RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

01 May 2014

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention month today began with a plea from Attorney-General John Elferink and Minister for Women’s Policy Bess Price to report violence and protect victims and children in our community.

Mr Elferink said the month is important to raise community awareness of the social and personal impacts of domestic and family violence and send a clear message that violence of this nature will not be tolerated.

“Domestic violence is far too common in our community with 4681 offences recorded in the year to February 2014, however we must ensure that victims and the community are not afraid to speak out,” Mr Elferink said.

“The Northern Territory Government will shortly introduce a comprehensive domestic violence reduction strategy that will address, reduce and prevent the unacceptably high level of domestic violence.

“We must ensure that women and children, who are the most vulnerable victims, are able to access help and support, while perpetrators take responsibility for their abusive behaviour and are held accountable.

“The strategy will also address the high rate of repeat offending where figures show that more than a quarter of domestic and family violence perpetrators are likely to commit the same offence again.”

Minister for Women’s Policy Bess Price said nobody should be a victim of domestic and family violence.

“The effects are not only physically damaging, but also mentally scarring and life changing," Mrs Price said.

“We cannot forget that each figure of domestic and family violence statistics represents a real person. Someone’s mother, daughter, sister, aunty or friend.

“The cycle of violence must stop. Violence of any type should never be tolerated and it is a conversation we must have, for the sake of our families, friends and colleagues.

“This is about creating a culture of change in the next generation of Territorians.”

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