MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

CHILD PROTECTION: A KEY FOCUS IN BUDGET 2013

14 May 2013

The Northern Territory Government will strengthen its focus on child protection in Budget 2013 with a range of new funding measures.

Minister for Children and Families, Alison Anderson said $5 million of ongoing funding will be made available for child protection and out-of-home care.

“There is a growing demand for child protection and out-of-home care in the Territory and the increase in funding will help to relieve the pressure,” Ms Anderson said.

“I have appointed a new CEO in Jenni Collard who I will work closely with to improve services the Office of Children and Families (OCF) provides.”

Under Delia Lawrie’s former Labor Government, mismanagement of the former Department lead to a $35 million black hole, reducing the care provided to children.

The Country Liberals Government will redirect $25.1 million in Budget 2013 to frontline services to meet the needs of vulnerable families and children.

“The OCF now has a stronger focus on frontline services allowing them to provide NT solutions for NT problems.” Ms Anderson said.

“It was clear from the recent CREATE Report Card that frontline services are a key area for improvement, especially for child protection and out-of-home care.”

Also to improve the safety and wellbeing of children, youths and families, $13.6 million has been allocated in Budget 2013 through the Stronger Futures initiative.

The Territory Government has also committed $700,000 to expand the capacity of the Tennant Creek family support service.

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