Anti-violence campaigners tour Tiwi Islands

19 August 2015

Minister for Women’s Policy Bess Price toured Pirlangimpi today on the Tiwi Islands and was accompanied by the 2015 Australian of the Year, Rosie Batty, who is visiting the Northern Territory on a ‘Tour of Honour’.

“Today we viewed first-hand the strong and active Women’s Centre on the Islands and the support framework in place to deal with the serious threats of violence in the community,” Mrs Price said.

“I would like to congratulate the Pirlangimpi community for leading the way in the fight against violence on women and children in the remote regions, and also being honest about their problems when dealing with the often sensitive issues of violence in the home,” Mrs Price said.

“I have long been an advocate to stop domestic violence in remote communities, my own life has been far too familiar with the consequences, so today we talked with the community about stopping abuse and having peaceful places to live and enjoy life.

“Anyone can be a victim of domestic violence, although both men and women can be abused, most victims are women, particularly in the remote areas of the Northern Territory. Violence in the home is also dangerous for children who have to live with scary noises, yelling and hitting.

“The Giles Government believes ‘Safety is Everyone’s Right’ and funds the Northern Territory Domestic and Family Violence Reduction Strategy that can make a real difference to victims’ lives and prevent deaths.

“It’s unacceptable that Indigenous women are 48 times more likely to be admitted to hospital for reasons of assault than non-Indigenous women. We must do better and need our communities to step-up and say ‘no more’, as they have done in Pirlangimpi.

“Thank you to my friend and Australian of the Year Rosie Batty for accompanying me today, her visit will remind everyone that the issue of domestic violence can never be too hard to tackle or ignored.”

Rosie Batty said her experience in the north was an incredible opportunity and will assist her in reporting back important information to the COAG Council and Our Watch, particularly about the unique circumstances of remote Indigenous women.

“I understand that there are some real challenges with family violence in the Northern Territory but there are also some very committed people and leaders of the community who are determined to do something about it,” Ms Batty said.

“Today I met with these people and shared our experiences so that we can all learn and hopefully move forward from this very real epidemic in society.”

The Australia Day Council NT has brought Australian of the Year 2015 Rosie Batty to the Northern Territory and will visit Alice Springs on Friday.

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