Media Statement

Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

**Malaysian Airlines Memorial Service**

7 August 2014

Flags will be flying at half-mast across the Northern Territory today in memory of the 298 people who died in last month’s Malaysia Airlines crash in Ukraine.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those touched by this tragedy that is still being played out on the other side of the globe.

This is a truly international disaster and sadly the Territory has not been immune from its terrible reach.

Many tears have already been shed for Palmerston public servants Theresa and Wayne Baker, as well as Maningrida school teacher Emma Bell, who all died in the tragedy.

Today’s National Day of Mourning and Memorial Service are an opportunity to pause and reflect on their passing, as well as the pain being felt by families of other victims right around the world.

The downing of MH17 is a despicable act and I again implore those on the ground to provide investigators with safe access to the crash site.

I know Australian authorities will not rest until they have done everything in their power to hold those responsible to account.

Condolence books are still available at Parliament House in Darwin, the Alice Springs Town Council and at the office of the Member for Brennan at the Palmerston Shopping Centre.

A book has also been sent to Maningrida for locals there to sign in honour of Emma Bell.

These books will be available for members of the public to sign until a condolence motion in the Territory Assembly on 19 August. They will then be given to the victims’ families.

I would like to remind relatives and colleagues of those who have died that the Territory Government is providing counselling to assist them through this difficult time. I encourage those impacted by this tragedy to consider taking up this offer of professional support.

Today’s service will be broadcast live on the ABC at 10am.

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