Northern Territory Police Force

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
Level 6 NAB House
71 Smith Street, Darwin, NT 0800

Postal address
PO Box 39764
WINNELLIE NT 0821

E pfes.exec@pfes.nt.gov.au

T 08 8901 0223

Our reference:
04-D26-118917

Please quote in response

Her Honour Judge Elisabeth Armitage
Territory Coroner
Office of the Coroner
PO Box 1281
DARWIN NT 0801

via email: nt.coroner@nt.gov.au

Dear Judge Armitage

Re: Organisational Realignment and Coronial Recommendation 12

I write to advise you of recent interim organisational changes within the Northern Territory Police Force (NTPF) and to provide assurance that these changes do not alter the organisation's commitment to implementing and maintaining the intent of Recommendation 12 arising from the Inquest into the deaths of *Miss Yunupiŋu, Ngeygo Ragurrk, Kumarn Rubuntja and Kumanjayi Haywood*.

As part of a recently announced six-month trial of a two Deputy Commissioner model, interim changes to the NTPF organisational structure took effect on 5 October 2026. Under these arrangements, the Assistant Commissioner Crime portfolio and the Assistant Commissioner Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence and Youth portfolio have been consolidated under a single Assistant Commissioner Crime and Domestic Violence command.

The NTPF has carefully considered the impact of this organisational realignment against Recommendation 12. It is our assessment that the revised structure remains consistent with both the wording and intent of the recommendation.

Recommendation 12 does not expressly require the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DFSV) function to operate as a standalone Assistant Commissioner portfolio. Rather, the recommendation emphasises the need for a significantly expanded and appropriately resourced DFSV Command in both Darwin and Alice Springs, strengthened staff continuity, permanent DFSV positions, dedicated training capability, and the maintenance of strong relationships and trust between the NTPF and the domestic and family violence sector.

Under the interim structure:

- The DFSV Command remains a dedicated command within the NTPF.
- Existing DFSV functions, responsibilities and specialist capabilities remain unchanged.
- The commitment to appropriate resourcing of DFSV positions remains in place.
- The organisation continues to prioritise staff continuity within DFSV roles.
- Dedicated DFSV training, reform and partnership functions will continue.

Engagement and collaboration with domestic and family violence service providers, community organisations and other sector stakeholders will remain a priority.

Accordingly, while reporting lines at the Assistant Commissioner level have changed, the operational focus, resourcing commitments and strategic priorities underpinning Recommendation 12 have not been diminished. The NTPF remains committed to ensuring that domestic, family and sexual violence continues to receive the organisational attention, specialist capability and leadership necessary to meet community expectations and support victim-survivors.

I therefore wish to assure the Coroner that the organisational realignment does not alter the NTPF's commitment to Recommendation 12 and that the intent of the recommendation will continue to be fully supported through the maintenance of a dedicated DFSV command structure.

Yours sincerely

Martin Dole APM
Commissioner of Police

8 October 2026