Children’s Commissioner to Investigate Child Protection Issues

Minister for Children and Families, Malarndirri McCarthy, has asked the Northern Territory Children’s Commissioner Dr Howard Bath to provide a report on recent issues raised about child protection.

Ms McCarthy said the independent Children’s Commissioner was created and appointed by the Territory Government, partly to scrutinise and report on ways to improve the child protection system.

“I’m committed to ensuring the system is working for Territory children, and this investigation will identify and remedy issues of concern in the system,” Ms McCarthy said.

“Following concerns raised in relation to cases recently brought to my attention, I have requested the Children’s Commissioner to review the Northern Territory Families and Children’s intake and response mechanisms to notifications and reports of harm to children.

“The Territory Government has already done a great deal of work to improve child protection in the Territory with the introduction of tougher measures through the Care and Protection of Children Act.

“We’ve increased the budget for child protection by $30 million since 2003 bringing it to $69 million each year and we will continue building on our capacity to care for and protect children across the Territory.

“We’re also delivering more support for families and children in communities through the Working Future policies and initiatives,” she said.

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