



# Building a Better Future for Young Territorians

2007-08 Progress Report

This publication was written by the Office of Youth Affairs in the Department of Health and Families in partnership with other Northern Territory Government agencies.

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The publication is available through the Northern Territory Government's youth portal [www.youth.nt.gov.au](http://www.youth.nt.gov.au)

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# Introduction

## Government's youth policy framework

The Northern Territory Government released its youth policy framework – *Building a Better Future for Young Territorians* – in April 2003. The framework outlines a whole of government approach to the delivery of programs and services to young people.

The term 'young people' in this document refers to Territorians aged 12 to 25 years.

The framework is themed around five directions that guide service and program delivery to young Territorians. Key issues have been identified against each of these directions together with priority actions to address the issues.

The five directions are:

1. Improve young people's health and wellbeing.
2. Improve access to education and employment for young people.
3. Provide more opportunities for young people to have fun and develop new skills.
4. Make sure that young people are able to participate in decisions that affect their lives.
5. Create communities where young people can feel safe and secure.

## Progress reports

The Office of Youth Affairs located within Northern Territory Families and Children, Department of Health and Families is responsible for monitoring the implementation of *Building a Better Future for Young Territorians*.

Government agencies report on progress against each of the directions, as well as on any new initiatives developed in response to emerging needs. This information is presented in an annual progress report to the community.

This is the fifth progress report since the release of the youth policy framework.

The 2007-08 Progress Report provides a snapshot of Government's focus for young Territorians for the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008. It reports on achievements under the key issues as outlined in the youth policy framework.

**Northern Territory Government departments are referred to throughout this document as they were during the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008.**

A glossary of acronyms is included on page 31 of this publication.

# Direction One

## Improve young people's health and wellbeing

### Key Issue: Addressing young people's substance misuse

Our focus	Activity in 2007-08
<p><i>Supporting the Volatile Substance Abuse Prevention Act</i></p>	<p>Government aims to ensure that there is good information available about young people and substance misuse and to improve treatment access for young people and their families affected by substance misuse.</p> <p>Treatment services were initially developed in 2006-07 in Alice Springs and Darwin to support the <i>Volatile Substance Abuse Prevention Act</i>.</p> <p>The service in Darwin, operated by the Council of Aboriginal Alcohol Program Services Inc, provides a residential program for young people. BushMob in Alice Springs provide case management, family support and interventions for young people affected by volatile substance abuse. In January 2008, BushMob also commenced provision of a residential service for up to five young people between the ages of 12 and 18 and their families/carers.</p> <p>These urban services complement existing outstation programs and community development and prevention activities in selected communities.</p>
<p><i>Grant programs</i></p>	<p>The Remote Area Aboriginal Alcohol and other Substance Strategy Program provides grants of up to \$5000 for diversionary, educational and intervention activities in relation to substance misuse among young people in Central Australia.</p> <p>In 2007-08, grants were provided to 16 organisations totalling \$78,718. Grant recipients range from, but are not limited to, local government, councils, Aboriginal corporations, community health clinics, community schools and community sporting groups.</p> <p>Community Drug Education Support, a small community development grant program to support activities relating to alcohol and other drugs issues, was also available to support Top End communities. Grants were provided to 10 organisations, totalling \$27,435.</p>
<p><i>Red Dust Role Models Program</i></p>	<p>The Red Dust Role Models Program is funded to work with remote Indigenous communities across the Territory on alcohol and other drug issues.</p> <p>The program uses the profile and influence of positive role models from the fields of sport, business, music, film and entertainment. The popular identities are easily recognisable to young Territorians and delivers health messages to inspire healthy lifestyle decisions among remote Indigenous youth. The program runs in the Daly River and Tiwi communities in the Top End, as well as communities in Central Australia.</p>

<i>I'm Smarter than Smoking Campaign</i>	The <i>I'm Smarter Than Smoking</i> campaign, featuring Jessica Mauboy, was developed in early 2007.
	The campaign was heavily promoted in 2007-08, including at a remote health day held in Maningrida on 6 December 2007 and the distribution of posters and other resources to raise awareness of tobacco issues on National Youth Tobacco Free Day on 19 March 2008.
	The campaign, developed for urban and remote communities in the Territory, capitalises on the <i>I'm Smarter than Smoking</i> messages used in other states and aims to discourage the uptake of smoking among young people, as well as encourage all smokers to quit. Television and radio advertisements, as well as posters and other promotional materials target key youth and Indigenous audiences.
<i>National Youth Tobacco Free Day</i>	The Department of Health and Community Services (DHCS) held several events to promote National Youth Tobacco Free Day on 19 March 2008 and raise awareness about youth tobacco issues.
<i>Headspace Top End</i>	DHCS successfully collaborated with community partners to secure funding and commenced arrangements to implement the Headspace Top End youth service initiative.
	Headspace Top End aims to improve young people's access to primary health, mental health and alcohol and other drugs services as well as counselling education and training and employment services through the co-location of services and consolidation of strategic links to local government, secondary schools, consumer and carer groups and other youth service providers.
	The Alcohol and Other Drug Program's clinical branch, Alcohol and Other Drugs Services are looking at providing two sessions per week at Headspace Top End to address alcohol and other drug issues with young people.
<i>Indigenous Youth</i>	Alcohol and Other Drug Programs will be working in conjunction with the Remote Area Workforce to provide clinical governance around the provision of services to parents and youth in remote communities.
<i>Health Risks</i>	Northern Territory Government agencies worked with local industry representatives to provide advice and support development of a campaign to raise awareness of the health risks of drinking to intoxication and associated risks, including drink spiking and sexual assault.
<i>Licensing inspectors in high schools</i>	The initiative identifies shopkeepers, retailers and liquor licensees who operate outside the law by selling alcohol and cigarettes to minors. Two Licensing Inspectors are designated liaison officers and maintain contact with schools to assist the school community, including parents, teachers and students, to understand the relevant laws and complaint processes.

## Key Issue: Supporting the families of young people

Our focus	Activity in 2007-08
<i>Child Abuse Taskforce</i>	<p>The Territory-wide Joint Child Abuse Taskforce, incorporating Family and Children's Services (FACS) and Northern Territory Police representatives, continues to deliver improved service approaches in relation to child abuse and family violence with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ decision-making and reporting support for practitioners who suspect child abuse; and</li> <li>▪ progressive implementation of the Domestic and Family Violence Policy, including establishment of a Departmental reference group.</li> </ul> <p>A Child Abuse Taskforce Management Group including representation from Northern Territory FACS senior management, Police and the Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) was formed to oversee actions of the taskforce and identify any issues and challenges relating to service delivery.</p> <p>Under Closing the Gap funding, the Child Abuse Taskforce will expand to include additional Northern Territory FACS staff, Police and specialist child interviewers to investigate the most serious and complex cases of child abuse.</p>
<i>Out of Home Care</i>	<p>DHCS continued implementation of the FACS Out of Home Care Strategic Plan, with a particular focus on high needs children requiring out of home care.</p>
<i>Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Partnership</i>	<p>Jointly resourced by the Northern Territory and Australian Governments, the following Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Partnership (FVPP) projects took place in 2007-08:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implemented the integrated Peace at Home service in the Katherine region in collaboration with Northern Territory Police.</li> <li>▪ Funded a trial program in East Arnhem harnessing traditional culture to address family violence, abuse and dysfunction (Raypirri Rom).</li> <li>▪ Funded and assisted in the development of interventions for children in women's shelters and other sites where children are accompanying parents escaping violence.</li> <li>▪ Funded Tangentyere Council through the Safe Families Project to provide a culturally aligned medium-stay home for children separated from their families due to violence, abuse or dysfunction.</li> <li>▪ Piloted a Behaviour Change Program for families struggling with violence and its impact, including a Better Ways stream for children and young people (piloted at Wugularr-Beswick School).</li> <li>▪ Safe Places initiative funded development of Mobile Child Protection Team, Remote Aboriginal Family and Community Workers, and number of new remote 'safe places' for males (including young males, with special focus on youth needs) and for females, with special focus on children's needs.</li> </ul>

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*Care and Protection of Children Act*

The *Care and Protection of Children Act 2007* was passed in the November 2007 Legislative Assembly Sittings and will commence in a staged manner throughout 2008.

