The NT Government has successfully recruited 57 of the 76 additional positions that were committed to as part of the single largest boost of funds to frontline staff – $14.6 million – in the history of any Northern Territory Government.

The Department of Health and Families is engaged in ongoing intensive, national and international recruitment for frontline staff to work with families and children in the Northern Territory.

Child Protection Minister Kon Vatskalis today acknowledged the challenging times ahead for child protection in the Northern Territory, as National Child Protection Week kicks off across the country.

“These are challenging times for child protection in the Northern Territory. We understand that the current child protection system is not sustainable, and a greater emphasis must be placed on the prevention of child harm,” he said.

“The Independent Board of Inquiry, commissioned by the Henderson Government to review the child protection system, will soon hand down its report. Acting on their recommendations will be an essential start to ensuring our system is strengthened.

“The NT Government has more than tripled funding to child protection since 2001, made major reforms to legislation, and earlier this year injected $14.6 million to employ an additional 76 child protection staff.

Of the 76 positions announced, 64 are in frontline child protection and 12 are support positions.

Mr Vatskalis called NCPW a time to publicly acknowledge the efforts of these professionals and others across the Territory who are working for the safety and well being of children.

“This week we recognise the passion and dedication shown by those working in the child protection sector. Their commitment makes a difference to the lives of countless children and young people.”

National Child Protection Week is an annual campaign coordinated by NAPCAN to raise community awareness of child abuse and neglect prevention. Mr Vatskalis will launch the DVD Take Action for Kids at a NCPW breakfast hosted by NAPCAN in partnership with the NT Government on Tuesday at the Darwin Convention Centre.

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