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NT Government Committed to Supporting Territory Families

Minister for Children and Families Malarndirri McCarthy today reaffirmed the NT Government’s commitment to supporting families while continuing to tackle domestic violence and child abuse and neglect in the Northern Territory.

Ms McCarthy told the Estimates Committee today that the commencement of the Territory’s first Children’s Commissioner last year, along with the establishment of the Child Abuse Taskforce and Aboriginal Community Workers were all initiatives under Closing the Gap to ensure a better child protection system.

“In 2009-10 the budget for Children and Families increased by more than $30 million to $221 million,” Ms McCarthy said.

“This compares to a department starved of funds and barely functioning on a $7.8 million budget when Labor Government came to office in 2001.

“Significant reforms have occurred since including the reform of the Care and Protection of Children Act, and implementation of the Government’s $286 million Closing the Gap package – a key element in protecting children and supporting families.

“An additional 91 positions within NT Families and Children have also been filled since 2001.”

Ms McCarthy said an additional $2.5 million had been allocated to expand domestic violence prevention and intervention services in 2009-10.

“Last year the Henderson Government introduced legislation to make it mandatory for all adults to report serious domestic assaults,” Ms McCarthy said.

“As part of our $15 million package to expand domestic violence prevention and intervention services an additional $2.5 million has been allocated in 2009/2010.”

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