Transport Minister Gerry McCarthy today said the Territory Government will expand existing road safety programs aimed at preventing harm being incurred on Territory roads.

“This includes the hugely popular and very successful Muttacar Sorry Business theatre production,” Mr McCarthy said.

“The 2010 Muttacar program was launched at Casuarina Senior College today and will travel more than 4000km for 26 performances at 19 Territory locations, five more than last year.

“And this year’s program has been expanded to incorporate a dedicated Indigenous Road Safety Day.

“This includes the presentation of the STARS Program (Stop Territory Aboriginal Road Sadness) by senior Aboriginal Community Police Officers, talks and workshops by TIO and the Road Safety Branch, as well as a barbecue for attendees.

“This year’s play, presented by Artback NT: Arts Development and Touring, stars actors Minta Franks, Ali Mills, Jason de Santis and Mark Coles Smith and also includes one extra scene starring Aboriginal Community Police Officer Lorraine Jones as herself.

“About half of all Territory road fatalities are Indigenous Territorians which is why the Territory Government has expanded other existing programs as well.

“This includes expanding road safety song competitions to reach more Indigenous festivals as well as road safety officers visiting more schools and communities.

“Earlier this year we also introduced a new road safety curriculum into Territory schools to teach children some key road safety messages, starting with 4-8 year olds during semester one of the 2010 school year.

“The resource pack targeted at our younger Territorians includes a teacher resource as well as picture books, songs and story CDs, discussion posters, road network tablemat and a road sign pack to be used in lessons.”

The Muttacar Sorry Business theatre production and Indigenous Road Safety Day is a joint project involving the Territory Government’s Road Safety Branch, Artback NT: Arts Development and Touring and Yirra Yaakin.

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