Children and Families Minister Kon Vatskalis today announced an increase in Territory Government funding for the leading national organisation aimed at preventing the abuse and neglect of children.

Speaking at the official launch of National Child Protection Week in Darwin today, Mr Vatskalis announced the Northern Territory Government has increased funding to the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) by $250,000 a year.

This year’s National Child Protection Week runs from September 4 -11 and is themed Play Your part to keep children safe.

“NAPCAN is Australia’s leading advocate for the prevention of child abuse and neglect and National Child Protection Week is a fitting time to announce further support from the Northern Territory Government to increase NAPCAN’s services in the Territory,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“The additional funding will allow NAPCAN to strengthen their ability to continue the outstanding work they do in advocating for children’s rights and safety, training and professional development and the development of resources.

“This announcement is part of the Northern Territory Government’s response to the Board of Inquiry report which called for stronger partnerships between government and non-government organisations.

“Stronger partnerships will ensure better co-ordination of services and ultimately better services for vulnerable Territory children and their families.

“To support the Board of Inquiry recommendations the NT Government has committed an additional $130 million over five years into child protection.”

Mr Vatskalis said National Child Protection Week was a good time to publicly acknowledge the efforts of people across the Territory who were working to improve 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,” he said.