

MEDIA RELEASE- GERRY WOOD

Council of Territory Co-operation – Public Hearings

**CHILD PROTECTION REFORMS ON MORNING OF 29 JUNE 2011
&
ANIMAL WELFARE GOVERNANCE ON AFTERNOON OF 29 JUNE
AND ALL DAY ON 30 JUNE 2011**

Tomorrow the Council of Territory Co-operation resumes its work examining how well the implementation the NT Government's new Child Protection Framework is going. Gerry Wood said today "he is most interested to hear from Mike Burgess, who oversees the reforms implementation as the head of CEO's Taskforce, about what progress has been made to ensure all agencies involved are engaging with the reforms."

"One of the key challenges in making this work for families and kids in the NT is to have all agencies working together and more importantly working closely with the non-government organisations. Something which did not happen in past" Gerry Wood said.

Another focus of the CTC will be on where the new child protection staff are being employed, what training they receive and if the culture within in the new Department of Children and Families is changing. Gerry Wood says "The culture needs to change to make the reforms a success. The Department need to engage directly with non-government sector so they become partners in the reform program". Clare Gardiner-Barnes the CEO of the Department will be giving an update of what is happening in her Department.

Tomorrow afternoon and again all day on Thursday the sub-committee on Animal Welfare Governance will hold its first public hearing looking at the appropriateness and effectiveness of the NT Animal Welfare Act. The sub-committee will also be exploring the processes and procedures adopted by Department of Resources, Department of Housing Local Government and Regional Services in dealing with recent investigation into animal welfare issues.

The CTC and the sub-committee welcome attendance by interested members of public or organisations. Details are attached.

For comment please contact Gerry Wood Chair of CTC on 0428 698 027.

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