18 May 2011

SUBMISSIONS OPEN FOR YOUTH JUSTICE REVIEW

Attorney General, Delia Lawrie, today announced panel members selected to help conduct a strategic review of the Territory’s Youth Justice System and called for submissions from interested parties.

“The Territory Government is committed to tackling juvenile crime and anti-social behaviour, and earlier this year committed to a review of the Youth Justice System,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Chaired by former Alice Springs lawyer, children’s advocate and Member for Araluen Jodeen Carney, the review will look at ways to strengthen the Youth Justice System to provide better deterrence and reduced rates of offending and re-offending.

“Today I am pleased to present the panel of representatives from across the youth and youth justice sector that will support the review and release a discussion paper for public comment.”

The panel is composed of Jared Sharpe (NAAJA), Cherise Daiyi (Tamarind Centre), Janet Buhagair (Department of the Chief Minister), Marianne Conaty (Department of Justice), John Birch (Magistrates Courts), John Adams and Jo Townsend (Department of Children and Families), Sean Parnell (NT Police), John Fattore (Department of Corrections), and Susan Macpherson (Department of Education and Training).

Ms Carney called on interested parties to make submissions to the review, which are due by 15 July.

“Over coming weeks I will be engaging with stakeholders across the Territory and I encourage both written and oral submissions to the review,” Ms Carney said.

“With the input of Territorians and the support of government departments, I will be working to develop initiatives to reduce youth crime and make the Youth Justice System better.

“My team will conduct the review with particular reference to vulnerable groups of young people in the Territory such as Indigenous youth, young people affected by alcohol or other drug abuse or with mental health issues.”

The terms of reference for the review, a discussion paper, online questionnaire and Information on public consultations and how to prepare a written submission are available at http://www.safeterritory.nt.gov.au/youth_justice_review

“A safe, strong community is everyone’s business and I encourage all Territorians to have their say in reforms to our Youth Justice System.” Ms Lawrie said.

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