



Message

from the minister for young territorians

Young Territorians are our future.

Building a Better Future for young Territorians sets out the Northern Territory Government's vision for young people aged 12 to 25.

The Northern Territory is diverse. Young Territorians come from many different social and cultural backgrounds with different beliefs, interests and values, as well as needs and aspirations. They make up around 22% of the Territory's population. The challenge for the Government and the community is to deliver services which will meet these diverse needs.

My Government is committed to ensuring that young people have access to education, employment and training opportunities. Services and programs must be delivered that address their physical, social and emotional health and well-being, as well as providing sporting and recreational facilities and youth development opportunities which help them reach their goals. We will encourage young people to contribute to policy and program development and we will listen and respond appropriately to their views and concerns.

The Office of Youth Affairs will strengthen its role as the Government's central co-ordination, monitoring and reporting agency for youth issues, and will oversee the implementation of this framework. I will be working with my Ministerial colleagues to ensure that the actions outlined in *Building a Better Future* are implemented, monitored and reviewed by their agencies.

I would like to thank those young people and community organisations who so willingly gave their time to contribute towards the development of *Building a Better Future*. I look forward to working in partnership with young people and their communities to build a better future.

Clare Martin
Minister for Young Territorians





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Introduction

This framework outlines a whole-of-government approach to the delivery of programs and services to young people. The term “young people” in this document describes young men and women aged between 12 and 25 years who are making, or have recently made, the transition from childhood to adulthood.

Young people make up around 22% of the Northern Territory’s population and are an integral part of what makes the Territory such a vibrant and exciting place to live.

The demographics of the Northern Territory present a particular challenge in terms of service delivery. Young Indigenous people comprise 35% of the youth population, with 68% living in remote communities. These young people are specifically disadvantaged in terms of access to a range of services which their peers in the urban centres take for granted. Government recognises the need to provide additional and targeted support in order to address this disadvantage.

The Government’s Social Development Strategy, *Strong Families and Sustainable Communities: Building a Better Society for all Territorians*, outlines this Government’s commitment to creating a fairer, more equitable Territory for all its citizens. It is built on the principles of access and equity and seeks to ensure that all Territorians have an opportunity to participate fully in society.

Strong Families and Sustainable Communities: Building a Better Society for all Territorians provides an overarching framework for the social development of the Territory. This document provides a more detailed plan to guide service delivery specifically for young Territorians, consistent with the principles and strategic directions underpinning the Social Development Strategy.



“The lifestyle is pretty good as you can escape the big city syndrome and easily go fishing and shooting.”

[Male, Darwin]

“The best thing about living here is that everyone is really friendly.”

[Female, Alice Springs]



Who are our young people?

The following statistics on young Territorians are based on data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics from the 2001 Census. The figures used have been adjusted for under-enumeration and residents overseas at the time of the Census.

- Approximately 44,400 young Territorians were recorded from 200,019 Territorians. Young Territorians therefore comprise about 22% of the total population of the Northern Territory.
- There were slightly more males 23,100 (52%) than females 21,300 (48%).
- Young Territorians aged 12-17 years made up about 42% (18,500) of the total youth population with 18-25 year olds being 58% (25,900).
- There were approximately 15,700 young Indigenous people in the Northern Territory. This number accounts for 35% of the total youth population in the Territory. Sixty eight percent of these young people lived in rural or remote areas.
- The majority of young people, approximately 31,300 (70%), lived in urban areas while 13,100 (30%) lived in rural and remote areas.
- Approximately 37,700 (85%) young Territorians were born in Australia, 3,300 (7%) were born overseas and 3,400 (8%) did not state where they were born.
- Approximately 27,600 (62%) young Territorians spoke English at home, 13,200 (30%) spoke another language and 3,600 (8%) did not state what language they spoke at home.
- The leading countries of birth for young Territorians born overseas were New Zealand, the Philippines and England.



“Come out and see first hand what the problems are out here.”

[Male, remote community]

“Talk to young people – don’t just pretend to listen.”

[Female, Alice Springs]



Who was involved

in developing this framework?

This framework has been developed based on extensive Territory wide consultations with young people and service providers. This process comprised two steps.

Firstly, a Territory wide audit was undertaken to map consultative activity with young people by both Government and the community sector since 2000. Twenty Government and non-government agencies contributed to this process, and feedback from over 5,000 young people was used as a result of this audit. This process was also very useful in avoiding duplication and identifying gaps in previous consultations.

