Services enhance domestic violence strategy across the Territory

15 September 2015

Since its launch in September 2014 the Safety is Everyone’s Right Strategy has been implemented in communities across the Northern Territory. The Strategy is part of the Country Liberal Government’s $6.07 million commitment per year for three years to tackling the issue of domestic and family violence.

The aim of the Strategy is to increase the safety of victims and their children, reduce rates of intergenerational trauma, increase the accountability of perpetrators and establish integrated service delivery systems.

The Strategy and implementation is collaboratively led by the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice, Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services and the Department of Local Government and Community Services.

A further seven Northern Territory Government departments, the Commonwealth Government and 35 Indigenous organisations and non-government organisations are also partners in delivering the Strategy.

“One of the components of the Strategy is the Family Safety Framework which focuses on protecting high risk victims and their children from further harm and homicide by coordinating a response across government and non-government agencies,” Attorney-General John Elferink said.

Mr Elferink explained that key aspects include a common risk assessment tool, information sharing and fortnightly Family Safety Meetings where agencies plan immediate actions for referred victims and jointly monitor safety improvements for each referral.

“As at 1 September 2015, 301 high risk victims have been referred to Family Safety Meetings and 1142 government and non-government staff across the Territory had undertaken Family Safety Framework training,” Mr Elferink said.

“$3 million has been invested in Critical Intervention Outreach Services for Indigenous victims of domestic and family violence in remote and very remote locations.

“Alice Springs Women’s Shelter, Tennant Creek Women’s Refuge and Darwin Aboriginal and Islander Women’s Shelter have each been contracted to deliver critical intervention outreach services in their respective regions.

“A further $800,000 has also been invested in developing specialist domestic and family violence support services for Indigenous youth aged between 12 and 17 years old in Alice Springs, surrounding Town Camps and remote communities.”
“We look forward to working together to provide specialist domestic violence outreach support services using culturally appropriate and best practice approaches,” Minister for Women’s Policy Bess Price.

“The success of the Strategy, and ensuring the safety of women and children, is the close partnership between non-government organisations and government.”

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