AFLNT TIWI ISLANDS TEAM SPREADS MESSAGE OF HOPE TO HELP PREVENT SUICIDE

The new AFLNT Tiwi Islands football team will carry an important health message on their football guernseys as part of sponsorship from the Northern Territory Government.

Minister for Family and Community Services, Delia Lawrie, said the $10,000 sponsorship for the Tiwi Islands team is aimed at preventing suicide across the Territory.

“The Territory Government is proud to be committing $10,000 to support the team and help prevent suicide,” said Ms Lawrie.

“The slogan, Tiwi for Life, will be displayed on the back of the players’ jumpers to promote improving the mental and physical wellbeing of the Tiwi people.

“This message will be followed up with school-based mental health prevention programs which will be promoted by the new Tiwi Islands team entering the competition.

“We are all aware that the Tiwi Islands has over the past few years experienced the tragedy of suicide, however the Tiwi people have worked hard to develop a holistic approach to combat this issue, which combines both physical and mental wellbeing and input from the whole of the community.”

The Minister said the partnership with the AFLNT and the Tiwi Storm is part of an on-going investment by the Northern Territory Government in mental health that has seen funding rise by 136 per cent to $32m in 06/07.

“I’m very pleased to support these young men, who’ve already shown their skills to the wider Darwin community. I hope they continue the good form they have recently displayed in the lead-up to the start of the footy season,” said Ms Lawrie.

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