NT'S FIRST ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNOUNCED FOR DISABILITY REFORM

17 February, 2014

The first members of the Northern Territory’s inaugural ministerial advisory committee have been announced to help drive major reform for all Territorians with a disability, their families and carers.

The Minister for Disability Services Robyn Lambley says one of the council’s main roles will be to assist the Country Liberals Government implement the NDIS trial in the Barkly region from July.

“The council is part of a comprehensive strategy that the Country Liberals Government is developing to modernise the provision of disability services in the Territory,” Mrs Lambley said.

“It brings together people with a variety of knowledge and experience to provide strategic advice to the Government, and ensure that Territorians with a disability, their families and carers get a fair go.

“The Country Liberals are focussed on protecting Territorians with a disability from discrimination, delivering the support they need, and facilitating the opportunities they need and facilitating the opportunities they deserve.

Vicki O'Halloran of National Disability Services NT will chair the council on disability reform, and other members include Greg McMahon of Carpentaria Disability Services, Joe Smith of Step Out, Liz Reid of YouthWorx NT, and carers and family members of Territorians with a disability.

Mrs Lambley says the council will work with all stakeholders to progress the NDIS, as well as providing high level advice on the issues facing Territorians with a disability, their carers and families.

“It is very important that the national scheme helps to change the lives of people with a disability and their families, and it must be delivered in a way that meets local needs.”

The Barkly was chosen to be a pilot site because of its mix of remote, regional and urban communities, and approximately 100 people with a disability and their families will participate in the three year trial.

Around 27,000 Territorians identify as having a disability. Of these, 5000 people under 65 years of age have a severe or profound disability.

Media Contact:
Phoebe Stewart 0438885774 (08) 8928 6649