MINISTER CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

NEW OUT OF HOME CARE FACILITY FOR CHILDREN IN NEED AT TENNANT CREEK

09 May 2014

A new out of home care residence for children aged 0-10 years will be established at Tennant Creek, with $300,000 for building improvements and $500,000 in ongoing funding to be allocated in Budget 2014.

The facility will provide flexible, short term accommodation for up to six children, while child protection issues are resolved, or a longer term foster or kinship care placement is identified.

Minister for Children and Families John Elferink said today’s Budget announcement aims to address a shortfall in out of home care facilities in the Barkly Region, which currently results in children being relocated to Alice Springs if they are unable to be placed with a foster or kinship carer.

“The new local facility will limit the disruption to the child with family, culture, local supporters and schooling,” Mr Elferink said.

“This will offer a local short term out of home care service for people who are considered to be the most vulnerable in our community.

“It is important to have safe and secure accommodation with the appropriate support on offer for a child who more often than not has suffered abuse or neglect.

“The Department of Children and Families is working with the Department of Housing and has identified a house in an ideal location for the service. This property will be modified and upgraded to create a suitable facility.

“The Country Liberals Government is committed to protecting our children and ensuring that they have the support and services available in times of need.”

Currently, there are 38 children from the Barkly Region in the care of the Chief Executive Officer.

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