Leader of the Opposition Delia Lawrie has urged Territorians to contribute what they can to help the victims of the Typhoon Haiyan in The Philippines.

“Our thoughts go out to the Filipino community here in the Northern Territory who have lost family and friends in this tragedy,” Ms Lawrie said.

“As a survivor of Cyclone Tracy my heart goes out to the communities devastated by this terrifying Typhoon Haiyan and I urge all Territorians to donate to charity for the Philippine disaster relief effort.

“We have weathered our own natural disasters with cyclones and floods and understand the importance of support and friendship at times like this.

“There are strong ties of family, friendship, culture and commerce between the Territory and The Philippines. I know people in the Filipino community are extremely concerned about the loss life and suffering caused by the typhoon and the great challenges ahead to prevent further loss of life.

“I have contacted the Chief Minister and asked him to consider a number of measures on behalf of all Territorians to alleviate the effects of the devastation on the people of The Philippines.”

Some of the measures could include:

- A financial grant to the Red Cross, World Vision, Caritas or other charities who are responding to the impacts of the typhoon;
- Facilitation of donations by NTPS employees through the payroll deduction system to bona fide charities who are assisting with the humanitarian response; and
- Possible deployment of small number of volunteers and advisers, if safe to do so, from agencies such as Police, Fire and Emergency Services to assist getting the country back on its feet in the challenging times ahead.

“I accept that a small jurisdiction like the Territory is not a major aid donor. But anything we can do will be profoundly appreciated by the Australian – Filipino community in the Territory,” Ms Lawrie said.

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