Dale Wakefield
Minister for Territory Families

**White Ribbon Day: Territory Families says systemic change needed to tackle scourge of domestic violence**

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Territory Families Minister Dale Wakefield says systemic change is needed to curb domestic violence in the Northern Territory.

Minister Wakefield made the comments at the White Ribbon Breakfast in Darwin today.

She spoke alongside Top End media personality and NO MORE campaign founder Charlie King, and NT Police Commissioner Reece Kershaw.

The trio later joined Chief Minister Michael Gunner and other Cabinet Ministers for the Darwin White Ribbon March at Raintree Park.

“Systemic change is needed to stop the path that so many find themselves on,” Minister Wakefield said. “That path is well-known to those working in the sector – victims experience domestic violence, unjustifiably in contact with the criminal justice system, and possibly experience mental health issues and homelessness,” Minister Wakefield said.

“The Territory Government is committed to stopping this cycle of disadvantage with the whole of life, whole of community approach we are taking.”

Minister Wakefield said the Territory Government is committed to building sustainable, long-term relationships with the NGO sector, particularly through five-year funding agreements.

“This will enable the NT Government and NGO sector to have greater capacity to partner to tackle the many social challenges that face the Territory,” she said.

Minister Wakefield spoke about the White Ribbon campaign in the Legislative Assembly earlier this week. She noted how the movement was started by a group of men horrified at the massacre of 14 female students by a fellow student at a Canadian university.

It has since become a worldwide campaign.

“I think it is remarkable that the White Ribbon has residence in the Northern Territory, even quite remote parts in the Northern Territory, because we are a long way from a Canadian university,” Minister Wakefield said.
“I think it also shows the power of grassroots campaigns to spread around the world. This is a campaign that was started by a handful of men and it is now an international, well-supported campaign,” she said.

The Chief Minister and Minister Wakefield praised Charlie King for his advocacy on domestic violence. “We have the start of such a powerful campaign right here in the Territory with Charlie King’s No More campaign. It shows you that when someone decides to stand up and make a difference they can,” Minister Wakefield said.

Chief Minister Michael Gunner and Territory Families Minister Dale Wakefield at the White Ribbon March in Darwin