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MEDIA RELEASE

More women's forums to be held next week

Norfolk Island Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare, Vicky Jack, said today that she had been very encouraged by the positive response from the women of the community to two forums held in May.

Mrs Jack invited any interested women to attend further meetings to be held at the A & H Hall next Wednesday, 25th July. The first meeting would commence at 1.00 p.m., while there would be another forum at 7.30 p.m. that night. The evening meeting was in response to requests from women who were unable to attend at earlier times due to work or family commitments.

Mrs Jack said that there had been real progress on some of the issues brought up in May and that at the forthcoming meetings she would give feedback on those matters. "Participants brought forward a number of common issues, particularly concerns relating to the use and abuse of drugs and alcohol, the cost of child immunisation, maternity leave and issues related to gender equity", Mrs Jack said. "The forums are an informal way for women to engage in realistic discussion of the things that are important in their lives, and I encourage women to come along and raise any matters they wish".

More information on the women's forums is available from Mrs Jack by telephone on 22003 or email at vjack@assembly.gov.nf

Stephanie V Jack

Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare

20th July 2007