17 March 2006

DISABILITY SERVICES REVIEW – TENDER AWARDED

A tender has been awarded for the independent review of disability services in the Northern Territory.

Family and Community Services Minister, Delia Lawrie, said the Territory Government is spending $51.2 million on disability services this year and is pleased the review is happening.

“When I came into this job, a full review of disability services was high on my list of actions – it is a service that assists some of those most in need in our community,” said Ms Lawrie.

The Minister said the successful tenderer, KPMG, will review all programs and services provided or funded by Northern Territory Government departments, as well as the program policy that underpins such services.

The review process will begin in April and will run for nine months.

The Disability Advisory Council welcomes the review.

“I am hopeful this review will identify any problems and provide clear solutions so we can improve services for people with a disability in the Northern Territory”, said Daphne Read, Chair of the Disability Advisory Council.

KPMG is highly qualified to undertake this review. They have successfully completed complex and systematic reviews of this nature before, and have a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of disability best practice, including current national and international policy trends.

“This comprehensive review won’t affect the current initiatives that are underway as we don’t want to stop the good things that are happening now”, said Ms Lawrie.

“This is an important step in providing high quality, equitable services to promote health, independence and wellbeing of people of all ages living with disabilities across the Northern Territory.”

KPMG will meet and talk with all relevant stakeholders including carers, service providers and advocacy groups right across the Territory and will publicise where and how the public can have input into the process.

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