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MEDIA RELEASE – IMMEDIATE USE

**Workplace safety cultures and practices
to grow with Industry in the Northern Territory**

The General Manager, Accident and Incident Response Solutions of IFAP (Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention), Mr Greg Pobar, believes that the growth of industrial activity in the northern Territory and the Territory government's initiatives in legislation review and cultural change in safety will see an escalation in the adoption of superior safe work practices in the near future.

Mr Pobar believes that the establishment of significant industrial developments provide a catalyst for a rapid and noticeable improvement in safety culture.

Speaking on the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the Northern Australian Safety Centre at Berrimah, Greg Pobar said 'The further development of large industry in Darwin, will provide an opportunity to ensure that the ongoing demand and demonstration of safe practices at work will be at the forefront of construction and operation.'

'Experience has shown that to some extent, the adoption of improved safety practices in one sector becomes contagious amongst the greater work force, lifting the overall level of safety' he said.

The North Australian Safety Centre was established in 1988 as a not-for-profit, member-based organisation providing Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (HUET) to BHP and associated contractors involved in offshore exploration and oil production operations in the Timor Sea.

It developed into a facility that has provided sea survival, abandonment, fire fighting, high risk skills training and occupational health and safety training for industry, government and non government organisations and defence.

Mr Pobar also raised some concern for industry in being able to respond to a crisis, citing recent events in Western Australia where up to thirty percent of domestic and industrial gas supply was lost over a number of months.

'With the development of improved safety cultures is also the realisation that large organisations, businesses and service providers may not be adequately prepared to manage a crisis and ensure business continuity', he said.

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