Additional consultations were then undertaken throughout the Territory. A key element of these was the forming of partnerships with a number of non-government organisations including youth service providers and Indigenous communities. This secured the views of young people whose voices are not always heard. This collaborative approach was very effective, with over 500 young people participating.

A list of those organisations and individuals that contributed to both the audit and consultations is at Appendix A.

The information gathered formed the basis of a preliminary paper outlining key findings. Submissions responding to this paper were called for in all major newspapers. The paper was also posted on the Office of Youth Affairs (OYA) website inviting comment and distributed to over 1,000 stakeholders for input. Twenty six submissions were received from a range of organisations and individuals, which helped further shape the content of this framework. Submissions are listed at Appendix B.

The document has also been informed by relevant national and international research with respect to youth issues. These references are listed at Appendix C.

This document is not intended to provide a detailed list of all youth issues or Government youth-related programs and services, but to establish a framework to underpin youth policy and program development which is flexible enough to accommodate emerging needs and best practice models. For more information about Government agencies and their responsibilities, refer to Appendix D.





Guiding principles

for service delivery to young people

Key principles have been developed to underpin policies, programs and service delivery for young people.

These are:

- **Respect**
To hear and respect the views of young people.
- **Diversity**
To recognise the differences and diversity of young people and not treat them as “one size fits all”.
- **Access**
To provide young people with access to services and not to disadvantage them because of how or where they live.
- **Empowerment**
To give young people the opportunity to influence decision making.
- **Equity**
To ensure that young people have equal access to services and not be treated unfairly because of their age, gender, ethnicity, illness, disability, or any other characteristic.
- **Co-ordination**
To better co-ordinate services to young people in order to make the best use of available knowledge, expertise and resources, both within Government and in the community.





Directions

for young people

The input provided through the consultative process has identified five directions. These are to:

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

Key issues have been identified against each of these directions, together with priority actions which Government is taking, or will take, to address these issues.

Whilst each direction is important in its own right and provides a platform for current and future activity, it is recognised that many of the issues are fundamentally inter-connected. Many of the priority actions identified will apply to more than one direction. Government agencies are required to deliver an integrated, co-ordinated approach in partnership with the community sector in all spheres of activity to achieve the best outcomes for young people.



“We want real jobs not gammon jobs.”

[Male, remote community]

“Create more jobs for people with special needs.”

[Male, Darwin]



Improve

young people's health and well-being

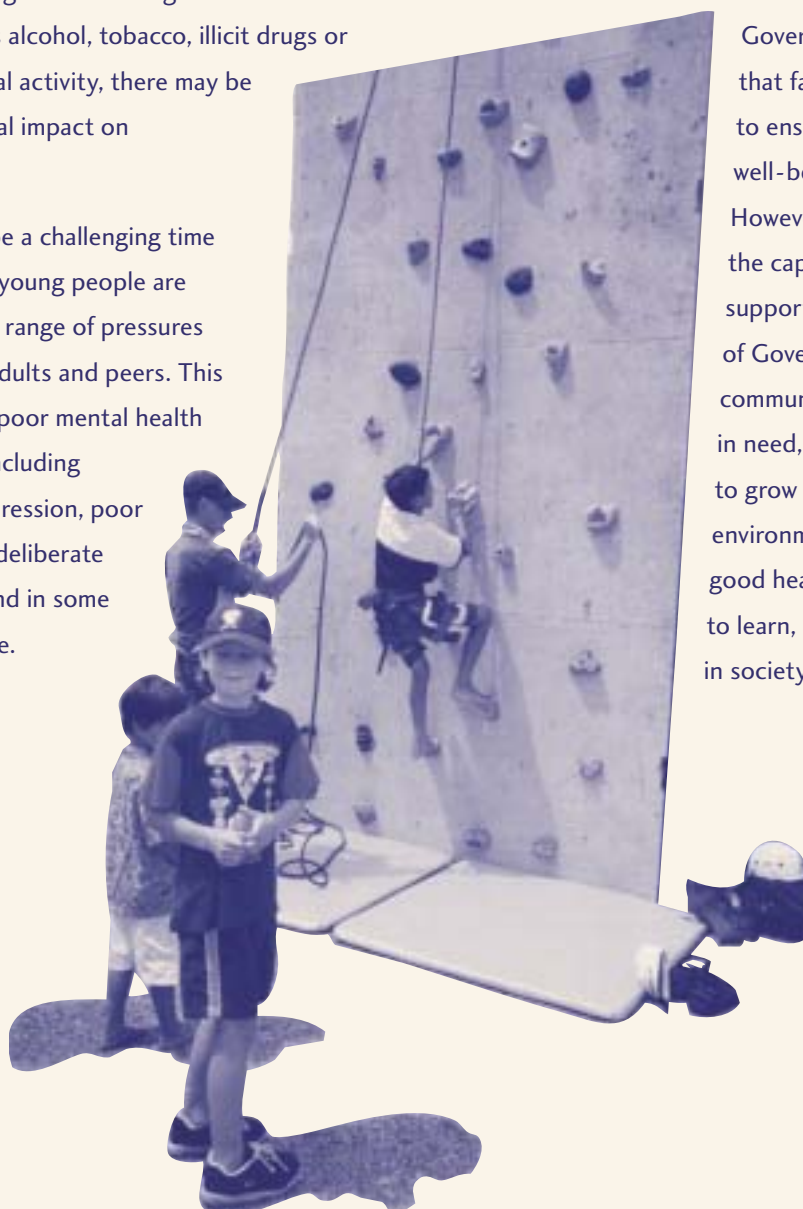
It is now recognised that the definition of health is far broader than just the prevention and treatment of disease. Health relates to an individual's physical, social and emotional well-being and is affected by a complex range of factors which must be taken into account when developing service responses.

