Supporting Territory Child Protection Workers

Minister for Children and Families Kon Vatskalis has paid tribute to the achievements of nine accomplished Territory child protection workers who recently completed Flinders University Graduate Certificate in Remote Health Practice (Child Protection).

Mr Vatskalis said the Territory Government is committed to helping develop and further the careers of our child protection workers.

He said sponsorship through scholarships funded by the Department of Children and Families made it possible for these nine employees to complete their postgraduate qualifications.

“Child protection workers play a vital, yet very difficult role in our community and it is important that we recognise this and offer support,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“The Graduate Certificate in Remote Health Practice is a unique qualification offered by Flinders University through the Centre for Remote Health.”

The Centre for Remote Health is a Commonwealth funded University Department of Rural Health and a joint initiative of Flinders University and Charles Darwin University

“The qualification is not offered anywhere else in Australia and specifically focuses on regional child protection, making it perfectly suited to the Territory.

“The nine scholarship recipients will now take the skills they have acquired through the program back into the community to benefit Territory children and families.”

The Northern Territory Government and Charles Darwin University recently signed an historic agreement that will see the Northern Territory increase ‘home grown’ frontline child protection practitioners.

“Currently there is a national and international shortage of frontline child protection practitioners and the Board of Inquiry highlighted the need for the Northern Territory to ‘grow its own’ workforce,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“While the Territory Government has undertaken international and national recruitment campaigns, it’s also important that we establish a long term, sustainable supply of home-grown qualified people in this field.”

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