29 March 2011

**Youth Justice Act Review Chair Announced**

Attorney General Delia Lawrie today announced the Northern Territory Government’s review of the *Youth Justice Act* would be led by Alice Springs lawyer and former member for Araluen Jodeen Carney.

“Earlier this year the Territory government committed to a review of the *Youth Justice Act,*” Ms Lawrie said.

“I am pleased today to announce that the terms of reference have been completed, and that the review will be led by Jodeen Carney, a long-term Territorian with legal and youth justice sector experience.

“This review will identify how the *Youth Justice Act* could be strengthened to provide greater deterrents to reduce juvenile crime.

“I look forward to working with Ms Carney and the Department of Justice to introduce initiatives to achieve a reduction in offending and re-offending, by improve linkages to support and education services, particularly for indigenous offenders.”

With the support of the Department of Justice, Ms Carney will work within the terms of reference to evaluate current legislation, government policy and propose new policy and programs with particular reference to vulnerable groups of young people including:

- Indigenous youth;
- young people affected by alcohol or other drug abuse;
- young people with mental health issues;
- young women; and
- Culturally diverse groups.

“The Territory Government is committed to strengthening the Youth Justice Act to deter juvenile crime,” Ms Lawrie said.

*Contact: Patrick Hastwell 0427 017 803*