The transition from childhood to adulthood for many young people involves a new independence and the freedom to experiment. Many young people engage in risk-taking behaviours. Where this involves alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs or unsafe sexual activity, there may be a detrimental impact on their health.

It can also be a challenging time when many young people are subject to a range of pressures from both adults and peers. This can lead to poor mental health outcomes including anxiety, depression, poor self-image, deliberate self-harm and in some cases suicide.

In responding to these issues, the Government's focus is on promoting healthy and active lifestyles as an alternative to risky behaviour; providing information to assist young people make informed choices; early intervention to minimise harm; and programs to help young people develop resilience. It is important that services are youth friendly and appropriately targeted to the needs of young people at risk, with particular emphasis on providing practical support in a non-judgmental environment.

Government also recognises that family support is vital to ensuring the health and well-being of young people. However, not all families have the capacity to provide this support. It is the responsibility of Government and the community to support families in need, to assist young people to grow up in a safe, supportive environment which promotes good health and opportunities to learn, develop and participate in society.





Key Issue

Addressing young people's substance misuse

Priority Action

Analyse the recommendations of the Illicit Drugs Taskforce as part of a refocus and realignment of Alcohol and Other Drugs servicing, including implementation of the following:

- Establish and publicise an Alcohol and Other Drugs Information Service to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Review resource issues to ascertain that services are able to respond adequately to the needs of young people.

Explore and implement appropriate evidence-based drug prevention strategies which may include the following initiatives:

- Use of media resources to address issues of drug prevention through education and family support services, including an education campaign directed at schools using cinema and television advertising.
- Youth drug prevention campaigns during school holiday and youth week periods.
- A communication strategy that will enable Alcohol and Other Drugs media campaigns to access youth in remote areas.
- Build capacities of young people, schools and Indigenous communities to address substance abuse issues in their community.

Provide grants for young people for drug and alcohol free entertainment and the promotion of positive health and lifestyle messages.

Develop the *Rethinking Drinking* project, in consultation with regional and remote communities, to better meet the needs of Indigenous young people.

Promote the *Choose Yourself Resource Kit*. The Kit focuses on youth health issues and is used by schools and youth groups.

Support schools to enable them to create local awareness programs educating young people about the harmful effects of smoking.



Key Issue

Priority Action

Supporting the families of young people

Develop and implement the Northern Territory Children's and Young People's Health Policy, which will focus on initiatives which support secure and stable family environments for children and young people.

Establish school health programs including a pilot nutrition program.

Establish an Office of Children and Families to ensure an integrated whole-of-government approach to enhancing family well-being.

Establish a Family Services Advisory Council to provide direct advice to the Chief Minister about issues affecting families.

Develop a Freecall Family Helpline and a Family Support Internet Site.

Support Positive Parenting Programs and a range of appropriate parenting skills enhancement programs.

Introduce education for parenthood into the school curriculum.

Through the Domestic and Aboriginal Family Violence Strategies, provide support to families to help reduce the incidence of violence in the home.

Addressing the sexual health issues of young people

Promote safe sex practice to young people to reaffirm their knowledge of healthy safe sex practice and to reduce the potential risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, such as the young women's program "Put it on, so we can get it on".

Develop an education campaign to address the high rates of chlamydia in young women.

Produce youth-friendly information on sexual health issues for dissemination on the OYA website.



