Minister for Family and Community Services, Delia Lawrie, today announced that the Government has given the Central Australian community of Papunya approval to introduce a Volatile Substance Abuse Management Plan.

The Plan allows the community to control the availability of sniffable petrol in the Papunya township and surrounding outstations.

"Under the Government’s new petrol sniffing laws, management plans are implemented within approved areas agreed to by communities," Minister Lawrie said.

"This allows community decisions about the possession and supply of petrol and other volatile substances to be enforceable under Territory law."

The introduction of the plan follows a visit to Papunya last year by Minister Lawrie with local member Alison Anderson to talk about tackling petrol sniffing.

"Papunya has suffered from petrol sniffing for many years. Since being elected 18 months ago Alison Anderson has worked hard with the community to try and stop the scourge of petrol sniffing," Minister Lawrie said.

"In Papunya I was able to see how the new laws that ban sniffing and provide for compulsory treatment are working in conjunction with the rollout of Opal to stop sniffing."

"However, the Papunya community is not being complacent and the new management plan will help them continue to ensure that Papunya remains free of petrol sniffing," Minister Lawrie said.

Finalisation of the Management Plan and implementation of the regulations is expected to occur in the near future.

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