BUILDING THE FUTURE FOR TERRITORY FAMILIES

Budget 2006 builds a strong future for Territory families with tax cuts, record investments in health and community services, more support for education and skills development and a safer community, said Families Minister Delia Lawrie.

“The Budget also creates jobs and grows our economy to benefit families,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The Territory is a great place to raise children and the Government is working hard to provide families with better services, and put more money back in their pockets.”

BUILDING THE FUTURE WITH BETTER HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Government is committed to helping Territory families have strong futures by building better health and community services.

Budget 2006 includes a record $788.6 million for Health and Community Services, including more money for hospitals and better resources for health personnel.

“I am particularly pleased that this year the Government is delivering our key family focussed election commitments,” Ms Lawrie said.

Highlights include:

- $8.2 million for Pensioner Concessions
- more than $1 million to extend pensioner concessions to Commonwealth Carer Card holders, in line with a 2005 election commitment
- $3.6 million to subsidise child care, making it more affordable for families
- $500 000 for playground equipment at not-for-profit child care centres - another 2005 election commitment
- $200 000 for a new Family Support Service in the Barkly region
- $450 000 to support people with ageing-related and disability issues to return home to remote communities after hospital stays
- an extra $230 000 ongoing for Child Ear Health programs - as promised in the June 2005 election
- more support for mental health services, with $500 000 for a new Central Australian Mental Health Crisis Assessment Service, and an extra $500 000 to provide 24-hour support for people with mental illnesses and their families
BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR FAMILIES WITH STRONG SERVICES

A record education budget of $630.7 million will back Territory families by helping our children lift their literacy and numeracy outcomes.

$84 million for training and employment programs will provide families with strong employment opportunities.

$212 million for Police, Fire and Emergency services resulting in extra police will make the Territory a safer place for our families.

“The Territory Government is helping Territory families to build a strong future. Budget 2006 is a family friendly budget,” Ms Lawrie said.

Contact: Nikola Lekias 0438 323 660