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\$18 million to reduce domestic and family violence

Friday, 19 September 2014 Media release

Minister Assisting The Prime Minister For Women, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash

Northern Territory Minister for Women's Policy, The Hon Bess Price

The Federal and Northern Territory Governments are providing \$18 million towards the Northern Territory Government's *Domestic and Family Violence Reduction Strategy 2014-2017*: *Safety is Everyone's Right* (Strategy).

The Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women, Senator the Hon. Michaelia Cash, and Northern Territory Minister for Women's Policy, the Hon Bess Price, said the investment would facilitate the implementation of a Territory-wide strategy.

"Domestic and family violence is an entrenched and devastating problem in some of the Northern Territory's Aboriginal communities, with severe physical, emotional and financial impacts, particularly for women and children," Minister Cash said.

"Under the Strategy, community leaders will be engaged to help develop local solutions to stop the violence.

"The Strategy will establish an integrated system of individual and local responses to improve the safety of women and children, as well as make perpetrators responsible for their actions and support them to change their offending behaviour.

"The Australian Government will continue to work with the Northern Territory Government to make Indigenous communities safer places for people to live, learn and work." Minister Price said Indigenous women were 31 times more likely than non-Indigenous women to be hospitalised due to family violence.

"The safety and wellbeing of children is of particular concern in families that experience violence. We must work to protect children and break the cycle of domestic violence in the community," Minister Price said.

"The *Domestic and Family Violence Reduction Strategy* will work to address, reduce and prevent the unacceptably high level of domestic violence in the Northern Territory."

The Federal Government has committed \$6 million over two years and the Northern Territory Government is providing \$12 million over the life of the Strategy.

The Australian Government's investment in the *Domestic and Family*Violence Reduction Strategy builds on its existing initiatives aimed at improving Indigenous community safety in the Northern Territory including:

- A \$4.1 million investment in 2014-15 to support women's safe houses;
- \$68.1 million in 2014-15 for remote policing, night patrols, additional legal assistance, and a continuation of support for Australian Federal Police involvement in the Child Abuse Taskforce, as part of the National Partnership Agreement on Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory; and
- A \$2.5 million investment announced in the 2014-15 Budget to extend the Community Engagement Police Officer programme for four more years.

In June of this year, the Government launched the Second Action Plan under the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children, which is a comprehensive Australian-wide response to the national problem of domestic violence.

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