ATTORNEY-GENERAL
MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

A NEW APPROACH TO REDUCE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

18 November 2013

The Northern Territory is developing its first ever comprehensive domestic violence reduction strategy that will incorporate 10 agencies across Government.

A cross-agency strategy will be developed to address, reduce and prevent the unacceptably high level of domestic violence in the Northern Territory.

Attorney-General John Elferink said sadly, domestic violence remains far too common in our community, with 4463 people falling victim to domestic violence in the Northern Territory in 2012-13.

“In response, we must consult widely with the community, non-government organisations (NGOs) and government departments to create a comprehensive strategy that meets the needs of victims while holding the perpetrators accountable.

“The protection of women and children will be a core focus of the strategy with research showing that 82 per cent of domestic violence victims in the Northern Territory in 2012-13 are female.

“Children are also victims of this crime, with a high correlation between domestic violence and child abuse. Children need to be protected and the cycle of domestic violence needs to be broken.

“Domestic violence is a crime that is often inflicted on those closest to the offender. We must address this by creating a clear reduction strategy that brings the issue out into the open and punishes the offender.

“The new plan will also look at ways to address the high incidence of repeat offending by perpetrators of domestic violence. Police figures show that in 2012-13 more than a quarter of perpetrators reoffended on two or more occasions.

“The strategy will incorporate the positive work of agencies and NGOs to establish the best possible way to reduce domestic violence in our community.”

Mr Elferink said that since the introduction of mandatory reporting of domestic and family violence in 2008, there had been an increase in reporting, yet the change had not led to a drop in incidents – and this must be addressed through a multi-agency domestic violence reduction strategy.

“The Evaluation of the impact of mandatory reporting of domestic and family violence report looks at the period from March 2009 to June 2012 and shows that a rise in reporting and active policing has resulted in a 50 per cent increase in the number of Domestic Violence Orders issued during this period,” Mr Elferink said.

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In conjunction with White Ribbon Day (25 November), which focuses on ending men’s violence against women later this month, the renewed *Be Somebody* campaign will today start across the Territory, encouraging the community to report domestic violence.


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