The Act establishes a contemporary and comprehensive approach for the promotion of children's wellbeing and reflects the central place of children and families in our community, emphasising the value of children to society, the importance of family wellbeing and the need to support the capacity of families and the community to care safely for children and allow a child to develop to his or her potential.

Core concepts of the Act are to:

- prevent the harm and exploitation of children;
- promote the wellbeing of children, families and communities;
- encourage and support those who care for children;
- provide for the care and protection of children in circumstances in which their parents either have not given or are unlikely to give that care and protection;
- support young people leaving the care of the Chief Executive Officer from 18 years of age until they have reached 25 years of age;
- safeguard the wellbeing of children by providing a mechanism to screen persons engaged in child-related employment ;
- protect children's wellbeing when in engaged in employment;
- monitor child deaths with a view to preventing death and injury;
- provide for a regulatory system for children's services provided to children under 13 years of age; and
- establish a Children's Commissioner.

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*Appointment of a Children's Commissioner*

On 4 April 2008, Northern Territory Government announced the appointment of Clinical Psychologist, Dr Howard Bath as the Northern Territory Children's Commissioner.

The Children's Commissioner will be an advocate for protected children, will represent their interests at all levels of government and manage complaints about services for children in care and submit an annual report to Parliament.

Another key part of the role of the Children's Commissioner will be to monitor the implementation of the Closing the Gap initiatives as they relate to child protection, in response to the *Little Children are Sacred Report*.

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*Assertive Outreach for Young People and their Families*

Through the identified Supported Accommodation Assistance Program, FACS funded an innovative youth program for disengaged young people and their families in the Darwin region. The program aims to actively intervene and support young people who do not usually seek community support or advice, with the intent of reconnecting these young people with their families and/or the community, to prevent homelessness. Mission Australia has been awarded this contract which will supplement their Youth Beat services in Darwin and Palmerston.

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<i>Introduce Education for Parenthood in the School Curriculum</i>	Vocational Education and Training (VET) certificate level courses and the Senior Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia subjects that include career and parental perspectives on child care are offered by schools with senior students.
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## Key Issue: Addressing the sexual health issues of young people

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### Our focus

### Activity in 2007-08

<i>Guidelines on Sexual Health and Assault</i>	<p>Guidelines on Sexual Issues in Children and Young People, a toolkit developed in consultation with Remote Area Nurses, Aboriginal Health Workers, medical staff, FACS, the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and Northern Territory Police was distributed to remote and urban Primary Health Care Practitioners to assist in identifying and managing sexual abuse in people under the age of 18 years.</p> <p>The toolkit was distributed to every remote and urban health centre in the Territory.</p>
<i>Sexual Assault Referral Centre</i>	<p>Under Closing the Gap, funding has been allocated to expand services provided by SARC in Darwin, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. This includes a better medical consultation service for victims and enhanced training for service providers in remote Indigenous communities.</p> <p>SARC has also received funding from the Australian Government to develop a Mobile Outreach Team to provide sexual assault counselling and services to remote communities.</p>
<i>Sexuality Education</i>	<p>Health Promoting Schools has provided professional learning to teachers to support the implementation of sexuality education in schools including special education settings, early childhood, upper primary and middle years. Professional learning has also been provided to pre-service teachers at Charles Darwin University.</p>

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## Key Issue: Reducing mental health problems and disorders among young people

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### Our focus

### Activity in 2007-08

<i>Visiting Mental Health Services</i>	<p>Government continues to provide visiting mental health and psychiatric services to rural and remote communities and visiting services in Central Australia have increased. Additional funding was also provided for Aboriginal Mental Health Worker programs.</p>
<i>Child Psychiatrist Services</i>	<p>Government has continued to increase support services for children in East Arnhem and Katherine through monthly visits by a Child Psychologist and Psychiatrist.</p>

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<i>Headspace</i>	<p>DHCS successfully collaborated with community partners to secure funding and commence arrangements to implement the Headspace Top End youth service initiative.</p> <p>Headspace Top End aims to improve young people's access to primary health, mental health and alcohol and other drugs services as well as counselling, education, training and employment services through the co-location of services and consolidation of strategic links to local government, secondary schools, consumer and carer groups and other youth service providers.</p> <p>A key part of this initiative is the education and upskilling of service providers working within Headspace Top End and its link agencies to ensure the delivery of quality, evidence based and youth friendly practice.</p> <p>Youth participation mechanisms are also being established to ensure the service meets the needs of young people in the Top End. Community awareness and mental health promotion and prevention activities aimed at reducing mental health problems and disorders among young people are also forming a key part of this initiative.</p> <p>The new Department of Health and Families is also a member of a consortium of organisations that have secured funding to establish a Headspace site in Central Australia set to open in late 2008.</p>
<i>Suicide Prevention Action Plan</i>	<p>A cross government coordinating committee which includes representation from key areas such as Health, Education, Police, Justice and Youth Affairs is developing a three-year suicide prevention action plan for the Northern Territory Government in consultation with non-government and community representatives.</p> <p>The plan will focus on the coordination of suicide prevention and intervention activities across a number of government and non-government agencies in areas such as mental health, alcohol and other drugs, family support, employment, cultural identity, law enforcement, criminal justice education sport and recreation.</p> <p>The Action Plan will include a range of initiatives aimed at reducing mental health problems and disorders among young people.</p>
<i>MindMatters in High Schools</i>	<p>A total of 77.2% of all Territory high schools have now received professional development including an introduction to the <i>MindMatters</i> resource kit and the concept of a whole school approach to wellbeing.</p>
<i>KidsMatter in Primary Schools</i>	<p>The <i>KidsMatter</i> initiative began in late 2006 with a national two year trial involving six Territory primary schools. The initiative aims to improve the mental health and wellbeing of primary school students, reduce mental health problems among students, and achieve greater support for those students at risk of or experiencing mental health problems.</p>

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## Direction Two

### Improve access to education and employment for young people

**Key Issue:** Improving educational outcomes for all students, including Indigenous students

Our focus	Activity in 2007-08
<i>Infrastructure Development and Upgrades</i>	<p>Construction of Middle Schools throughout the Territory including Darwin, Katherine, Nhulunbuy and Taminmin.</p> <p>Construction of a new secondary school facility at Wadeye – Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Thamarrur Catholic School. The Northern Territory Government’s contribution to the Thamarrur Catholic School project is in addition to funding for infrastructure upgrades at former mission schools: Nguiu’s Muirrupurdiyuanwu Catholic School, Xavier Community Education Centre; Ltyentye Apurte Community Education Centre at Santa Teresa; and the Saint Francis Xavier Mission School at Daly River.</p> <p>Design of a new Community Education Centre for Borroloola also commenced.</p> <p>Upgrades to numerous schools throughout the Territory including Ross Park Primary School, Milner Primary School, Anula Primary School, Wanguri Primary School, Centralian Middle School, Casuarina Senior College, Palmerston High School and Taminmin High School.</p>
<i>Alice Springs Desert Park - Adopt a School Program</i>	<p>Students spent sessions learning about and experiencing the different disciplines within a workplace. These included retail, administration, food and beverage horticulture and zookeeping.</p>
<i>Free Entry for Northern Territory Schools</i>	<p>The Alice Springs Desert Park and the Territory Wildlife Park provide free entry to all Northern Territory schools.</p>
<i>George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens</i>	<p>The George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens built relationships with St John’s College to increase awareness among students about the value of the Gardens. The Gardens were used as a resource for teaching by the College.</p>
<i>Exit Art Exhibition</i>	<p>The annual <i>Exit Art Exhibition</i> at Darwin’s Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) features contemporary art by Year 12 students from the Northern Territory.</p> <p>In early 2008, the MAGNT presented the fourth <i>Exit Art Exhibition</i> in partnership with the DEET featuring the talents of senior visual art, craft and design students. 2008 was the inaugural year for a ‘Wearable Art’ parade held in conjunction with the exhibition.</p>

