18 December 2010

Department of Children and Families Established to Support Child Safety and Wellbeing

Children and Families Minister Kon Vatskalis has announced that NT Families and Children will become the Department of Children and Families from 1 January 2011.

The Department of Children and Families will be responsible for the development and implementation of policies, programs and services that support the safety and wellbeing of children and families, and will be the lead agency for the implementation of the Growing them strong, together recommendations.

With the separation of NT Families and Children from the Department of Health and Families, that Department will be known as the Department of Health from 1 January 2011, retaining Acute Care, Health Services, Health Development and Corporate Services.

The two Departments will operate under a shared corporate services arrangement.

“The Northern Territory Government has established the Department of Children and Families in response to Board of inquiry into the Child Protection System in the NT,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“The NT Government has acted swiftly to begin implementation of the Inquiry’s recommendations, including injecting $130 million additional into the system over the next five years.”

Executive Director of NT Families and Children, Clare Gardiner-Barnes, has been appointed as Acting Chief Executive of the new Department.

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