The Territory Government launched its Suicide Prevention Strategy yesterday which takes a whole of Government and community approach to this social tragedy, Children and Families Minister Malarndirri McCarthy said.

“Suicide is a social tragedy that touches everyone no matter who we are or where we come from,” Ms McCarthy said.

“We know that suicide is an issue of real concern in the Northern Territory, with figures indicating the Territory remaining at more than double the national average.

“Some groups appear to be at higher risk than others, including remote Indigenous males, young urban Indigenous males and non-Indigenous males between 25-45 in urban Top End.”

The **NT Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2009-2011** builds upon existing suicide prevention initiatives and responses and follows key directions of the NT Strategic Framework for Suicide Prevention.

“The Plan reflects a whole of Government and community approach to the issue of suicide prevention, also recognising the Federal Government as a key partner in developing future suicide prevention initiatives.

“It was developed by the NT Suicide Prevention Committee following wide consultation with stakeholders and Government agencies.”

Ms McCarthy said $330 000 in new funding had been allocated to progress a range of initiatives in the strategy, including:

- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training to be delivered in the Central Australian region, including the development of “SAFEtalk to be delivered to young people from the age of 15 in schools;
- Training workshops for service providers in both Darwin and Alice Springs so they can better assist young people who engage in deliberate self-harming behaviour;
- Developing a range of resources to provide basic information on suicide and self harm prevention and bereavement support for service providers and the community;
- Funding to complete and trial the Central Australian Life Promotion Program’s Suicide Story.


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