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<i>History Colloquium</i>	<p>In November 2007, MAGNT presented the annual History Colloquium. The Colloquium, a joint initiative of MAGNT, Charles Darwin University and the Australian National University, provided a forum for researchers from the three institutions to present papers on historical topics in discussion with the audience. The presentations ranged widely across housing, the environment, the pastoral industry, historical archaeology, cultural heritage tourism, the bureaucracy, politics, exploration, sport and Indigenous issues.</p>
<i>Territory Wildlife Park - Environment and Education Program</i>	<p>The Territory Wildlife Park is expanding its environmental and education program to include current issues such as greenhouse gas emission abatement and sustainability of our valuable natural resources.</p> <p>The Territory Wildlife Park also participates in the Junior Ranger Program which provides young Territorians with organised flora and fauna conservation education and training activities. The Junior Rangers also participate in volunteer days.</p>
<i>Building Better Schools</i>	<p>The \$42 million <i>Building Better Schools</i> package continued to fund a number of projects that contribute to the government's commitment to provide access to quality education that leads to employment, training or further education. An update on some projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <i>Middle Years of Schooling Initiative</i> that started in 2007 saw Year 10 students joining year 11 and 12 students to form 'senior years'.</li> <li>• In 2008 year 7 students joined Years 8 and 9 to form the 'middle years'.</li> </ul> <p><i>Building Better Schools</i> package officially concluded at the end of June 2008 and an extensive report has been completed.</p>
<i>Educational Outcomes for Indigenous Students in Remote Areas</i>	<p>At the end of the 2007 school year, 15 Indigenous students from six remote schools completed their 2007 Northern Territory Certificate of Education.</p> <p>The first <i>Remote Learning Partnerships Agreement</i> (RLPA) between Yirrkala community and DEET was signed at the Garma festival in August 2007. The initiative is based on a community engagement model that aims to deliver improvements for young Indigenous Territorians in attendance and retention, literacy and numeracy and the development of pathways to employment or further education after school. The second RLPA with Ramingining community was signed in February 2008.</p> <p>The Indigenous Students Leadership and Mentorship Program is an initiative that supports 50 remote students who have shown outstanding potential as leaders.</p> <p>The development of transition plans for all Indigenous Year 12 graduates in 2007 from remote communities supported their transition from school to work and/or further education. The project has monitored the destination of all year 12 graduates since 2003. It is intended that this program be expanded to include identification and monitoring of all students who meet national benchmarks at years 3, 5, 7 and 9.</p>

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Other initiatives for young Indigenous people outlined in *Closing the Gap on Indigenous Disadvantage: A Generational Plan of Action* will include:

- Addition of six mobile preschools with 21 teachers and assistants;
- the recruitment of 26 additional teachers;
- an additional 15 classrooms;
- establishment of a School Attendance Team (see item titled *School Attendance*);
- a 'value of schooling' education campaign;
- upgrading two homeland learning centres to small schools;
- upgrading 15 community education centres;
- improving IT resources for staff and students;
- contribute recurrent funding to regional hostels for senior studies;
- develop partnership programs to improve student engagement and community involvement; and
- recruit 10 additional student counsellors.

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*Educational Outcomes for Students with Special Needs*

A draft framework to enhance teaching and learning that targets students with special needs is being trialled to collect evidence of quality teaching and practice in the Territory. Full implementation is expected in 2009.

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*Educational outcomes for 'gifted' students*

A number of measures have been applied to support schools with the implementation of the recently revised DEET '*Policy for Education of Gifted Students in the Northern Territory*'. This includes the provision of professional learning courses for teachers across the Northern Territory, to increase knowledge and skills in the area of gifted education. In the past 12 months, DEET has allocated grants to 13 schools to develop gifted policies and to 23 schools to run gifted programs. Guidelines have also been made available online to support schools in the practical implementation of the gifted policy.

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*Student Numbers in Classrooms*

In August 2006 the Northern Territory Government introduced a new formula based on student needs, not school type. The new arrangement benefits all Territory students and brings equity to classrooms. Historically, schools have been staffed according to school type, such as primary or high school, community education centre or area school.

Stage 1 of the new model, implemented in 2007-08 allocated core teaching and administrative staff on a per capita basis. Stage 2 of the student staffing model proposes to allocate the remaining teaching and administration resources currently provided through supplementary programs for English as a Second Language, special education needs and Indigenous students.

The proposal for stage 2 of the Student-Based Staffing Model bases staff allocation on the needs and characteristics of a student rather than the type or location of a school. It is responsive: resources follow students. Each student attracts a core staff allocation to meet the students' base educational requirements and then attracts an additional allocation for need. The implementation of Stage 2 is proposed for 2009 to 2010.

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<i>Alternative Education Provision Program</i>	Under the <i>Alternative Education Provision Program</i> a mobile team of five teachers is located in Darwin's northern suburbs and Palmerston. The program has been operating since the start of the 2004 school year, and has consistently case managed between 150 to 200 students each year.
<i>School Attendance</i>	<p>The School Attendance Team is part funded by <i>Closing the Gap</i>. The team is responsible for implementing the six point plan to improve school attendance. The plan involves a whole of community and whole of government (including the Australian Government) approach.</p> <p>The Team is resourced with a Senior Advisor, Senior Policy Officer and an Information Developer. Three regional Education Engagement Co-ordinators are also in place to assist schools and communities with locally based attendance solutions. The six points in the Plan are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Policy and procedures – develop school and departmental policies and procedures to record and track attendance and, if necessary, intervene in student absenteeism.</li> <li>2. Coordination of school based staff – coordinate and train school staff who work on improving school attendance.</li> <li>3. Community engagement – partnerships between community and government.</li> <li>4. Accountability – continual review of school and department practices to improve attendance.</li> <li>5. Locally based solutions – local attendance strategies for improving school attendance.</li> <li>6. Inter-agency and cross sector collaboration – work with other agencies in a whole of government approach to improve school attendance.</li> </ol>
<i>School Bonus</i>	Government's \$50 <i>Back to School Bonus</i> returned for 2008. The \$50 bonus helps parents and guardians buy uniforms, stationery and books.
<i>Compulsory School Uniforms Policy</i>	Government's Compulsory School Uniforms Policy has been implemented in all government schools this year with the support of school councils. The policy applies to all students from Transition to Year 9.
<i>Alice Springs Indigenous Education Strategy</i>	<p>The Alice Springs Indigenous Education Strategy was implemented during 2007-08 to engage Indigenous students and improve their education and employment prospects. Under the strategy a number of initiatives have been implemented including the Alice Springs Football Academy Program (Clontarf Foundation), the Alice Springs Partnership for Success (Polly Farmer Foundation) Program and the Girls at the Centre Project. The Australian and Northern Territory Governments and private sponsors including the Smith Family fund the initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Alice Springs Football Academy (Clontarf Foundation) uses football to improve attendance at school, improve educational outcomes and enhance employment opportunities. In 2008 over 200 male students from local middle schools and the Senior College are enrolled.</li> <li>▪ The Alice Springs Partnership for Success (Polly Farmer Foundation) Program is an academic program for Indigenous students who have the capacity, interest and potential to go on and complete their</li> </ul>

secondary education. It provides assistance and support for students with homework by tutors to improve educational achievement and generate positive aspirations for higher education. In 2008 over 30 students are participating in the program.

- The Girls at the Centre project targets Indigenous girls in government Middle Schools from years 7 to 9 and provides an individualised approach to engaging the students through programs designed to tap into their areas of interest. It aims to improve literacy and numeracy skills and support them to complete their senior years education. The project commenced in April 2008 and up to 100 girls are expected to participate.

## Key Issue: Improving the access of young Territorians to further education, including Vocational Education and Training and Higher Education

### Our focus

### Activity in 2007-08

#### *Scholarships and Cadetships*

Forty Higher Education Scholarships are available to school leavers to undertake full-time degree studies. Scholarships are awarded on the Tertiary Entrance Rank (or equivalent).

Twenty VET Scholarships are available to Territorians studying Certificate III to Diploma level courses.

Twenty Student Teacher Bursaries are available to assist school leavers or are available to people who plan to study or have already started studying for a degree in Education. They are also available to people who have finished a degree and intend to study for a Graduate Diploma in Primary or Secondary Education.

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) offered Work Integrated Learning Scholarships to three students in 2007-08. Each of the new Scholarship holders is studying engineering at Charles Darwin University.

