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DFSV Commissioner calls for more to be done after recent spike in domestic and family violence-related deaths in Northern Territory

Commissioner Micaela Cronin calls for more to be done to support First Nations communities experiencing domestic and family violence, following a number of deaths in the Top End.

Media have reported that Northern Territory Police are investigating seven alleged domestic and family violence-related deaths in the state since June. We understand all those allegedly killed are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and the vast majority are women, including one sistagirl. In addition, media have reported two serious but non-fatal domestic and family violence-related attacks since September.

"I am horrified at the ongoing domestic and family violence-related deaths and life-threatening attacks we have seen in the Northern Territory in recent months.

"The total population of the Northern Territory is about the same as Hobart, and less than that of Geelong. If we had experienced the loss of seven people to family violence in one regional town in four months, the whole country would be outraged.

"My heart goes out to the families and communities who are grieving.

"We are committed to listening to, and working alongside, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to better understand the drivers of violence and the solutions needed to end gender-based violence," said Commissioner Cronin.

The DFSV Commission convened crisis talks into murdered and missing women in May 2024 following a number of high-profile deaths and alleged murders in the first half of the year. In these talks attendees highlighted the disproportionate rates in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are murdered or are disappeared. This was also the subject of the Missing and murdered First Nations women and children Senate Inquiry, who recently tabled their report. These deaths are often overlooked and invisible in Australia, with limited or no coverage or investigation.

"Despite national attention on domestic and family violence, the tragic deaths that have occurred in the Northern Territory demonstrate that we need to do more," said Commissioner Cronin.

"The violence of these deaths, perpetrated primarily against First Nations women, is extremely distressing.

"Addressing healing and recovery alongside accountability through community-led solutions must be prioritised."

The Commissioner noted that the new Northern Territory Government committed \$180 million over five years prior to the election.



“Assistant Commissioner Jenna Roberts and I will be visiting the Northern Territory in the first week of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and will be seeking meetings with the Northern Territory Government,” said Commissioner Cronin.

“I look forward to working together to determine how we can best support the Territory’s families, communities, and frontline workforce to stop these needless deaths.”

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Feeling worried or no good? No shame, no judgement, safe place to yarn. Speak to a 13YARN Crisis Supporter, call 13 92 76. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If you or someone you know is experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, domestic, family or sexual violence, call 1800RESPECT on 1800 737 732, chat online via www.1800RESPECT.org.au, or text 0458 737 732.

If you are concerned about your behaviour or use of violence, you can contact the Men’s Referral Service on 1300 766 491 or visit www.ntv.org.au.