

STATEMENT

26 JULY 2016

ABC FOUR CORNERS PROGRAM

“Anglicare NT is deeply disturbed by reports in last night’s Four Corners program”, said Dave Pugh, Anglicare NT CEO.

“The appalling treatment of young people we witnessed in the program represents a failure in systems, leadership and values by the NT Government, the Minister for Corrections, the Department of Corrections and the broader community”.

“We are committed to the fullness of life for all people and the deep expression of respect and fairness in our communities and institutions”.

“We welcome and fully support Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull’s call and Chief Minister Adam Giles support for a Royal Commission. We encourage the Government to move quickly to confirm the Terms of Reference but urge that the Royal Commission has a brief that is broad enough to investigate these systematic failures”.

“Separate to the Royal Commission, it is critical that both the NT and Australian Governments immediately address the below key matters for the care of young people in detention:

1. We expect the Northern Territory Government to put immediate measures in place to ensure the wellbeing and appropriate treatment of young people currently in Don Dale Juvenile Detention Centre.
2. The Northern Territory Government must develop immediately an Aboriginal Youth Justice Agreement as a subset of an Aboriginal Justice Agreement.
3. The Australian and Northern Territory Governments must develop immediately a framework for a comprehensive and coordinated youth justice system that addresses prevention, therapeutic detention and post release support for young people and their families.
4. The establishment of an Aboriginal Children’s Commissioner to monitor the wellbeing and treatment of children and young people in youth justice and child protection.
5. The separation of Youth Justice from the Department of Corrections and the creation of a holistic Youth Justice Division within the Department of Health or the Department of Children and Families”.

“Anglicare NT is committed to working with the NT and Australian Governments to provide a fair, effective and comprehensive service and community response for young people”, said Dave Pugh.

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