Palmerston Child and Family Centre Officially Opened

Many young families are expected to benefit from the increased provision of childcare services in the Palmerston area as the Child and Family Centre is officially opened.

The Palmerston Child and Family Centre provides a place for families, the community and local agencies to support the development of young children.

The centre is purpose-built to cater for a range of services and programs including early childhood education, health services, family wellbeing, adult education and capacity building. The Palmerston Child and Family centre was constructed as part of the National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development.

I opened the facility with Federal Member for Solomon Natasha Griggs, as the Australian Government provided $5 million to the facility. The Country Liberals Government will provide ongoing funding for the centre at an estimated cost of $350,000 per annum.

Under management from Gray Primary School and in partnership with Child Australia, the Palmerston Child and Family Centre offers 50 long day care places to vulnerable and disadvantaged Palmerston families through the early learning centre.

The centre will provide support mainly to Indigenous children and parents in the Palmerston area through child wellbeing, parenting and family services.

Tiger Brennan Drive transformation continues

Development on Tiger Brennan Drive continues to advance with the contract awarded for an off ramp extension aimed at improving road safety.

The contract was awarded to local Yarrawonga contractor, DAC Enterprises Pty Ltd for $1.8 million.

This extension will improve traffic flow and operations at the Tiger Brennan Drive/Stuart Highway interchange. Roystonea Avenue off ramp will be extended by approximately 525 metres as well as earthworks, drainage, pavement, asphaltaling, street lighting, and landscaping works.

The Tiger Brennan Drive duplication project is part of a number of improvements and enhancements to Palmerston arterial roads to complement over $1 billion of investment and development in and around Palmerston.

Once completed, the Tiger Brennan Drive off ramp will allow for a greater volume of traffic in the future and will make the drive from Darwin to Palmerston safer.

For further information on Government tenders advertised and awarded please visit: https://tendersonline.nt.gov.au/Tender/ListCurrent.

Let’s talk Health

Top End Health Service Board is currently in the process of establishing Regional Community Advisory Groups across the Top End.

The Board are holding Community Meetings in Palmerston and Darwin as a great opportunity for you to be introduced to the Regional Community Advisory Groups and other community engagement being established by Top End Health Service:

- Palmerston - 21 September 2015, 5.30 pm, new Rydges Hotel, 15 Maluka Street
- Darwin - 24 September 2015, 5.30 pm, Casuarina Library Meeting Room, Bradshaw Terrace.

For further information please contact Top End Health Service Board Executive Officer on phone 8922 7912.

Extra time to submit your views on the new Education Act

Time has been extended for you to have your say on the draft Education Bill as the current 35 year old Education Act continues its comprehensive makeover.

The phase two consultation on the Reform of the Education Act will be extended until the end of Term 3, 2015.

The aim of the draft Education Bill is to support a flexible education system and contemporary legislative framework to deal with current and future issues affecting school education in the Territory for the next 20-30 years.

You can complete the online survey at www.education.nt.gov.au, provide comments by post: GPO Box 4821 Darwin NT 0801, email: legislation.services@nt.gov.au or phone to the Department of Education Legislation Services Team on (08) 8901 4990.

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Have your say on the future development of our roads and bridges

The Department of Transport is calling for community and industry groups to have their input into the draft Roads and Bridges Strategy before Monday 14 September 2015.

Submissions from industry stakeholders are welcome by emailing submissions to projects.tipd@nt.gov.au


Ramping up Public Transport safety

As Minister for Transport, I am committed to keeping public transport in the Territory as safe as possible for Territorians.

I spent one Friday evening riding the service across the Darwin and Palmerston region, and met with a number of security officers, bus drivers and transport staff.

Budget 2015 commits to making bus safety a priority by providing more than $1 million in additional funding to improve security on the Greater Darwin bus network.

The ongoing funding will provide for a range of enhancements that will continue to reassure commuters and restore community confidence in the Northern Territory’s public transport system.

Measures include:
- Security patrols at interchanges
- Additional safety alarms in buses
- An additional transit safety officer patrol team
- An additional patrol vehicle
- Better quality training for our drivers
- CCTV enhancements on buses and at interchanges.

As a result of a comprehensive strategic review, twenty five recommendations were approved by the Northern Territory Government for immediate implementation. 23 of these recommendations are now completed or are embedded in normal operations. Two have begun and will be completed during 2015.