Children and Families Minister Kon Vatskalis today launched Children’s Week in Darwin, announcing the creation of a new position to work directly with the NT Council of Social Services (NTCOSS) as part of the NT Government’s response to the Growing Them Strong, Together report.

Mr Vatskalis said the NT Government-funded newly created position of Child and Family Development Advisor will work within NTCOSS – created directly in response to the Board of Inquiry recommendations handed down last week.

“The theme for this year’s Children’s Week is ‘Listen Carefully to the Voices of Children’, which is fundamental in our endeavours to enhance the wellbeing of our children,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“This theme is very timely with the release of the Board’s report and as the Government begins working together across departments and with non-government organisations to implement the Board’s recommendations.

“There certainly hasn’t been a more important time to listen to the voices of our children.”

Mr Vatskalis said the new role will work to build on a collaborative relationship between the Department and the community sector. It will assist in identifying the roles and resources needed of community organisations, in particular Indigenous organisations, in a new child protection system.

“The NT Government has begun to act on the Board of Inquiry recommendations immediately, including injecting an additional $130 million into the system over five years and employing an additional 42 professional child protection workers.

“We are also providing immediate support to the non government sector for improved family support and intervention services – and this has started already with the creation of this new position.”

Mr Vatskalis today also announced $20 000 in micro-grants for NAPCAN to run Children’s Week events across the NT this week.

A complete listing of all Children’s Week events can be found on the DHF website www.health.nt.gov.au

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