Family and Community Services Minister Marion Scrymgour today opened the $145 000 extensions to the Alice Springs Drug and Alcohol Services Association’s Sobering-Up Shelter.

The DASA Detox House – which will be renamed Bob Gaff House - runs as a non-medical detoxification program and provides residential treatment for clients.

“The NT Government is committed to tackling substance abuse – and we have already made huge inroads into tackling the impact of drugs and alcohol on our community,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“Spending in the area of Alcohol and Other Drugs has increased by over 40% in the past three years, we are introducing new legislation and are committing millions of dollars to respond to the devastation caused through inhalant abuse.”

Ms Scrymgour said the extensions to Bob Gaff House were made possible through a $145 000 grant, as part of the NT Government’s $5.25 million Community Harmony Strategy.

“On top of that my Department of Family and Community Services funds DASA $840 000 a year for community education, withdrawal and counselling services and the sobering-up shelter,” she said.

Ms Scrymgour said DASA’s goal is to reduce the harm to individuals and the community arising from the misuse of alcohol and other drugs.

“The extensions at the shelter include the construction of two additional rooms which will allow bed capacity to increase from five to 10. It also includes a new bathroom and staffroom.”

Ms Scrymgour said the NT Government was committed to making a positive difference to community concerns about anti-social behaviour and the health and well-being of the vulnerable in our community.

“I’d also like to thank DASA for the wonderful work it does in the community by providing a wide range of education and intervention services based on minimal intervention.”