NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

Clare Martin

CHIEF MINISTER

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REPORT SUPPORTS NEED FOR GENERATIONAL CHANGE

The findings of the third Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Report has reinforced the need for a generational approach to tackling Aboriginal issues in the NT.

Chief Minister Clare Martin said the report shows we are making progress – but there is still a lot of work to do.

“We know there are big challenges – this report sets out the size of what we face - and we’re working hard to improve the lives of Aboriginal people,” Ms Martin said.

“Just about every indicator shows that Aboriginal Territorians are well below the national average in terms of Aboriginal disadvantage.

“That’s why we’re developing a generational plan – we want to achieve a major turnaround in outcomes for Aboriginal Territorians over the next 20 years.”

We are making some progress:

• Falling rates of infant mortality
• Increasing numbers of Aboriginal Year 12 graduates

The NT Government will continue to tackle Aboriginal issues head-on:
• Committed an extra $100 million over the next five years for Indigenous housing
• A new local government model that will improve governance and service delivery
• The continued expansion of secondary education in the bush
• Further rollout of innovative approaches to alcohol
• Working with Commonwealth to strengthen police presence in communities
• Continued expansion of renal services - extra $24.4 million over the next four years
• A strong maternal and child health program – including $2.2 million annually for our Child Health Initiative

"The issues of Aboriginal disadvantage are complex and difficult – and the way forward is for everybody to work together."

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