Chief Minister Adam Giles has sat down with those attending today’s Indigenous Men’s Forum at Parliament House to discuss strategies for supporting Aboriginal men and reducing family violence.

“Around 30 men from communities across the Territory have come together in Darwin to share their ideas on how we can strengthen Indigenous men and better support them through improved services,” Mr Giles said.

“I congratulate these men for agreeing to be part of this conversation. Their honesty and determination to break the cycle of family violence in their communities should be commended.

“This is a cause I have promised to personally champion and today was a great opportunity to listen to their concerns and ideas.”

A range of issues were discussed in connection with family violence and child abuse, employment, justice, culture and ceremony.

“These are issues and problems that require input from everyone – individuals, families, communities and all levels of government,” Mr Giles said.

A comprehensive list of speakers addressed the two-day forum including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Mick Gooda and the Children’s Commissioner, Dr Howard Bath, as well as representatives from NT Police and the Department of Community Services.

Indigenous men’s campaigner Charlie King said the forum gave the men an opportunity to talk about important these issues and start to develop ideas about things that can be done.

“These men came from all over the NT. They are passionate about reducing the levels of family violence and child abuse,” Mr King said.

“You have to realise that this is not an easy problem. If it was easy, it would have been fixed a long time ago. We’ve spoken for nearly two days on this issue and there’s a lot more talking to do. We’re heartened by the support of the Chief Minister.”

The Chief Minister will now look at how the government can respond to the issues raised by the group.

“I have given a commitment that I will take the strategies discussed today to the Minister for Community Services, Bess Price, who is responsible for the new Men’s Policy Unit under her department,” Mr Giles said.

“I look forward to the group meeting again. I would like to extend my personal thanks to Charlie King for his efforts in pulling this forum together and working with me on this important issue.”

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