Key Issue

Reducing mental health problems and disorders among young people

Priority Action

Implement a Suicide Prevention Strategy for the Northern Territory based on the Commonwealth Living Is For Everyone (LIFE) framework for prevention of suicide and self-harm.

Continue to support services and community networks which help prevent and reduce suicide, such as the Life Promotion Program.

Support the implementation of *MindMatters* in NT secondary schools to strengthen young people's life skills and resilience in a supportive school environment.

Support the Peer Skills program, run by Kid's Help Line, to provide young people with communication skills and the ability to assist their peers with emotional or distressing issues.

Continue financial support for *beyond blue* and its initiatives to reduce the risk for, prevalence of, and the impact of depressive disorders on individuals and families.

Investigate the expansion of the Resourceful Adolescents Program into secondary schools as an early intervention program for young people at risk of developing anxiety and depression related disorders.

Using existing Northern Territory research on young women and body image, investigate the development of community education and co-ordination projects.

Consider the outcomes of the Mental Health Service System Development Strategy as they relate to young people.



Improve access

to education and employment for young people

Young Territorians are not only an important part of the community today – they are our future. The long-term economic growth and prosperity of the Northern Territory is dependent on the development of a vibrant, flexible, and skilled workforce with the capacity to meet current and emerging needs. This can only be achieved by providing young people with access to high quality learning.

Government recognises its responsibility to create education, training and employment opportunities for all young people which will prepare them for work and a changing world. It will also enable them to achieve financial independence, realise their personal goals and lead fulfilling, creative and productive lives.

Government is committed to building pathways for all young people to enable them to make the transition from school to further education, training and employment. However, in doing so it recognises the diversity of young people and the need to provide flexible learning solutions for those young people who are disconnected from mainstream education.

A key priority of Government is supporting improved educational outcomes for young Indigenous people. The recommendations of *Learning Lessons – an Independent Review of Indigenous Education in the Northern Territory* are being implemented by Government through ten strategies under the Indigenous Education Strategic Plan. Key elements of these strategies include increasing the enrolment and attendance rates of Indigenous students, addressing health issues impacting on students' ability to learn, and improving the availability of secondary education for Indigenous students.

The creation of jobs for young people will continue to be a high priority for Government. Increased access to vocational education and training in schools, training programs for young people in regional and remote areas, and the creation of employment opportunities in the public sector through programs to employ school leavers, apprentices and graduates are all key Government initiatives designed to skill young Territorians for the market place and increase youth employment.





Key Issue

Priority Action

Improving educational outcomes for all students, including Indigenous students

Review secondary education in order to improve outcomes in urban, rural, and remote secondary schools throughout the Territory.

Implement the Northern Territory Indigenous Education Strategic Plan to support improvements in educational outcomes for all Indigenous students. This Strategy provides a framework for implementing the key recommendations of the *Learning Lessons* report.

Increase numbers of students who stay in school and attend regularly through the implementation of the Student Enrolment, Attendance and Retention Strategy. Key elements of this Strategy include:

- The employment of School Attendance Officers in targeted schools over the next three years.
- The introduction of alternative education provision programs for students who are disengaged from mainstream education.

Improving the access of young Territorians to further education, including Vocational Education and Training (VET) and higher education

Expand educational pathways for young people and support the transition from school to work through increasing access to VET in schools.

Provide forty higher education and ten VET scholarships each year.

Provide twenty teacher bursaries each year to encourage student teachers to undertake their studies at a local tertiary institution.



Key Issue

Maximising employment and training opportunities for young people

Priority Action

Provide support to regional and remote training programs such as the Training for Remote Youth program, which focus on vocational employment and training in remote areas.

Develop and implement an Employment and Training Strategy to provide clear direction for employment and training in the Territory.

Develop and implement a strategy to increase the completion rate for apprentices and trainees across the Territory.

Improve employment opportunities for school leavers through the Apprenticeship School Leaver Program.

Expand the Northern Territory Public Sector (NTPS) Graduate Development Program to include:

- Offering innovative graduate and undergraduate programs to address employment minorities in the Public Sector.
- Increasing the graduate and undergraduate intake to attract people in the target employment areas of health and education.
- Establishing contract undergraduate research positions in agencies to offer part time work to students who have successfully completed part of their qualification.
- Expanding the programs to all NTPS agencies.

Support the Indigenous Cadet Program which assists young Indigenous people to gain qualifications to enable them to take up employment in the NTPS.

Support the Finance Officer in Training (FOIT) Scheme which employs graduates in accounting, finance, economics, business and public administration in the Northern Territory Treasury.

