



MEDIA RELEASE

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Many children left behind in Budget

Today's budget was disappointing for vulnerable children and families across the NT, despite the Treasurer saying this budget was to secure the future for our children.

There will be around 8 million dollars less going to the Department of Children and Families which in real terms is a 7.2% cut for the next financial year.

Government had the opportunity to really change the future for so many territory children by addressing the effects of poverty and disadvantage. All of the research says the investment should be in the early years and supporting families. Government acknowledges that the number of children entering the child protection system is rising yet the investment in early intervention has decreased.

Those struggling to afford their rent or find somewhere to live were not mentioned in today's budget and social housing stock are dropping. The sector is also concerned about the ongoing ability of the NT Government to deliver the promised 2000 properties under the NRAS scheme. We welcome the release of additional land for new housing.

The Government has been consulting widely to develop their Domestic and Family Violence Reduction Strategy which has been welcomed by all. However it was disappointing that there appears to be no budget allocation toward the implementation of the strategy.

There is a lack of focus on early intervention right across all areas including alcohol, youth, children and families and housing. Creating a strong future for all means we must ensure that those who are most vulnerable are provided with the necessary supports at an early stage. To focus on the crisis end of areas such as child protection and youth crime will not prevent more people entering the system and will have a greater social and economic cost.

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