The first three members of the public have been appointed as Authorised Persons under the Volatile Substance Abuse legislation.

Family and Community Services Minister, Delia Lawrie, said the appointments are significant as the Territory continues to battle the scourge of petrol sniffing.

"I would like to congratulate these individuals for their commitment to take on this valuable role in the fight against substance abuse," said Ms Lawrie.

“As Authorised Persons they will be able to search for, seize and dispose of volatile substances and inhalants. They may also apprehend people who are inhaling and who are at risk in order to take them to a responsible adult, place of safety or into custody.”

Two of the Authorised Persons are with the BushMob organization in Alice Springs, and the third is from Alpurrurulam, a remote area in central Australia.

The Member for Stuart, Karl Hampton, also expressed his congratulations to the three Authorised Persons on their new responsibilities.

"I would like to congratulate these people on their appointments as Authorised Persons and trust that they will work hard to support communities, government and families in the fight against volatile substance abuse," said Mr Hampton.

"I know that organisations such as the Mt Theo program and CAYLUS who for many years in my electorate have worked tirelessly in this area will welcome these appointments as another resource in our battle to stop this abuse".

Volatile Substance Abuse legislation has carefully constructed around the feedback received from communities and substance abuse workers.

“Anyone with Authorised Persons status must have acceptance and respect from the community to be effective,” said Ms Lawrie.

“The Department of Health and Community Services continues to work with remote communities and organisations to further assist members of the public to become Authorised Persons.”

Those interested in becoming Authorised Persons must complete a number of stages in order to be appointed including undertaking training, completing probity and criminal history checks and assessment, completing a senior first aid certificate and receiving the support of the relevant police in the area.

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