

## Domestic and Family Violence

- **Coordination of the Domestic and Aboriginal Family Violence Strategies**
- **Increase in education and prevention programs on domestic and family violence**
- **Extend the Strong Family, Strong Community Strong Community project**
- **Importance of Domestic and Family violence perpetrators programs**
- **Increase in the provision of legal services to women**
- **Lack of safe houses in the Katherine region.**

## What the Northern Territory Government is doing

### *Coordination of the Domestic and Aboriginal Family Violence Strategies*

- The Domestic and Aboriginal Family Violence Strategies were launched in 2002. A community-based Domestic and Aboriginal Family Violence Advisory Council and Interdepartmental Committee of Government agencies have been created to coordinate and monitor the Strategies. These bodies report to the Crime Prevention Committee and Ministerial Council on Crime Prevention.
- Further information about the Strategies and the work of the Advisory Council can be accessed at the Department of Chief Minister's website: [www.dcm.nt.gov.au](http://www.dcm.nt.gov.au)

### *Education and prevention programs on domestic and family violence*

- The *Let's Stop it...now* campaign that has run over the past two years urges people to take action if they see, hear or experience domestic violence, family violence and sexual assault. This message has been broadcast on television and in Indigenous language on local radio stations. An evaluation of the *Lets Stop it...now* campaign will be undertaken prior to planning for future community education campaigns.

- An educational kit for teenagers was developed by the Office of Women's Policy. *Stop it...before it starts!* It is designed to raise awareness among young people about healthy relationships. This package has been distributed to all secondary schools in the Northern Territory.
- Fact sheets on domestic violence and intervention orders have been developed. These are being distributed to service providers who come into contact with clients who are experiencing domestic and family violence.

### **Extend the Strong Family, Strong Community, Strong Future project**

- The *Strong Family, Strong Community, Strong Future* project is a key part of the Government's Aboriginal Family Violence Strategy. \$500,000 per year has been allocated to this trial project, which combines family strengthening and community development approaches.
- The project is run in three regions that include North Darwin, Alice Springs West and Katherine East. For more information, call Emma Williams on 8999 5176.

### **Perpetrator programs**

- The Department of Justice runs a number of prison-based programs that target offenders of domestic and family violence. These include alcohol and other drug treatment programs and anger management programs. The NT legal framework also requires perpetrators to undertake education programs.
- Research in Australia on the effectiveness of perpetrator education programs is not conclusive. Research and evaluation indicates that not all perpetrators are responsive to programs. For this reason it is important that perpetrators are assessed for their suitability to undertake a program.
- Correctional Services runs the Indigenous Family Violence program in the Darwin prison. This intensive program runs over 12 weeks. It aims to reinforce that family violence is a crime and is not acceptable behaviour. The program challenges the attitudes that allow violence and abuse to occur.
- Correctional Services, in conjunction with Tangentyre Council, offers the "Family Well Being Program" to Indigenous offenders in the Alice Springs Correction Centre. The program aims to identify factors that contribute to family violence. It provides training on problem solving and relationship skills to help men develop greater control in their own lives.
- The Interdepartmental Committee on Domestic and Family Violence Strategies has identified the need for a co-ordinated approach to perpetrator programs.

### **Legal services for women**

- For legal assistance in Katherine, the following services are available:

- Katherine Women's Information and Legal Service 8972 1712
- Katherine Aboriginal Family Support Unit 8972 3200
- Katherine Women's Crisis Centre 8972 1332
- Rape Crisis Services, Sexual Assault and DV Counsellor 8972 1733
- Sommerville Youth and Family Services 8971 1107

## Safe houses in the Katherine Region

- Territory Housing provides public housing for the general community and priority access is given to those women that are at risk of homelessness. Territory Housing also provide bond assistance which can help women access the private rental market.
- The Supported Accommodation Assistance Program is a jointly funded NT and Commonwealth program which provides support and accommodation to homeless and potentially homeless people, including women and children escaping domestic and family violence.
- The Supported Accommodation Assistance Program funded services in the Katherine region include Katherine Community Accommodation and Support Program (Anglicare Top End), Katherine Women's Crisis Centre and Katherine Family Link (Centacare).