Media Release

John Elferink, Member for Port Darwin
Minister for Correctional Services

Youth detention facility to move to revamped Darwin Correctional Centre

5 August 2014

An upgraded Darwin Correctional Centre (DCC) at Berrimah will become the Top End’s new detention facility for offending youth, Minister for Correctional Services John Elferink announced today.

Budget 2014 allocated $800,000 towards upgrades for the facility to better service the needs of youth detainees.

“The current DCC will be decommissioned as an adult prison when the new Darwin Correctional Precinct (DCP) opens at Holtze next month,” Mr Elferink said.

“Darwin’s Don Dale Youth Detention Centre (DDYDC), which typically houses between 30 and 40 detainees, was originally designed to accommodate only 25 male detainees when it was built 23 years ago.

“The planned upgrades and renovations to the DCC site will create a more secure facility and allow staff to better manage detainees.

“The upgraded site will also see the development of separate sections for males and females, new and long-term, and high security detainees.

“It will allow staff to separate youths based on their age groups, ensuring that younger detainees are not influenced by the behaviour of older offenders.

“The larger site will allow the Country Liberals Government to implement targeted programs designed to change the offending behaviour of youths and reduce recidivism.

“Modern facilities at DCC will assist in the rehabilitation of young people, and create increased opportunities for reintegration programs including learning, training and employment.

“Training and work programs will provide youths with skills, direction and an opportunity to receive qualifications while in detention, which can lead to a job and career once they are released.
“I do not want youths to sit idly in their cells, instead I want them to learn and be work ready to prepare them for the world outside of detention.

“Offending youths must face the consequences of the law, however they must also be provided with opportunities to turn their lives around and steer them away from a future of repeat offending.”

The Northern Territory Government is currently exploring options for the future use of the DDYDC site.

**Media Contact:** Danielle Lede 0404 515 414