TAKE TIME TO PLAY WITH YOUR KIDS… 2005 CHILDREN’S WEEK

A week of events celebrating our children have begun around Australia, marking 2005 Children’s Week.

Family and Community Services Minister, Delia Lawrie, launched the Northern Territory Children’s Week celebrations at Civic Park this morning, with a little help from local children and the popular Fun Bus.

“Children are life’s most precious gifts, and the Martin Government is very proud to support Territory families,” said Ms Lawrie.

“The theme of this year’s week is ‘take time to play with your kids’. As a parent, I find playing games, laughing, talking and just spending time with my children one of life’s greatest pleasures.”

Ms Lawrie said Children’s Week started with a Declaration by the United Nations in 1954 as Universal Children’s Day. Over the years, celebrations have grown nationally from a single day to a full week.

The Minister said under her Department of Family and Community Services, various information and support services were available to Territory families including –

- The Families website – a wealth of information about raising children [www.families.nt.gov.au];
- Parentline – a number parents can call to speak directly to a counsellor for support 1300 30 1300;
- Breathing Space – run by Family Day Care – a service that provides respite to families who have no extended support;
- Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) – an early intervention program to increase the skills of parents and carers to care for their children;
- The Intensive Family Support Service – run by Centacare – a service that support families in crisis to help them stay together.

“This Government is all about supporting Territorians, and I encourage anyone in need of assistance to please ask for help anywhere, anytime,” said Ms Lawrie.

Contact: Nikola Lekias 0438 323660