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MEDIA RELEASE

Minister welcomes response to women's meetings

Norfolk Island Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare Vicky Jack has welcomed the positive response from the women of the community to two meetings held in Burnt Pine on 30th May.

“Both meetings were well attended by a cross-section of women”, Mrs Jack said. “I was encouraged that those who attended felt able to raise important and complex issues and to suggest ways in which the community can tackle its most pressing problems.”

Mrs Jack said that there were a number of common issues, particularly concerns relating to the use and abuse of drugs and alcohol and the cost of child immunisation. Mrs Jack said she would be discussing a number of the issues and suggestions raised with her colleagues in the Norfolk Island Government within the next few days.

“I believe that there is a real future for forums such as these, where the women of our community can get together for realistic discussion of the things that are important in their lives”, Mrs Jack said. “I intend to hold more of these meetings at times more suited to the needs of particular people such as working mothers”.

Mrs Jack said that she would advertise the times and places of future meetings, but in the meantime would welcome contact from any women who wished to raise matters with her by telephone on 22003 or email at vjack@assembly.gov.nf

Stephanie V Jack

Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare

1st June 2007