

Statement from Matt Williams, Editor, NT News:

The "text to the editor" message, which was supplied by a reader, should never have been published.

We acknowledge the harm the publication of the text has caused or could cause Indigenous Australians.

Senior editorial staff and others who check our pages prior to publication have been reminded about the impact of publishing such text messages or letters to the editor.

As a result of the publication of the text message, we have taken measures to further enhance our editing and checking processes which, in this case, failed.

Under our current editing and checking processes, there is no way this text would have been published.

It was simply an unfortunate and honest mistake.

The NT News has long been, and will continue to be, a champion for Indigenous Australians, who make up 30 per cent of the Northern Territory's population.

In 2018, we won national and international awards for our "Save Our Children" campaign which highlighted the abuse and neglect of Aboriginal children in the Northern Territory.

The campaign led to former prime minister Malcolm Turnbull visiting Tennant Creek to confront the issues.