

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Territory Families

#### Kinship Carers

What extra funding and programs are you providing to assist in identifying kinship carers at an early stage?

---

#### ANSWER:

The Northern Territory Government has committed to \$5.4 million in 2018-19 to recruit and support Aboriginal Kinship and Foster Carers with a focus on:

- improving the delivery of Foster and Kinship Care training;
- increasing the use of interpreters for planning and reunification; and
- partnering with Aboriginal controlled organisations to increase the number and proportion of Aboriginal children in care placed with Aboriginal carers, for which \$4.2 million has been allocated.

Examples of this work include:

1. The Mikan Child Protection Reference Group (Mikan) in Nhulunbuy was established in 2017 to support Aboriginal people to work in partnership with Territory Families to improve practice, protect children and support families to keep local children connected with their culture and community. Mikan can receive referrals from Territory Families and help to identify family connections and potential Kinship Carers.
2. Partnership with the Tangentyere Council in Alice Springs to help to find suitable Kinship Care placements for Aboriginal children in care, support potential carers to navigate the application and assessment process, and improve knowledge and understanding about Kinship Care in the community.

The Carer Support Services within Territory Families is focussed on enhancing their work in remote communities. This work provides education and support for potential Aboriginal Kinship and Foster Carers to become registered, enabling Aboriginal children to remain within their communities wherever possible.