Territory parents are being invited to assist in the development of a new resource kit to help children respond to emergencies at home.

Family and Community Services Minister Marion Scrymgour said the kit aims to help families develop a unique Family Safety Plan should their children be required to act alone in a time of crisis.

“You never know when an accident or emergency could happen,” Ms Scrymgour said. “A parent could collapse at home, or something could go wrong when a child is waiting for parents to come home from work.

“This kit will provide a guide for families to work out safe and effective ways for children to respond if necessary.”

Ms Scrymgour said the NT Government had committed in the lead-up to the last election to broadening the level of parenting support to all Territorians.

She said the kit, along with last year’s launch of Parentline, the NT Families Website and the opening of the new Office of Children and Families, affirmed the Government’s commitment to strengthening families.

“We are also highlighting this commitment by injecting a record $53 million into children’s protection services over the next five years to completely overhaul and rebuild the system.”

The Office of Children and Families is keen to hear from parents who may be using strategies to help their children stay safe at home, or whose children may have already been required to act in an urgent situation.

“We’d like to know what families are doing already - what has worked for them and what hasn't,” Ms Scrymgour said.

Parents wanting to contribute to the Safety Plan Project can contact 8999 2798 or e-mail families@nt.gov.au to pass on their experiences and suggestions

Contact: Maria Billias 0401 119 746