#### *Careers Expo*

The annual *Careers Expo* is an opportunity for students, teachers, parents and the community to explore career opportunities and identify future career pathways. Over 5000 people attended the 2007 Expo held in Nhulunbuy, Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. There were more than 260 exhibitors, including a number of government agencies.

Increased numbers of exhibitors from a broader range of industries impacted positively on the students and participants, as this generated more interest and information.

#### *Araluen Arts Centre*

Supporting the development of theatre skills by hosting activities undertaken by the National Institute of Dramatic Arts, Red Dust Theatre and other workshop and skills providers.

#### *George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens*

The George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens developed partnerships with Green Core to run a project in the Woodlands section of the Gardens to increase biodiversity and enhance training for young Territorians.

<i>School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeships</i>	<p>School based apprenticeships and traineeships are an excellent way of allowing students to try out a vocation through experience, while earning some money and gaining both a Year 12 Northern Territory Certificate of Education and a Certificate level qualification.</p> <p>During 2007-08 there were 170 apprenticeship and traineeship commencements.</p>
<i>Try-a-Trade Program</i>	<p>The annual <i>Try-a-Trade</i> event provided 500 Year 9 students from 19 schools with the opportunity to <i>Try-a-Trade</i> in 12 trade activities, including a number of skills shortage areas ranging from construction to cooking. The program is a practical way to give young Territorians a taste of a career in a trade.</p> <p>This hands-on approach gives students a chance to see what occupations interest them and whether or not they want to start VET while still at school. The event was held in Darwin in September 2007 over four days and a one day event in Alice Springs.</p>
<i>VET in Schools program</i>	<p>Vocational Education and Training in Schools (VETiS) programs provide students with an increased ability to perform in the workplace leading to more career choices and opportunities to transition from school to full-time apprenticeships, employment or further education and training.</p> <p>There were 183 VETiS programs funded, across 76 qualifications delivered with 1655 student participants. Demand for VETiS continues to grow and provides an important pathway for a wider range of students.</p>

## Key Issue: Maximising employment and training opportunities for young people

Our focus	Activity in 2007-08
<i>Indigenous employment</i>	<p>An Indigenous Employment and Training officer commenced with the DPI to work with industry to create more employment opportunities in the construction field for Indigenous employees and provide training opportunities.</p>
<i>Deadly Digital Multi Media Training Program</i>	<p>As part of the Northern Territory Emergency Response Youth Diversionary Grants, Northern Territory Police in partnership with Central Australia Aboriginal Media Association and Charles Darwin University have delivered the Deadly Digital Multi Media Training Program at Docker River and the Tiwi Islands. The training program provides an opportunity for youth at risk to obtain a Certificate II in Media and Screen. The Deadly Digital Program has assisted with improving literacy and for some participants, re-engagement with school and employment. In both communities, students have produced DVDs that promote health, safety and positive engagement with their community.</p>
<i>Young people in business</i>	<p>Young budding entrepreneurs and those already in business continue to be supported through programs and services provided by Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development.</p> <p>In 2007-08, youth represented 16% of the attendance at the <i>October Business Month</i> activities, 23% at the <i>Territory Business Upskills</i></p>

	<p>activities and 13% at the <i>Starting a Business</i> workshops.</p> <p>A number of presentations to students studying business were held on the topic of 'starting a business'.</p>
<i>Outback Youth Film Festival 2007</i>	The Screen Grants Program provided funding to the Outback Youth Film Festival. This festival, with a specific focus on productions by youth, was held during the Alice Desert Festival. It provided an opportunity for young Territorians to make short films and to see them screened to an audience.
<i>New Apprenticeship Program</i>	The Northern Territory Public Sector (NTPS) employed an additional 108 apprentices in 2007-08 financial year under the New Apprenticeship Program. Placements were made across most agencies and included a range of qualification including: zoology, horticulture, dental assisting, retail travel sales and business administration. The program is open to all Territorians from age 15 years that have not achieved a Certificate III or higher education in the past seven years. The specific focus in 2007-08 was to increase the number of Indigenous and disadvantaged applicants particularly in regional and remote locations. 61% of the employed apprentices were Indigenous.
<i>National Indigenous Cadetship Program</i>	In 2007-08 17 cadets commenced in the NTPS under the National Indigenous Cadetship Program. The program offers career opportunities for Indigenous people during and after completing tertiary studies. Most cadets are under the age of 26.
<i>Graduate Development Program</i>	In 2007-08, 31 graduates were employed in the NTPS under the Graduate Development Program. The program develops skills while providing an opportunity to broaden knowledge of working in a public sector environment in the Territory.
<i>Training for Remote Youth Program</i>	The <i>Training for Remote Youth Program</i> is aimed at re-engaging students and preventing the threat of being disengaged from school. The program provides structured training, learning and work experiences that prepares them for employment in the community or re-engages them in further learning.
<i>Financial Management Literacy Programs</i>	Through active involvement in the reference group for the National Consumer and Financial Literacy Framework, the Northern Territory has contributed to the development of the teacher professional learning package that will support the rollout of the framework in 2008-09. DEET hosted workshops that present the Financial Literacy Curriculum and Resource package developed by the Commonwealth Bank Foundation. The Foundation funded the workshops, including keynote speakers and attendance by teachers from remote and urban centres around the Northern Territory.
<i>Accelerated Literacy Program</i>	Implementation of the <i>Accelerated Literacy Program</i> is on target to meet the 90% remote student requirement set by the Australian Government. DEET is waiting for data from the inaugural National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy which was conducted earlier in 2008, for evidence of improved literacy outcomes at the system-level.
<i>Building Relationships and School Wellbeing Project</i>	The Building Relationships and School Wellbeing project was undertaken in 33 urban schools and reached 12,527 of the 32,921 students (and their families) and 1088 of the 2440 teachers in Northern Territory Government Schools since June 2004.

<i>School Grants</i>	<p>Four projects under the 2008 Australians Working Together grants program (a joint initiative of the Australian and Northern Territory Governments) directly support young Territorians who have a disability to enable them to gain skills and experience whilst transiting from school to work.</p> <p>The Remote Transition from School Grants have been provided to community education centres, group schools and area schools to access support for students with disabilities with work experience and enterprise activities that enhance their post school opportunities. Students with disabilities living in Katherine and Tennant Creek now have support through Northern Territory Government funding to non-government agencies to provide supported work experience.</p> <p>In 2007, 19 projects met the criteria for Enterprise Grants – 13 successful applications were from remote schools. The grants are one of a package of initiatives funded through <i>Building Better Schools</i> that aims to foster the development and expansion of relevant and appropriate curriculum to secondary students.</p>
<i>Employment Disadvantage Pathways Project</i>	<p>The <i>Employment Disadvantaged Pathways Project</i> was established in 2005-06 to respond to the report: <i>Creating Effective Pathways to Employment and Training for the Employment Disadvantaged in the Northern Territory</i>. A Steering Committee is working to address recommendations of the report accepted by the Northern Territory Government. A key initiative of the project is the development of a website which will provide more effective and streamlined access to information on training and employment services available for employment disadvantaged groups.</p>
<i>School to Work Transition</i>	<p>The <i>School to Work Transition Strategic Plan 2007-09</i> aims to provide students with a range of options to assist them in making a successful transition from school to work, further training and/or higher education so they can actively contribute to the economic and social development of the Territory. Implementation of the Plan commenced in 2007 and to date, a number of the initiatives have been implemented. Further implementation will continue in 2008 and 2009.</p>
<i>Jobs Plan 3</i>	<p><i>Jobs Plan 3</i> which was released in May 2007, is a comprehensive, long-term strategy to create a highly skilled and flexible workforce and to maximise employment opportunities for all Territorians. Under <i>Jobs Plan 3</i>, we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• achieved 9120 apprentice and trainee commencements over four years against a target of 10 000 commencements.</li> <li>• implemented the <i>School to Work Transition Strategic Plan 2007-09</i> to assist in the transition of school students into employment, further education or training.</li> <li>• introduced the <i>Indigenous Training for Employment Program</i> which funds projects to assist Indigenous Territorians, particularly those in regional and remote areas, to access training and employment opportunities.</li> </ul> <p><i>Jobs Plan 3</i> introduced two new employer incentives to provide financial assistance to Territory businesses to employ additional apprentices and trainees.</p>

Since July 2007, 340 Occupational Shortage Employer Incentives have been released to encourage employers to take on an apprentice or trainee in areas of occupational shortage. As at June 2008, 265 Occupational Shortage Employer Incentives valued at \$4 000 each have been allocated to employers.

