



**Courier Mail**  
**10/06/2008**  
**Page: 9**  
**General News**  
**Region: Brisbane**  
**Circulation: 221049**  
**Type: Capital City Daily**  
**Size: 34.77 sq.cms**  
**MTWTFS-**

## Canberra 'out of touch' on north

THE Rudd Government has been accused of being "out of touch" as the north's tourism industry faces losses of up to \$120 million and 1200 jobs as a result of Qantas flight cuts.

In a move branded as "sending a mixed message", Federal Tourism Minister Brendan O'Connor is today due to announce more tourism training places for indigenous youth in

Cairns, the region most likely to suffer from the shock decision.

"It shows a total disconnect with what is happening on the ground," Tourism Tropical North Queensland chief Rob Giason said. "I find it extremely odd they choose this time to make that sort of announcement when they would do better to look at how they can assist the community." **Peter Michael**