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**William and Isabella Most Popular NT baby names in 2008**

Acting Justice Minister Kon Vatskalis is today wishing one-year-old Darwin boy William McIlwain a happy birthday.

Mr Vatskalis visited William and first time parents, Leetasha and Peter, at their Wagaman home earlier this week to present William with an early birthday cake – and celebrate the fact “William” was the most popular baby name in 2008.

William topped the Birth Register’s annual list of the most popular names in the Northern Territory last year.

Isabella was the most popular names for girls.

“It was a great pleasure to meet the McIlwains and present William – who is celebrating his first birthday today - with an early birthday cake,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“The name William – meaning protection - is of old German origin and became highly popular in England following the Norman Conquest in 1066.

“Famous people born with the name William include princes, playwrights, presidents and prime ministers.”

Birth records for 2008 show 34 baby boys were named William while 18 baby girls were named Isabella.

Jack – which was the top Territory baby name in 2005, 2006 and 2007 - slipped to third on the overall list in 2008, occurring 23 times.

Isabella moved from sixth spot on the girls list in 2007 to edge out Charlotte in top spot in 2008.

All babies born in the Territory must be registered with Births, Deaths and Marriages within 60 days. Registration is free.

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