Treasurer, Delia Lawrie, today welcomed the release of the inaugural National Indigenous Expenditure Report (IER).

The report publishes estimates of all Commonwealth, state and territory governments expenditure on services for Indigenous people.

The 2010 IER found that in 2008-09, 53.9 per cent of the Territory’s general government expenditure was for services for Indigenous people –the highest share of all state and territories.

The Territory Government’s own Indigenous Expenditure Review in 2006-07 found that 52.4 per cent of the Territory’s spending could be attributed to the Indigenous population.

"Today’s report found the Territory Government spent $2.16 billion in 2008-09 on services for Indigenous people which equates to 53.9 per cent of all of the NT expenditure. In comparison, Indigenous people comprise about 30 per cent of the Territory’s population." Ms Lawrie said.

“This means per capita spending on Indigenous people was 2.7 times higher than non-Indigenous people in the Territory.

“The report found that more than half of NT Government spending in the areas of early childhood development, schools and training, health lives, home environment and safe and supportive communities benefited Indigenous Territorians.”

Ms Lawrie said the Territory and Australian governments continued to invest in services to improve the lives of Indigenous Territorians.

“Together our governments are working to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous outcomes and improve the lives of Indigenous Territorians,” she said.

“As part of the Henderson Government’s Working Future policy, Budget 2010 included the single biggest investment in the Territory’s history to improve services in the bush.

“The $980 million for infrastructure includes a region transport trials, upgrades to major roads, additional renal services, upgrades to remote health clinics and more police stations.

“In partnership, the Territory and Australian governments are delivering the largest housing program ever seen in the Territory’s history, better health services and more nurses, more teachers and education programs and new police stations for remote areas.”

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