Rollout of domestic violence reduction strategy continues

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The Northern Territory Government has again committed $3.07 million this financial year to implement an innovative strategy to reduce domestic and family violence in the community.

Last year, Attorney-General John Elferink released the $18 million Domestic and Family Violence Reduction Strategy which aims to reduce, prevent and address domestic violence across the Territory.

The integrated response takes key actions which continue to be rolled out across the Territory and are already making a difference to victims’ lives.

“Critical to the Strategy’s success is the Family Safety Framework, an action-based, crisis intervention response led by the Northern Territory Police, which focuses on protecting high risk victims from further harm by sharing information across agencies and developing a plan to reduce risk through immediate action,” Mr Elferink said.

“The Family Safety Framework has been operational in Alice Springs for a number of years and has successfully reduced the risk of further assault for more than 200 high-risk victims of domestic violence.

“Family Safety Framework meetings have been operating in Alice Springs and are now being established in Darwin, Katherine and Tennant Creek. There have been more than 340 police officers trained in the Family Safety Framework process.

“The other key component of the Strategy is the roll out of SupportLink, a centralised referral system that better enables frontline workers to refer victims and perpetrators to support services. The majority of the Northern Territory Police Force have been trained to use the SupportLink Referral System. A total of 78 domestic violence services have signed up to receive referrals through SupportLink.

“It is this Government’s aim that every contact between a frontline worker and a victim contributes to breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

“Implementing the Domestic and Family Violence Reduction Strategy is a joint effort between government and non-government organisations and I am ever mindful that it is at the local level that success will be driven,” he said.
To ensure that the Strategy is driven at the local level we have developed Local Reference Groups in Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. A team of nearly 100 government and non-government employees have formed several reference groups and been tasked with driving the strategy on the ground.

Mr Elferink said that a great deal of work has already been done to tackle domestic violence in the Territory, however there is much more to do.

“As a Government, we have made funding available to protect victims and help them to rebuild their lives, ensuring that victims are finding the right services and getting the help they need.”

The Federal Government has also committed $3 million this financial year towards implementing the Strategy.

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