Funding to support programs for young parents in Darwin and Palmerston

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Young parents in Darwin and Palmerston will get more help to deal with the financial and emotional challenges of parenting as a result of Northern Territory Government funding for two local support services.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said the Northern Territory Government would provide $400,000 in funding for programs run by Anglicare NT and the YWCA of Darwin to assist young parents across the Darwin and Palmerston region.

“Many expectant parents experience dramatic changes in their lives as they enter parenthood with some young parents struggling to balance becoming a parent with maintaining their education or employment, leading to social isolation, financial pressures and relationship problems,” he said.

“This Government funding to pre and post natal support services will help connect parents to the local services available to help them to care for their children and allow these families to achieve their full potential.

“The programs provide young parents with support, parenting education and relationships skills, budgeting and nutrition information, and can help guide young parents to balance their education needs against the life changing and demanding role of becoming a parent.”

Local Palmerston Member, Nathan Barrett has also welcomed this initiative stating that families are the cells that make up the body of our community and that early intervention into the wellbeing of families will result in the strengthening of our communities.

Anglicare’s Pandanus Project, which began in 2004, works in collaboration with other service providers in the health sector and also provides case management services to support young mothers access culturally and gender appropriate educational opportunities.

Anglicare will use their Northern Territory Government grant to extend their Pandanus Project to support the childbirth education and post-natal assistance needs of young people.

“Teenage pregnancy rates are high in this region and becoming a parent at an early age is often a daunting prospect. We value the funding announced by the Chief Minister today as it will allow us to continue to provide our Pandanus Childbirth Education and Perinatal Program for young parents in Darwin,” Anglicare NT’s acting CEO Ann Buxton said.
The YWCA of Darwin will receive funding to provide the Parenting Support Program and act as an ‘entry point’ for young parents to access services, resources and learning opportunities.

"The YWCA are excited to continue the provision of a parenting program that supports and values young parents and their children in our community," YWCA’s Parenting Program Coordinator Sheree Hammi said.

“The Country Liberals Government is focussed on delivering a strong society that supports the most vulnerable and ensures everyone has access to opportunities and resources that allow them to make a meaningful and positive contribution to society,” Mr Giles said.

“My Government is supporting the positive engagement of young people within their community by listening to local needs and providing funding for localised youth services solutions developed by each region.

“In addition to today’s announcement for Darwin and Palmerston, we are finalising locally developed prevention and early intervention initiatives for young people in Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy, with details to be released in the near future.”

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