HOT ISSUE BRIEF

ISSUE: DISBURSEMENT OF MONIES FROM DEFENCE FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

SENSITIVITY: It is possible that the media within the Darwin area may express interest in this matter.

KEY ISSUES:

- The eight year old son of Australian Public Servant (Defence employee) passed away as a result of an arson attack at a residential house fire on 13th June 2010 in Leanyer, NT.
- Approximately $000 was generated through Defence workplace fundraising activities and workplace collections.
- The Commonwealth provided no monies in the fundraising activities.
- Monies generated through the Defence fundraising activities have been passed to the father of the deceased with no stipulation on the use of the monies.
- Any questions regarding the disbursement or use of the money is a civil matter which Defence can not make comment on.
• It has been defence's position throughout that this is a workplace collection for a defence employee and that the funds have been disbursed accordingly. We believe any dispute must be resolved between the family and is therefore a civil matter.

TALKING POINTS

• Staff from the Department of Defence voluntarily raised funds for the family of a civilian employee, whose son died as a result of an arson attack at a residential house fire in Leanyer, NT, on 13 June 2010.

• The funds were provided to the father of the deceased, with no stipulation on the use of the monies.

• The funds provided were not Commonwealth funds.

• Defence provides its sincere condolences to the family, however, considers this to be a private matter for the family.
BACKGROUND

- Following the death of a defence aps members son in an arson attack on June 13 this year defence employees conducted a number of fundraising activities.

- The father is an Australian public servant in [redacted] group.

- Approximately $[redacted] is the sum of monies deposited in a bank account that [redacted] group set up for the fundraising. There were also later donations from fundraising activities in the northern territory.

- The approximately $[redacted] has been transferred to the father of the deceased with no stipulation on how the funds were to be used.

- [Redacted]