterday, said the hostel had never asked the guests to leave. **AAP**