09 August 2010

Foster Care Information Nights

Information sessions explaining how foster caring can make a major difference to the short-term well being and even the lifelong outcomes of children will be held in Darwin this week, Child Protection Minister Kon Vatskalis said today.

“Foster care is a service where a family or an individual cares for children who can not live safely at home – and this might be for a weekend, a few weeks or even a few years,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“Foster carers are everyday people, willing and able to provide children with a safe, supportive environment until they can return home. They can be single or couples, have children of their own or not, work full or part-time, or be retired.”

Mr Vatskalis said carers from different cultural backgrounds and those living throughout the Territory in both urban and remote settings were welcome to apply as foster carers.

“This variety is important as it means more placement options to match children with carers best suited to meet their individual needs,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“Depending on your lifestyle, there are options available ..whether it is providing respite care just one weekend a month, or offering a child a longer-term placement in your home, more carers are always needed.

“In the NT there is also a need for more Aboriginal foster carers to provide Indigenous children with cultural continuity when they enter care. It is important that these children are provided with placements that, where ever possible, provide proximity to their family and community of origin.”

Information sessions are obligation free and refreshments will be provided.

When: 6.30 pm Monday 9 August 2010

Where: Training Room, Palmerston Community Care Centre
       (Cnr of Roystonea Avenue and Temple Terrace, Palmerston)

When: 6.00 pm Tuesday 10 August 2010

Where: Alternative Care Meeting Room
       Ground Floor Casuarina Plaza, Corner of Trower Rd & Vanderlin Drive
       (Entrance next to Brasserie Café)