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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **NT Legislation: need for detail and collaboration**

Anglicare Australia has today called on the Federal Government to provide a detailed and sustainable plan on how its Northern Territory legislation will be implemented.

At its annual three-day conference being held in Darwin, Executive Director Kasy Chambers said that efforts to tackle the severity and widespread nature of the problems of child sexual abuse and community breakdown in Indigenous communities required a 20 year plan, not merely five years.

"We need a 15-20 year plan which looks at the provision of education, housing, retaining the cultural identities of communities and creating employment opportunities that maintain and grow existing local business," said Ms Chambers.

The Anglicare Australia conference has today heard from a number of Indigenous speakers:

**Olga Havnen**, Coordinator, Combined Aboriginal Organisations of the NT spoke about the damage NT intervention will have on reconciliation and the legislation's immediate impact:

"We are seeing an increased displacement of people moving from remote areas into the bigger towns. Women and children are joining homeless men in the Long Grass of Darwin, becoming vulnerable to violence and abuse."

**Emma Burchill** with Cape York Partnerships told delegates about the positive work of her organisation which aims to grow an individual's capacity to choose a life that they value.

"The ingredients of sustainable change are community input, inclusive leaders and giving people an opportunity to trial new things," said Ms Burchill.

By contrast with the federal takeover of NT communities, the Cape York approach has been based on consultation, offering choice and ensuring communities have some form of self determination.

The conference has stated its strong support for Indigenous peoples of the territory as they come to terms with the effects of the legislation. Anglicare agencies are committed to continue working for and alongside the indigenous peoples of Australia and liaising collaboratively with the Commonwealth about its plans.

The Anglicare Australia conference has brought together more than a hundred delegates from every state and territory of Australia and from associate organisations in New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

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