Continued Commitment To Territory Emergency Response

The Northern Territory Government has today welcomed the Federal Government’s commitment to continuing its funding of the Northern Territory Emergency Response.

Chief Minister Paul Henderson said it was vital that both Territory and Federal Governments committed to a long-term plan to overcome the stark economic and social problems experienced by Indigenous Territorians.

“Towns and communities have undergone significant change under the emergency response, and it’s important for both this Government and the Federal Government to show ongoing commitment to these reforms,” Mr Henderson said.

“I’m pleased that the Northern Territory Government and the Australian Government will continue to work together, and to negotiate further measures to ensure all programs and policies for Indigenous Territorians are aligned.”

Minister for Indigenous Policy Alison Anderson said the protection of women and children in communities is paramount. She welcomed the announcement that the Australian Crime Commission will be receiving $5.5 million for 2009-10 to continue its taskforce to investigate violence and child abuse in indigenous communities.

“We need to keep improving how we engage with communities and continue the strong coordination between the three levels of government to ensure we achieve the best possible results from the emergency response,” Ms Anderson said.

Other vital measures that will continue to be funded by the Australian Government include;

- 66 additional Australian Federal Police positions in the Territory, including at least six specialist officers in the child abuse taskforce.
- The construction of five permanent police stations and the continuing maintenance of 10 temporary police stations in remote communities.
- Night patrol services in 81 communities

The Northern Territory Government supports the continued compulsory quarantining of welfare payments in indigenous communities.

The Territory Government is also working with the Federal Government on how a range of Northern Territory Emergency Response measures can continue without having to suspend the Racial Discrimination Act.

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