Adam Giles  
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

**Service for victims of MH17 crash**

21 July 2014

Territorians will have an opportunity to mourn the victims of the Malaysia Airlines plane crash at a Commemorative Mass in Darwin’s St Mary’s Cathedral at 7pm this Wednesday night.

This service is being organised by the Catholic Church in conjunction with other Churches in the Top End.

Members of all faiths are invited to attend in a spirit of solidarity.

Condolence Books for the Territory victims will be available for signing at the service and then in Parliament House through until the August sittings of Parliament.

There will also be Condolence Books at Minister Peter Chandler’s Electorate Office at the Palmerston Shopping Centre and at the Alice Springs Town Council Chambers.

These books will be given to the victims’ families after a formal Condolence Motion in the Assembly on Tuesday August 19.

I know tears have been flowing in the public service for Palmerston residents Theresa and Wayne Baker who worked in a number of Territory Government departments, as well as Maningrida school teacher Emma Bell.

All three were well-known and much-loved and I know their deaths have hit many Territorians hard.

I have written to all public servants today to offer my sympathy for their tragic loss and to again offer the Government’s support at this difficult time.

The Government is providing counselling to relatives or colleagues of those who have died and I encourage anyone touched by this tragedy to consider taking up this offer of professional support.

The Territory Government has offered the assistance of NT Police in the investigation into the crash and officers remain on standby if required.

Blocking investigators from retrieving the remains of those killed in the Malaysia Airlines plane crash is an international outrage and a mongrel act.
On behalf of the Territory families involved, we implore those refusing access on the ground to live up to standards of common decency and give families some closure.

**Media Contact:** Danielle Parry  0413 081 801