VULNERABLE AND HIGH RISK YOUNG TERRITORIANS GET A HELPING HAND

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Vulnerable young Territorians who have suffered harm and trauma will soon be able to access intensive support services in Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine, Minister for Children and Families John Elferink announced.

Budget 2014-15 will deliver $1.4 million per annum to establish three Intensive Youth Support Services (IYSS).

“The IYSS will assist young people aged 10 to 18 who have experienced harmful situations, including abuse and neglect, and as a result are engaging in behaviours that place them at significant risk,” Mr Elferink said.

“The service will ensure that those affected have access to intensive and tailored counselling and support services to direct them on the right path for successful development into adulthood.

“Staff at the centres will engage with the youths to develop positive strategies and skills to improve their learning and life outcomes.

“The IYSS will help to rebuild a young person’s confidence and life before they engage in behaviour that may further harm themselves or others.

"It is important for people to have services available to them to provide support and counselling at a time when they most need it.”

Experienced non-government service provider, Anglicare NT, will operate the IYSS at the three centres.

“Anglicare is expected to set-up its first service in Alice Springs with the other two services to follow,” Mr Elferink said.

“Anglicare’s solid experience of working with vulnerable young people, its integrated approach and strategies to support staff while delivering an intensive service saw them selected by the independent assessment panels.”

The services will also work with the young person’s family, if appropriate, to promote stability and provide opportunities for them to develop positively into the future.

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