100 Disadvantaged Groups Employer Incentives were released to encourage employers to take on an apprentice or trainee from an identified disadvantaged group ie, a recent migrant, Indigenous Territorian from a regional or remote area or a Territorian with a disability. As at June 2008, 72 Disadvantaged Group Employer Incentives valued at \$2 000 each have been allocated to employers.

The Workwear/Workgear Bonus Scheme assists eligible apprentices and trainees with the costs of buying work wear, safety gear and other necessities during their first year of training. A total of 1569 Workwear/Workgear Bonuses were allocated in 2007-08.

The Workready Program has expanded with eight high schools in the Darwin and Katherine regions participating, increasing student participation from 180 to up around 300 students in 2008. These students have shown a commitment to undertaking VET and school based apprenticeships or traineeships. Work is underway to increase the number of schools participating in the program.

*Alice Springs Youth Employment Strategy (formerly Youth Employment Strategy Framework)*

The Alice Springs Youth Employment Strategy has been developed during 2008 to maximise opportunities for young people entering the workforce. It identifies six strategic opportunities to enhance the capacity of the Alice Springs community to support young people into employment and further life options. The strategy includes the following initiatives:

- *Workready Program*
- *Partnerships for Outcomes*
- *School to Work*
- *Workplace diversity*
- *Understanding Us Report*
- *Youth Voice*

*NYW 2008*

As part of National Youth Week, young people employed in the NTPS – in all regions of the Territory – were given the opportunity to undertake career planning sessions sponsored by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment (OCPE).

## Key Issue: Encouraging excellence in education, employment and training outcomes for young people

### Our focus

### Activity in 2007-08

*Library and Information Services*

The Northern Territory Library provides an online tutor service to primary, secondary and VET students and in 2007 over 1000 students benefited from this service. The Library also provides a range of authoritative and up to date electronic information sources that can be accessed from home.

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<i>Youth Business Awards</i>	<p>Young entrepreneurs and winners of the Northern Territory Youth Business Awards presented their business plan to the Education Minister in December 2007. The program provides students with a grounding in all critical elements of running a business, such as business planning, costing and marketing. Students receive a loan from the school to set up a business and are required to pay it back through the profits gained from their business venture.</p> <p>This annual program is jointly sponsored and supported by DEET, the Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development and the Small Business Association Northern Territory.</p>
<i>Barbara Singer Environmental Studies Scholarship</i>	<p>The Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts sponsored the 2008 Charles Darwin University Barbara Singer Scholarship. The \$3000 Scholarship is available to a full time student enrolled in an environmental science course at Charles Darwin University. It is awarded to the student who best demonstrates their passion, ability and initiative in promoting the aesthetic and/or environmental health of the Northern Territory environment.</p>
<i>Group Training Northern Territory School-Based Apprentice of the Year</i>	<p>Mr Graeme Talbot Jnr was awarded Group Training Northern Territory's 2008 School-Based Apprentice of the Year award in April. Graeme started volunteering at Fogg Dam during school holidays when he was 15 and has since completed a Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management and has commenced a Certificate III in this area.</p>
<i>Work Experience Placements</i>	<p>MAGNT hosted two young Indigenous trainees, including a National Indigenous Cadet, to assist with the Aboriginal Art and Material Culture program. The program includes the delivery of the annual National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award which has been vital in the development of Indigenous art.</p> <p>The George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens has been actively involved with the Enclave Program for the last 10 years. This unique program provides work experience placements for Year 9-10 students with special needs. It is facilitated by Student Services, in partnership with external stakeholders, both government and non government.</p> <p>In 2007-08 George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens provided placements for four to six students one day per week on a weekly basis.</p>

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## Direction Three

Provide more opportunities for young people to have fun and develop new skills

**Key Issue:** Providing young people with recreational and entertainment opportunities

Our focus	Activity in 2007-08
<i>Youth Engagement Grants Program</i>	The <i>Youth Engagement Grants Program</i> engages young Territorians aged 12 to 25 years through a variety of drug and alcohol free recreational events and youth development and leadership programs. The funding rounds for the grants coincide with National Youth Week and the major school holidays (June/July and December/January). In 2007-08, 86 grants totalling \$134,330 were awarded to young people and community organisations through the program.
<i>National Youth Week 2008</i>	National Youth Week (NYW) has become the Territory's greatest opportunity to showcase the talents and potential of young people. NYW 2008 was held from Saturday 5 to Sunday 13 April. The slogan for 2008 was Shout, Share, Live, Unite. The Office of Youth Affairs coordinated over 120 innovative and fun activities that reflected young Territorians' interests, issues and concerns. Twenty-seven of these activities were funded through the <i>Youth Engagement Grants Program</i> with the remainder being independently funded by other government agencies and community groups.
<i>Upgrade to sports facilities</i>	Sports facilities capital works to the value of \$573,000 were completed in 2007-08. Completed works comprise upgrade of Yuendumu Oval, refurbishment of Gapuwiyak Oval, repair of the Barunga basketball courts, repair of the Alpurrurulam multi purpose undercover area and upgrade of the Katherine Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) air-conditioning and fire system.
<i>Community Sport and Recreation Officers</i>	<p>In partnership with local government councils, the Northern Territory Government funds Sport and Recreation Officers to run programs for young Indigenous people in remote communities.</p> <p>40 Community Sport and Recreation Officers are employed across the Northern Territory.</p> <p>In 2007-08 the Northern Territory Government provided additional funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 additional Community Sport and Recreation Officers;</li> <li>• Ngiuu football oval infrastructure grant;</li> <li>• Wadeye football oval upgrade infrastructure grant; and</li> <li>• Grassroots projects (available to remote local government bodies that previously applied under the general sporting organisation grass roots program).</li> </ul>

<i>Youth Sport and Recreation Programs</i>	<p>As an extension of the Northern Territory Emergency Response, the Australian Government announced \$2.6m for 30 youth activity projects for young people living in Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory.</p> <p>Over half of this funding has been directed specifically to sport and recreational activity or infrastructure for Indigenous youth across the Territory.</p> <p>All projects are currently underway with the endorsement of both the community and the Australian Government. The DPI has been engaged to deliver the majority of the projects.</p>
<i>Youth Diversion Scheme Community Youth Development Units</i>	<p>Community Youth Development Units (CYDUs) offer a range of activities and programs for young people. Programs operate in Tennant Creek, Groote Eylandt, Borroloola, Galiwin'ku, Docker River, Papunya and the Tiwi Islands. Under the Northern Territory Emergency Response Youth Diversionary Grants the following youth programs received additional support:</p> <p><i>Canteen Creek Multi-media Equipment</i> – Canteen Creek community has been provided additional funding to purchase multi-media and musical equipment. This will contribute to initiatives aimed at alleviating youth boredom and tackling anti-social behaviour.</p> <p><i>Blue Light Discos</i> - Northern Territory Police held blue light discos in urban, rural and remote communities in the Northern Territory. In the Top End, over 30 000 young people, parents and community members attended discos. The discos provide young people with positive drug and alcohol free entertainment and positive interaction with local police.</p> <p><i>Angurugu Community Boat</i> – This boat will be used for recreational, education and capacity development activities. It will also be used for activities such as sea ranger and young sea ranger programs.</p>
<i>Arts Grant Program</i>	<p>The <i>Arts Grant Program</i> provides triennial funding to two major youth arts organisations: InCite Youth Arts in Alice Springs and Corrugated Iron Youth Arts in the Top End. Organisations funded through the <i>Arts Grant Program</i> provide opportunities for youth to engage with the arts. Arts organisations with a strong youth focus include Tracks, Browns Mart Community Arts, Darwin Theatre Company and Red Dust.</p>
<i>Araluen Arts Centre</i>	<p>The Araluen Arts Centre provided support for the Centralian Eisteddfod, school concerts and presentation events. It also provided support for presentation of the Wearable Arts Acquisition Awards, the Alice Springs Beanie Festival and the 15/15 Film Festival.</p>
<i>The Big Draw</i>	<p>In October MAGNT participated in the annual national program, <i>The Big Draw</i>. These events encourage young people's observation, thinking, creative and technical skills through drawing.</p>

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*The Kids Flick Fest*

The *Kids Flick Fest* held at MAGNT engaged young people from diverse backgrounds in special screenings of Australian films or children's films with Australian content.

