26 January 2012

More Child Care Places Secured in Alice Springs

An additional 10 long day care places have been approved for Alice Springs Child Care Centres.

Minister for Central Australia Karl Hampton said the increase in child care places in long day care centres should help to ease the burden for families.

“As well, Alice Springs Family Day Care Scheme have recruited and trained a number of new Family Day Care Educators with a future induction scheduled for February 2012. This will also contribute to an increased number of child care places being available in Family Day Care.

“The recently introduced National Quality Framework (NQF) could also potentially see 19 additional Long Day Care places being approved in Alice Springs, due to changes in the existing regulations.

“We know child care is a big issue in Alice Springs.

“That’s why I and Minister for Education Dr Chris Burns recently wrote to Federal Minister for Early Childhood and Child Care Kate Ellis seeking support for initiatives to address the shortage.

“That letter, along with strong efforts from the community and Alice Springs Town Council led to a $50 000 grant for a scoping study to enable us to provide the evidence we need to secure more child care places.

The NT Government is the only jurisdiction to offer a subsidy for Child Care, to offset the cost of child care for working families. In 2010-11, the Northern Territory Government spent $4.2 million on the subsidy.

The Territory Government has also introduced 200 scholarships under a $4 million scholarship plan to assist child care providers to create a stronger early childhood workforce.

“Ultimately, Child Care is a federal issue, and the Territory Government is working very hard with all levels of government to secure quality child care for Alice Springs.

Contact: Gino Luglietti 0401 119 794