Commonwealth Funding Welcome by NT Government

Member for Arnhem and Minister for Aged and Disabilities Malarndirri McCarthy today congratulated the Federal Government for its $1.7 million commitment to people from Arnhem Land suffering the degenerative Machado Joseph Disease (MJD).

“It is heart-breaking to see the impact MJD has on people,” Ms McCarthy said.

“And the terrible thing is, there is currently no known cure. That is why the Federal Government commitment is so welcome.

“MJD is a result of a faulty chromosome which causes nerve cells to die prematurely in the brain causing muscular weakness and physical disability,” Ms McCarthy.

“MJD is an inherited and dominant disorder, meaning that every child of a person who carries the defective gene has a 50% chance of developing the disease.

“The communities on Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island are the most seriously affected by MJD.”

Ms McCarthy said the people of North-East Arnhem Land had been aware of the impact of MJD for at least four generations.

The funding will be paid to the MJD Foundation to provide specialised assistance to people affected by MJD.

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