RECORD TERRITORY POPULATION SURGE

The Northern Territory’s population has surged to a record 200,449 people – the highest level ever and the first time it has gone above 200,000, Chief Minister Clare Martin said today.

Ms Martin said our population was growing at a rate of 0.84% - faster than the projected rate of 0.3%. She said the growth rate was anticipated to continue to rise to over 1%.

In the year to the September quarter 2004, the Territory’s population rose by 1655 people – this doesn’t include around 200 babies that weren’t counted due to a technical error.

“The September quarter figures show overseas migration remaining strong and the natural birth rate continuing to rise, while the interstate migration rate is improving,” Ms Martin said.

“These latest figures are a great result and proof that the Territory is really moving ahead.

“They also show that the Territory Government’s efforts to build our economy and attract more people here are working.

“The Territory Government will continue to work to attract more people to live and work here by marketing the Territory overseas and interstate, investing heavily in our economy, continuing with our skilled migration program and supporting our great lifestyle.”

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