

# Domestic Violence

## new legal service launched



*Attorney-General Delia Lawrie and NTLAC Director Suzan Cox watch Ali Mills deliver a Welcome to Country*

The new Domestic Violence Legal Service ('DVLS') was officially launched by the Attorney-General, Delia Lawrie, on 28 August 2009. The launch was a positive event which included brief speeches from the Attorney-General, Suzan

Cox, Director NTLAC, and Sue Phoo, Principal Lawyer for the Service. The launch also included a 'Welcome to Country' which was delivered by Ali Mills. Ali performed the 'Arafura Pearl', a song about Darwin which was written by her

mother, Larrakia Elder Kathy Mills.

The DVLS is a specialised service for victims and people at risk of domestic and family violence. The Service will offer high quality advice and representation to victims of family and domestic violence in relation to the legal options that are available to them. Legal advice clinics will be held in Darwin and Palmerston on a weekly basis. If clients cannot attend the clinics because of remoteness, illness or disability then the service will provide legal advice by telephone. Interpreters can be arranged if required. A duty lawyer service will also be provided each Wednesday and Friday at the Magistrates Court in Darwin.

The service will also undertake prevention and early intervention activities, such as the development and delivery of community legal education and information about the legal context of domestic and family violence.

The Service is located at Nicholls Place behind the Magistrates Court and above the office of Births, Deaths and Marriages. The service sends a clear message to victims of domestic and family violence that there is a specialised service that is available for them.

The Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission and other legal services will continue to offer the existing range of services, such as family, civil, criminal and immigration law advice and representation. ↓



*Attorney-General Delia Lawrie unties the bow held by DVLS principal Lawyer Sue Phoo*