MAGNT presented informative and educational family shows in June/July 2007 and January 2008 developed in conjunction with the CSIRO. These shows explore physics and chemical science in relation to the environment.

The Discovery Centre, open every day until 4.30 pm is a much-loved children's activity area where young people can explore natural science and art through informative and educational hands-on activities. Special activities held in the Discovery Centre are tailored for young minds and topical interests to assist their appreciation of the museum collection, Territory culture and environments.

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*Recreational and Environmental Experiences for Young Territorians*

The Territory Wildlife Park offers an exciting range of recreational and environmental experiences for young Territorians. In 2007-08 the very popular Amazing Drumming Monkeys have returned for daily performances during the school holidays with an expanded environmental message. The Park has also held a number of *Toad Busts* where young Territorians are encouraged to learn more about the Park and the impact on the environment from the cane toad invasion. Additional opportunities this year include the commencement of Twilight Tours and the development of new interactive wildlife experience attractions.

The Territory Wildlife Park also provides accommodation within an environmental education setting through the Camp Calytrix program which allows school groups to stay on the park and focus Young Territorians on environmental and conservation issues.

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*Community Benefit Fund Grant Program*

The *Community Benefit Fund Grant Program* provided grants of up to \$5 000 to community organisations, specifically targeting youth projects covering the areas of sport, recreation, arts and health.

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## Key Issue: Promoting the achievements of young people

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### Our focus

### Activity in 2007-08

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#### *Young Achiever Awards*

The Northern Territory Young Achiever Awards recognise those young Territorians who have contributed positively to their communities through their achievements.

The Minister for Young Territorians Excellence in Youth Leadership Award is sponsored by the Office of Youth Affairs. The Award recognises young Territorians who have displayed initiative, innovation, a commitment to themselves and others, and the pursuit of excellence in a leadership capacity.

DHCS sponsored the Young Carers Award. This award is presented to a young carer who has made an outstanding contribution in the field of supporting the elderly and disabled and caring for their daily needs.

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Each Award recipient receives \$2,000 and a magnificent trophy.

The 2008 Young Achiever Awards also recognise young Territorians in the following categories:

- The Perkins Shipping Sports Award
- The ConocoPhillips Environment Award
- The Somerville Community Services Award
- The Power and Water Science and Engineering Award
- The McArthur River Mining Regional and Rural Initiative Award
- The Drake International Career Achievement Award
- The Charles Darwin University Arts Award

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*Recognising Young Athletes*

The Territory's best up-and-coming athletes were rewarded for their efforts with 41 athletes from 15 sports receiving Northern Territory Institute of Sport (NTIS) individual scholarships for 2007-08. Four new athletes were included in the 2007-08 Individual Scholarship Program. NTIS athlete scholarships open doors for athletes to first class facilities such as access to coaching, strength and conditioning, physiology, nutrition, biomechanics/skill acquisition, physiotherapy, sport psychology, career and education counselling and high performance management services.

In 2007-08, 125 athletes (12 to 31 years of age) were awarded Full Scholarships by NTIS across 15 different sports. Over 85% of these athletes are under 20 years of age.

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*Northern Territory Literary Awards*

The Northern Territory Library manages the Northern Territory Literary Awards where young people have the opportunity to showcase their writing skills. Youth respond well to the awards with good entries received for both the Kath Manzie Youth Literary Award and the Red Earth Poetry Award.

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*Young Rural Achiever Award*

The Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines provided \$1000 in sponsorship towards the Young Rural Achiever Award.

The Award is open to young people aged 13 to 25 in recognition of their talents and achievements in rural industries and communities. The award aims to encourage young people to develop their skills in a range of areas relating to rural life.

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## Key Issue: Providing young people with access to leadership and development opportunities

Our focus	Activity in 2007-08
<i>Engaging Youth at Risk</i>	The Department of Local Government, Housing and Sport developed projects aimed at providing development opportunities for youth at risk, including the provision of coaching courses, presentation skills and leadership programs.
<i>Club Guru</i>	A leadership program for Territorians aged 16 to 22 years, <i>Club Guru</i> , develops youth leaders in all sports and builds on skills to assist in the sporting community.
<i>Camp Calytrix</i>	The Camp Calytrix facility at the Territory Wildlife Park provides opportunities for young Territorians to contribute to the running of a camp and to show initiative and leadership through individual programs and structured activities.
<i>Junior Ranger Program</i>	The long-running Junior Ranger Program has again seen the participation of around 200 young Territorians in a range of team building and environmental educational activities. The Parks and Wildlife Junior Ranger Program is a free environmentally based program for Territorians aged 9-14 years.
<i>School Based Information Sessions</i>	The Water Management Branch of the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (NRETA) provides water resource management information to school classes upon request. In 2007-08, schools visited included Taminmin High and Palmerston Middle School.
<i>Work Experience Placements</i>	NRETA worked with YouthWorx Northern Territory to provide work experience placements for Year 10 students in the <i>Workready Program</i> . NRETA also places school students and university students in various workplaces across the Territory during the year to accommodate academic requirements.
<i>Youth Mentoring Workshop</i>	OCPE's Remote Workforce Development Strategy supported three remote based young rangers in attending a Mentoring Workshop in Darwin facilitated by Diann Feldman.
<i>Darwin Youth LEAD 2008 Program</i>	OZ Green were allocated \$10 000 under the 2007-08 Environment Grant round to deliver a project titled Darwin Youth LEAD 2008. This award winning national youth environmental leadership and social enterprise program for young people aged 15 to 25, aims to build a network of young environmental leaders.  The Northern Territory Program included a three day residential training and action planning workshop covering: ecological footprint assessment and lifestyle analysis; strategic questioning, deep listening and critical thinking; rational and emotional intelligence; creative thinking, values and visioning; goal setting and action planning for lifestyle changes and eco-social action. The program also provides training and support for local mentors and ongoing mentoring and support for Youth LEADers.

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<i>Indigenous Leadership and Development Programs</i>	Forty-nine Indigenous students are currently participating in the Indigenous Students Leadership and Mentoring Program. Students have attended leadership camps and workshops focusing on leadership, team building and effective communication. Scholarship funding can be accessed for study purposes. Mentors work with students to help them achieve their goals. Professional training has been provided for mentors.
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## Key Issue: Improving access to and awareness of recreation and entertainment activities

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### Our focus

### Activity in 2007-08

<i>What's on in the Holidays</i>	Government's dedicated youth website <a href="http://www.youth.nt.gov.au">www.youth.nt.gov.au</a> informs the community about recreation and entertainment activities in the major school holidays.
<i>Sport LinkUp</i>	The <i>Sport LinkUp</i> interactive website continues to be a useful tool in encouraging young people to get active through sporting activities, and in providing information about available sports and sporting clubs throughout the Territory.
<i>Remote Holiday Activities in Community Youth Development Units</i>	The CYDUs offer community based activities and programs during holidays. Programs operate in Tennant Creek, Groote Eylandt, Borroloola, Galiwin'ku and the Tiwi Islands. Other holiday program support was conducted in partnership with Tangentyere at Papunya, Ikuntji, Mutitjulu, Hermannsberg, Mt Liebig and Impanpa.
<i>EnvironmeNT Grants Program</i>	The 2007-08 EnvironmeNT Grants program provided \$18,661 to 12 schools to implement projects that provide educational and environmental outcomes. A range of projects were supported that promote ecological sustainability and build awareness of the impacts of personal behaviour and lifestyle choices. Students have been engaged in identifying issues and actions to address them.
<i>George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens</i>	In 2007-08 the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens provided a recreation environment that hosted educational, orienteering and creative activities for young Territorians.

