



**THE HON JUSTINE ELLIOT MP
MINISTER FOR AGEING**

Ms Malarndirri McCarthy MLA
Minister for Children and Families
Minister for Child Protection
Minister for Statehood
Minister for Senior Territorians
Minister for Young Territorians
Minister for Women's Policy
Minister Assisting the Chief Minister
on Multicultural Affairs and
GPO Box 3721
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Minister *Malarndirri*

As you are aware, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) is yet to consider roles and responsibilities in relation to aged care, including the future treatment of the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program. I am pleased to assure you that in the interim, current funding for HACC, and governance of the program through the existing HACC Review Agreement, will continue until COAG can consider these reforms.

Therefore, following presentation of the Australian Government Budget of 2009-10 and subject to the Appropriation Bills being passed by Parliament, I would like to offer you additional funds for the HACC Program in the Northern Territory for the 2009-10 financial year. In order to receive the level of Australian Government funding for the HACC Program set out in this letter, you will need to match the Australian Government's offer as detailed below.

The Australian Government continues to maintain growth in HACC funding and has, in this Budget, made provision for national real growth of six per cent. The total Australian Government provision for the HACC Program of \$1,184.959 million has been allocated among the States and Territories in accordance with the HACC funding equalisation strategy.

The offer to the Northern Territory for 2009-10 comprises an Australian Government contribution of \$8.256 million which is an 8.76 per cent increase over 2008-09. Cost indexation of 2.5 per cent for projects funded in 2009-10 will apply and is included in this offer. The matching requirement for the Northern Territory is \$3.760 million. This will result in total quantum funding for the HACC Program in Northern Territory of \$12.016 million.

In the event that you agree to match this offer of growth funding, HACC administration funding available to the Northern Territory from program funds in 2009-10 is \$532,449.

If you are not able to agree to this offer or totally match the Australian Government contribution, surplus funds will be offered later in the financial year to those States and Territories that are able to match additional funds.

I would also like to take this opportunity to confirm the required annual contribution for the HACC Planning and Development Fund from the Northern Territory in 2009-10, which is \$13,000. The Department of Health and Ageing will liaise with the Department of Health and Families in order to progress the transfer of these funds.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justine Elliot', with a large, sweeping flourish on the left side.

JUSTINE ELLIOT

- 6 JUL 2009