Innovative domestic violence program to tour the Territory

An award-winning program which uses life-like puppets to tell stories about the effects of domestic violence and abuse on children will tour throughout the Territory from today.

Minister for Health and Community Services Jane Aagaard said the Jannawi Kids Territory Tour provided local community service workers and educators with an invaluable opportunity to enhance their skills and ability to respond to children and families who have experienced violence, abuse and neglect.

"The Government has contributed around $25,000 to bring this innovative program to the Territory for the first time," Mrs Aagaard said.

"The one-day workshops are free of charge and provide an opportunity for workers in therapeutic, welfare and education contacts to gain knowledge and skills to assist children to resolve the effects of domestic violence.

"It includes stories and activities which provide a structured approach to working with 5-12 year old children, parents and extended family members.

"The response to the tour has been overwhelming, with more than 260 people booked to attend workshops in Darwin, Katherine, Nhulunbuy, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

"These include staff from the Department of Health and Community Services, teachers, child care workers, women’s refuge staff, staff from Indigenous organisations and Correctional Services."

The Jannawi resources, including workbooks and videos featuring the Jannawi Kids, received a National Violence Prevention Award in 2001.

It was developed by Ms Chris Burke, Director of the Jannawi Family Centre, a Sydney-based child protection service which aims to reduce incidence of child abuse, neglect and domestic violence.