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## Direction Four

Make sure that young people are able to participate in decisions that affect their lives

**Key Issue:** Providing more opportunities for young people to participate in decision-making

Our focus	Activity in 2007-08
<i>Youth Round Table</i>	<p>Engaging with young Territorians is important to ensure that issues of importance to them are heard and acted on by government. The Youth Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians links young Territorians to the Territory Government and enables them to have input to decision-making. The 2007 Youth Round Table met formally four times during 2007 and had direct input into government policy and programs with a youth focus. Members consulted directly with over 1 500 Territorians throughout their term.</p> <p>Copies of the project reports and Annual Report are available at <a href="http://www.youth.nt.gov.au">www.youth.nt.gov.au</a>.</p>
<i>Youth Consultations</i>	<p>The Office of Youth Affairs undertakes consultations to obtain feedback from a wide range of young people and the youth sector as part of the development of youth related policies, programs and services. During 2007-08, the office facilitated the following consultations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation to Fred Hollows Young Women's Forum (Katherine Region);</li> <li>▪ Katherine Young Women's Forum;</li> <li>▪ DEET Chief Executives Student Forum;</li> <li>▪ DEET Youth Leadership Mentoring Program Participants;</li> <li>▪ Taminmin High School Eco8 Forum;</li> <li>▪ National Australian Sister Cities Conference Presentation;</li> <li>▪ Youth Focus Group on Sexual Health Issues; and</li> <li>▪ Youth Expo at Casuarina Square.</li> </ul>
<i>Chief Executive's Student Forum</i>	<p>DEET's <i>Chief Executive's Student Forum</i> continues to be a valuable youth participation mechanism to discuss educational issues and contribute to decision-making. Fifteen students in Years 11 and 12 from across the Territory meet twice a year via IDL (Video conferencing) and twice a year face to face in Darwin with the Chief Executive and other senior executives from DEET.</p>

## Key Issue: Providing young people with better access to information about programs and services

Our focus	Activity in 2007-08
<i>Youth Services Directory</i>	The Office of Youth Affairs produced and maintains a Youth Services Directory that provides a comprehensive list of specific programs and services – including youth groups and networks – that are available to young Territorians.
<i>Youth Website</i>	The Northern Territory Government's youth portal <a href="http://www.youth.nt.gov.au">www.youth.nt.gov.au</a> is an important community engagement tool for young people, providing youth-friendly information about government programs and services for young people, as well as links to community based youth services.
<i>Moneystuff</i>	Ongoing development of this program has been undertaken by Consumer Affairs with DEET to promote this through their teacher orientation and numeracy teams.
<i>Cool Consumer</i>	A newsletter dedicated to young Territorians – <i>The Cool Consumer</i> – provides advice on a wide range of consumer related issues. The newsletter is distributed to schools, youth organisations and people working with young Territorians in urban, rural and remote areas of the Territory.

## Direction Five

### Create communities where young people can feel safe and secure

**Key Issue:** Addressing issues of personal safety and crime prevention and reduction

Our focus	Activity in 2007-08
<i>Road safety reforms</i>	<p>In November 2006, the Northern Territory Government approved a comprehensive package of road safety reforms dealing with sanctions, enforcement and road safety education and awareness.</p> <p>Specific reform implementation in 2007-08 that addresses the driving safety of young Territorians includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Graduated driver licensing was introduced in the Territory on 1 July 2007. This increased the learner period to a minimum of six months and increased the provisional driver period to two years for drivers under 25.</li> <li>- A total ban on the use of mobile phones for learner and provisional drivers will assist to reduce driver distraction while young and new drivers are gaining experience on the road.</li> <li>- The Northern Territory Demerit Points Scheme, which began on 1 September 2007, seeks to instil good driving habits in young Territorians by targeting repeat offenders.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, DPI has developed a Novice Driver DVD to educate young and inexperienced drivers about the dangers they face on our roads. The DVD includes the topics of drink and drug drive, speed, inexperience, driver distraction, fatigue and the importance of wearing seatbelts. It also includes a section on the consequences of road trauma.</p> <p>The DVD will be used by teachers in high schools undertaking Driver Training and Licensing, Registered Driver Trainers and Registered Training Organisations delivering the Drink Drive Education course.</p>
<i>Road Safety Project</i>	<p>The Northern Territory Government awarded the contracted road works to a local Territory company for the construction of a new access road into Bullocky Point and Darwin Middle School.</p>
<i>Road Safety Awareness Campaign</i>	<p>The <i>Back to School</i> road safety awareness campaign targeted at drivers, parents and students was promoted through newspaper and radio advertising.</p>
<i>Safety on school buses</i>	<p>The Northern Territory Government boosted safety for rural students by putting seat belts on school buses.</p> <p>The addition of 21 new buses will help meet the growing transport demands associated with the introduction of Middle Schooling in the Northern Territory. All the new buses are fitted with seat belts for the benefit of up to 1,500 students and operate on higher risk routes located in the Darwin rural area and one route that travels from Pine Creek to Katherine for school.</p>

	<p>Students from Middle Point Primary, Berry Springs Primary, Humpty Doo Primary, Bees Creek Primary, Taminmin High, St Francis of Assisi and Litchfield Christian School, as well as Katherine High School, St Joseph's College and Clyde Fenton School were the first to travel on the new buses.</p>
<p><i>Youth Diversion Scheme Community Grants Program</i></p>	<p>The Northern Territory Police managed Youth Diversion Program provides recurrent funding to urban case management services for young people on formal diversion from court. These programs operate in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs.</p> <p>Remote CYDUs also provide risk abatement activities for young people in Tennant Creek, Groote Eylandt, Borroloola, Galiwin'ku and the Tiwi Islands. Other program support was provided to youth programs at Maningrida, Papunya, Ikuntji, Mutitjulu, Mt Liebig, Imanpa and Hermannsberg.</p> <p>The Central Australian Youth Link Up Service continues to provide support to youth programs in the Southern Region.</p>
<p><i>Northern Territory Emergency Response Youth Diversionary Grants</i></p>	<p>As part of the Northern Territory Emergency Response, the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs in partnership with the Northern Territory Police provided Youth Diversionary Grants for 16 projects across the Northern Territory.</p> <p>These projects include capital and operational funding support to increase opportunities for young people at risk through increased services, additional resources and upgrading of facilities. Community funded initiatives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gunbalanya - Youth Centre upgrade;</li> <li>▪ Gunbalanya - Basketball Court and facilities upgrade;</li> <li>▪ Canteen Creek – Multimedia and music equipment ;</li> <li>▪ Angurugu - Community Boat;</li> <li>▪ Ali Curung - short term Youth Development Worker;</li> <li>▪ Ali Curung - youth centre renovations and equipment purchase;</li> <li>▪ Borroloola Region Youth Development Unit - facilities upgrade;</li> <li>▪ Hermannsberg - Recreation Centre upgrade;</li> <li>▪ Hermannsberg – Lighting and other safety equipment;</li> <li>▪ Papunya Youth Program - facilities upgrade;</li> <li>▪ Child Wise Choose with Care Training Programs – the Tiwi Islands and East Arnhem;</li> <li>▪ Deadly Digital Multi-media program – Docker River and the Tiwi Islands;</li> <li>▪ Blue Light Disco equipment and support – various ;</li> <li>▪ Mt Liebig - Facilities upgrade; and</li> <li>▪ Areyonga - Basketball facility upgrade.</li> </ul>
<p><i>24 Hour Child Protection/Child Abuse Hotline</i></p>	<p>DHCS established the combined FACS/Police Central Intake Team 24 hour Child Abuse Hotline 1800 number (1800 700 250) to take calls from anyone concerned about the abuse or neglect of any person under the age of 18 years.</p>
<p><i>School Holiday Programs for Young People at Risk</i></p>	<p>DHCS provided funding to Mission Australia for the delivery of a school holiday program for young people at risk in the northern suburbs. Funding was also provided to Red Cross to extend the hours of The SHAK at Casuarina.</p>

## Key Issue: Dealing with young offenders

Our focus	Activity in 2007-08
<i>Youth Diversion Scheme</i>	The Youth Diversion Scheme (YDS) is an essential component of Territory Government programs working with young people in the justice system and those who are at risk of offending. The major purpose of the scheme is to work with young offenders through formal assessment, youth justice conferences, and referral to a diversion program. Northern Territory Police managed and delivered the scheme in 2007-08 and administered and supported the YDS Community Grants Program.
<i>Dealing with Gang Related Activity</i>	<p>In April 2008, the Northern Territory Government announced a departmental restructure to centralise all services for youth and families into the Department of Health and Families, created on 1 July 2008.</p> <p>This restructure was part of a broader strategy, to which the Northern Territory Government has committed \$2.5m, to combat youth crime and antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>The strategy has three main elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• limiting access to Youth Diversion;</li> <li>• Family Responsibility Agreements and Orders; and</li> <li>• youth camps.</li> </ul> <p>Implementation of the strategy commenced on 1 July 2008.</p>

## Key Issue: Reducing the incidence of bullying and antisocial behaviour in schools

Our focus	Activity in 2007-08
<i>Safe Schools Northern Territory Framework</i>	In total, 145 schools in the Northern Territory have had professional learning in relation to the Safe Schools Northern Territory Framework. They now have the tools to develop their schools Wellbeing and Behaviour policies and related materials on classroom management, individual behaviour management, risk management and behavioural de-escalation. A total of 17,235 copies of the parent/student brochure and 3325 of the school A3 posters were delivered to schools.

