TERRITORY LABOR TO HALVE SUICIDE RATES IN 10 YEARS

Territory Labor Shadow Minister for Mental Health, Lauren Moss, pledged to halve the rate of suicide within the next 10 years in the Northern Territory.

As part of Territory Labor’s plan, we will:

- Fund 30 nurses and 15 Aboriginal family support workers to roll out the Nurse Family Partnership program supporting more than 500 children and their families, supporting perinatal mental health of mothers and early childhood development.

- Work with the Commonwealth to secure a headspace service in Katherine for young people with early onset psychosis. Katherine has been identified as an area of need and we will commit $150,000 towards the establishment of the service.

- Provide $3 million to trial the implementation of the Housing Accommodation Support Initiative in Darwin, a partnership between the Department of Health, the Department of Housing and the NGO sector to provide support services. This trial will provide support and stability of tenancy to up to 200 people each year.

- Partner with the tertiary education sector to offer 10 postgraduate scholarships per year for registered nurses and enrolled nurses who would like to specialise in mental health nursing.

- Work with local communities and Aboriginal community controlled health organisations to improve identification and early response to the needs of people of people in community.

“These measures are vitally important to reducing a person’s risk of suicide and supporting families and communities in response to a suicide.

“Territory Labor recognises that there is significant pressure on our inpatient facilities, so Territory Labor will pilot the Housing Accommodation Support Initiative that will provide funding for the NGO sector to support up to 200 people with a mental illness within public housing.

“This is an evidence based program that can dramatically reduce readmission to hospital for patients, improve their quality of life by staying well, and that of their neighbours by having their mental health better managed with greater NGO support. It's a simple program and extremely effective.”

Labor will ensure greater inclusion of the voices of those with lived experience in policy and service design and delivery.
Territory Labor will also provide scholarships to support mental health specialisation by registered and enrolled nurses and for Aboriginal Health Practitioners and Aboriginal Community Workers to specialise in mental health support and care.

Costings for Territory Labor’s policy are as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Initiatives</th>
<th>$m 16/17</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nurse Family Partnerships</td>
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<td>Securing headspace for Katherine</td>
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** All other initiatives to be funded from within existing resources

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