Family and Community Services Minister, Delia Lawrie, today reiterated the Northern Territory has mandatory reporting of all suspected child abuse and neglect.

Responding to false claims from CLP Opposition spokesperson, Richard Lim, that some reported cases are not investigated, Minister Lawrie assured Territorians that all reported child abuse is investigated.

“When a report of child abuse or neglect is received, we investigate immediately. Some cases go onto full investigations while others are simply not substantiated.

“Some of the cases do not go onto full investigations as the initial reports are the result of misunderstandings. Children will be children, and the reality is they sometimes do have accidents.

Ms Lawrie said the Martin Government takes child protection very seriously.

“This Government has placed huge emphasis on child protection quadrupling funding from under $8 million when we came to power in 2001 to almost $32 million this year,” said the Minister.

“We have an extra 51 child protection staff on the ground across the Territory investigating all child abuse reports.

“The Government continues to encourage people to speak out against child abuse. Some progress has been made with the number of indigenous child abuse reports having doubled in recent years, but child abuse is still under reported.

“The CLP and Dr Lim ignored child protection in the Territory for years, failing to provide adequate funding and resources.

“The Martin Government is picking up the pieces and working to ensure the best possible protection for the Territory’s children. We’ve done a lot but acknowledge there is much more to be done in our ongoing reform of the child protection system.”

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