## Key Issue: Addressing domestic and family violence

Our focus	Activity in 2007-08
<i>Family Conferencing, Community Youth Development Unit the Tiwi Islands</i>	As part of service delivery by the CYDU at Nguuu, the Tiwi Islands a Family Conflict Resolution process is facilitated when issues of family conflict arises. This model of mediation utilises traditional cultural relationships when seeking to resolve conflicts that impact on families within their communities.

*Child Wise Choose with Care Program*

Under the Northern Territory Emergency Response Youth Diversionary program Child Wise was supported to deliver training to the Tiwi Islands and East Arnhem region. The training program is an innovative prevention program designed to build the capacity of individuals, organisations and communities to reduce the risks of child abuse in programs working with children.

The program assists organisations to develop and implement child safe practices, including child protection policies and adopting child safe recruitment and screening for staff and volunteers.

*Internal Domestic and Family Violence Strategies*

In September 2006 DHCS endorsed the Policy Approach to Identified Domestic and Family Violence in Health Care Settings.

Domestic and family violence encompasses all forms of violence between intimate partners, family members and includes child abuse and neglect. The purpose of the policy is to ensure departmental employees are consistent in their approach and assessment of clients presenting with injuries and other indicators suggestive of domestic and family violence, and where these are identified, provide appropriate advice, support and referral services.

This response includes health professionals being required to report that a child (any person who has not attained the age of 18 years) is being, has been, or is at risk of maltreatment. This includes psychological and/or physical impairment as a result of exposure to domestic and family violence.

*Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Bilateral Projects*

FVPP uses one-off Australian Government funding for projects co-funded by the Northern Territory Government to address Indigenous family violence. Nine Territory projects are currently funded with funding, reporting and project linkages coordinated through Remote Service Development in FACS, although other agencies may manage much of the implementation of the projects.

Through this funding stream some programs have particular impact on young people, including behavioural change programs for families struggling with this issue, including streams for children and young people; 'safe places' in remote communities offering a range of anti-violence programs and initiatives, including some targeted specifically to children and young people.

*Mandatory Reporting Training*  
(formerly titled "Stop It Before It Starts")

An Action/Research model was adopted to explore current and emerging issues in child protection, and to consult, develop and deliver the half-day *Child Protection and Mandatory Reporting Training* package, which includes a resource booklet and pre and post assessment forms. Training has now been delivered to 150 Principals, Assistant Principals, Managers and key Student Services staff in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. In addition, a modified *Child Protection and Mandatory Reporting Information* package has been delivered to a further 100 staff from Health Promoting Nurses and Teaching Learning and Standards.

Initial findings are that the training delivered has increased an individual's confidence to recognise harm and exploitation of students and report to the statutory agency. Further, their understanding of the processes of FACS has increased.

Ongoing policy development is inclusive of anticipated legislative changes in the *Care And Protection Of Children Act* that is expected to be operationalised in October 2008. Whilst the current training package is broad enough to encompass these legislative changes, it would likely be enhanced with the future inclusion of DEET endorsed policy directives.

## Key Issue: Improving relations between young people and the Police

Our focus	Activity in 2007-08
<i>Blue Light (Police)</i>	Blue Light discos continue to provide entertainment for the Territory's young people.
<i>School Based Police Officers</i>	School Based Police Officers (SBPOs) work closely with the school community and other Police. SBPOs continue to deliver Personal Awareness lessons and information sessions on rights and responsibilities with regards to the law, in primary and secondary schools. There are currently 11 SBPOs in the Greater Darwin Region servicing approximately 60 schools. There are 22 SBPOs across the Northern Territory.
<i>Youth Justice Act</i>	<p>The <i>Youth Justice Act</i> took effect from August 2006. The Act includes a presumption for the diversion of youth except for the most serious of offences, and is limited where a youth has been diverted on two or more previous occasions in respect of two or more situations, unless authorised by the Commissioner for Police or a delegate.</p> <p>The Act also provides for the establishment of a Youth Justice Court with provision for specialist sentencing options and regulation of detention centres.</p> <p>The Act was recently amended to provide for Family Responsibility Agreements which allow agencies to engage with parents and/or responsible adults to assist them to improve their parenting skills. Orders may be imposed where Agreements fail or where the young person has breached a condition of bail or been charged with an offence.</p>

## Key Issue: Ensuring young people have access to safe and affordable accommodation

Our focus	Activity in 2007-08
<i>Youth Headleasing Program</i>	Territory Housing allocates properties at a reduced rental to YWCA to support youth into leasing their own rental property.
<i>Ongoing review of legislation and policies</i>	The <i>Housing Act</i> , and housing policy and procedures are under ongoing review to better meet the needs of young people accessing public housing.

<i>Making Yourself at Home – A Young Person’s Guide to Housing</i>	Making Yourself at Home – A Young Person’s Guide to Housing, produced by the Department of Local Government, Housing and Sport was developed to assist young people with advice in relation to housing options and ideas. A copy of this guide is available at <a href="http://www.housing.nt.gov.au">www.housing.nt.gov.au</a>
<i>Funding to community groups</i>	Grant funding from the Community Housing Program administered by Territory Housing enabled the YWCA of Darwin to purchase a two bedroom unit for its Youth Housing Program to offer supported accommodation to young couples with one child/single women with children.
<i>Tennant Creek CYDU Crisis Accommodation</i>	The Tennant Creek CYDU promotes the development of healthy lifestyle choices amongst young people at risk by providing crisis and short term accommodation. They provide both a young men’s and young women’s house for youth between the ages of 12 -18 providing them with a safe, stable and structured environment in which they can seek education and employment opportunities. Furthermore the youth are provided with alcohol and other drug support services to assist in diverting them from at risk behaviour.
<i>Supported Accommodation and Assistance Program</i>	Supported Accommodation and Assistance Program (SAAP) is jointly funded by the Northern Territory and Australian Governments. DHCS administered the program in the Territory and contracted non-government agencies to provide accommodation and support to homeless people and women and children escaping domestic and family violence. SAAP funded 34 services across the Territory – eight of these services provide crisis, transitional and medium term accommodation for young people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness.
	A new service based in Darwin is focussed on young people at risk of homelessness and works with both the young person and where possible, their family.

## Glossary of acronyms used

CYDU	Community Youth Development Unit
DEET	Department of Employment, Education and Training
DHCS	Department of Health and Community Services
DPI	Department of Planning and Infrastructure
FACS	Family and Children's Services (within DHCS)
FVPP	Family Violence Prevention Project
Jnr	Junior
MAGNT	Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
NRETA	Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts
NTIS	Northern Territory Institute of Sport
NTPS	Northern Territory Public Service
NYW	National Youth Week
OCPE	Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment
RLPA	Remote Learning Partnerships Agreement
SAAP	Supported Accommodation and Assistance Program
SARC	Sexual Assault Referral Centre
SBPO	School Based Police Officer
VET	Vocational Education and Training
VETiS	Vocational Education and Training in Schools
YDS	Youth Diversion Scheme
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association