24 July 2007

Fighting For Increased Disability Funding

Attending the Community and Disability Services Ministers’ Conference, Ms Lawrie will join her State and Territory colleagues tomorrow to call on the Commonwealth to increase funding for disability services around Australia.

Ms Lawrie said she wants to see a real commitment from the Commonwealth Government to improve services to people with a disability.

“The Territory Government is spending an extra $25 million on disability services, the Commonwealth must do the same.”

“In the Territory, we especially need new funding to get services out to remote communities where many Indigenous Territorians with disability need new services to provide a basic quality of life.”

“The Territory Government has already committed an extra $8.8 million to disability services in remote areas, if the Commonwealth Government is serious about reform in Aboriginal Communities it must match the funding” said Ms Lawrie

Child protection will also be on the agenda with all Governments expected to discuss a proposed national awareness campaign.

The conference will also provide the first opportunity for Minister Mal Brough to outline how the Commonwealth plans to change welfare payments across the Territory.

“For a long time the Northern Territory Government has been calling for change to the welfare system but we need to see the detail and a long term commitment” said Ms Lawrie.

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