



MEDIA STATEMENT

27 February 2026

Expert coalition condemns language putting NT women at risk

A Coalition of Northern Territory Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Services have stood together today to denounce the recently uncovered social media posts from incoming Northern Territory Administrator David Connolly.

Coalition Spokesperson Max Taylor (CEO, Darwin Centre Against Sexual Violence) said “There is [very clear evidence to show](#) that when harmful jokes and rhetoric about violence and abuse of women goes unchallenged, it increases the likelihood of violence in that community and explicitly undermines prevention efforts to stop violence before it starts.”

“With the ongoing domestic and family violence crisis facing our country, and especially affecting women in the Northern Territory, we need our leaders and decision-makers to stand with us in calling out unacceptable behaviour.”

“All Territorians agree that they want to see meaningful action on addressing violence against women, and it starts with making a community that is respectful and safe for all.”

“Drug-facilitated sexual assault causes profound and long-lasting harm to victim-survivors, their families and communities.”

Ms Taylor said that the Coalition will continue to work every day to support victim-survivors of domestic, family and sexual violence”.

“We want any victims and survivors of violence and abuse to know that we are with you, you will be believed and the Territory community stands with you.”

“And for those perpetuating these harmful behaviours, it is never too late to change -but it takes real accountability and responsibility. We call on all Territory leaders to set a benchmark and show that any language or behaviour that’s harmful to women will not be tolerated in our community.”

You can also contact:

- [Darwin Centre Against Sexual Violence](#)
- [NT Sexual Assault Referral Centres.](#)
- [1800RESPECT](#) – Call 1800 737 732
- [National Sexual Abuse and Redress Support Service](#) – Call 1800 211 028

Signatories:

NT Council of Social Services
Ruby Gaea Darwin Centre Against Sexual Violence
Central Australian Women’s Legal Service
YWCA
Katherine Women’s Crisis Centre
Katherine Women’s Legal Service
Women’s Safety Services of Central Australia

Tangentyere Council
Dawn House
Central Australian Family Violence and Sexual Assault Network
Her Story Mparntwe
Top End Women's Legal Service
NPY Women's Council