Offer a range of programs encouraging young people who are either in business, or wish to start a business. These include:

- “Youth Desk” business consultation service.
- “Getting Started” seminars for those starting out in business.
- Youth Business Network Group.
- “Shell Livewire”, a joint mentoring project between Shell, Rotary, and the NT Government.

Investigate the establishment of the Young Achievement Australia (YAA) enterprise education program in high schools, where students develop and operate a business.

Develop information resources on economic and financial issues to assist young people to plan for their financial future.



Key Issue

Encouraging excellence in education, employment and training outcomes for young people

Priority Action

Maintain support to a range of Awards including:

- “Worldskills NT”, an international VET competition for young people aged under 25.
- NT Vocational Training Awards, which highlight the achievements of trainees, students, training providers and employers in VET.
- Youth Business Awards, which recognise young entrepreneurs.



Provide more

opportunities for young people to have fun and develop new skills

The importance of having access to a wide range of recreational and sporting activities is a key factor affecting young people's lives. Young people in the Territory want and expect recreation and entertainment opportunities of a high standard. They want to be actively involved in the design and development of these activities to ensure that they are relevant to their needs and interests.

The issues of "boredom" and having "nothing to do", which are often raised by young people, can be linked to an increase in risk-taking behaviours including substance abuse and involvement in crime. Ensuring that young people have opportunities to participate in affordable, accessible and challenging things to do will help to reduce these negative consequences.

Government also acknowledges that not all young people want to participate in structured activities. Many just want to "hang out" with their friends in

public places such as shopping centres and parks, and want their right to do this to be respected and legitimised.

Too often, the behaviour of young people is unfairly portrayed in a negative light. Young people have a valuable and unique contribution to make to the Territory, and many are actively involved in their community, their schools, and in family life. Their contributions and achievements should be recognised and celebrated.

It is in the interest of both Government and the community to assist young people to reach their potential by providing opportunities to enable them to develop life skills which will support them through adolescence and adult life. These involve both structured developmental activities which provide learning experiences, as well as creating supportive networks which enable young people to connect with their community.





Key Issue

Priority Action

Providing young people with recreational and entertainment opportunities

Strengthen the Youth Grants Program to enable more young people to participate in recreational activities, particularly those on remote communities.

Fund a Contemporary Music Concert for young people, and consider ways in which similar events can be held in smaller regional centres as appropriate.

Improve affordability, access and awareness of youth activities through the Arts Sponsorship Program.

Implement youth activity programs in Nightcliff and Borroloola and consider their implementation in other regions as appropriate.

Provide grant funding to peak sporting organisations and local government councils to develop quality programs that service junior and youth participants.

Launch the Northern Territory Junior Sport Plan which will outline key strategies for the implementation of junior sport initiatives.

Stage, in conjunction with the Australian Sports Commission, the 1800 Street Active Skate Program during 2003.

Commit \$2 million in funding to expand facilities at the Lake Leanyer Recreation Park. The upgrade will increase its appeal and usage by young people and will include a basketball court, an extended skate park, a graffiti wall, a sound shell to encourage music events, and a rollerblading track.

Maintain funding and support for the employment of Sport and Recreation officers in remote communities throughout the Territory.

Promoting the achievements of young people

Support a range of awards which recognise the outstanding contributions of young people to their community.

Encourage positive reporting of young people through the establishment of a Youth Media Award.



Key Issue

Providing young people with access to leadership and developmental opportunities

Priority Action

Provide a further two year's funding for the STS Leeuwin II Top End Explorer youth development initiative.

Provide targeted grants to remote Indigenous communities to support the establishment of Indigenous Youth Leadership Groups.

Facilitate and co-ordinate the delivery of leadership programs to school students through the Active Australia Schools Network.

Support the Australian Sports Commission's LYNXAUS (Local Youth Network Across Australia Using Sport) initiative. A leadership and mentoring program that offers young people living in rural and regional Australia the opportunity to develop a range of personal professional skills using sport as a medium.

Consider the implementation of "Kigaruk ", a leadership and development program for Indigenous men in the NTPS, including young males.

Provide grants through the Youth Grants Program so that young people have access to opportunities for participation in youth development/leadership activities.

Investigate expanding the Parks and Wildlife Junior Ranger and Volunteer Programs to involve more young people in these activities.

Support environmental education and work experience programs for young people in Territory parks and gardens.

Provide leadership and development opportunities for young people through the Junior Police Rangers Program.

Provide post-school options for young people with disabilities to support their transition to adulthood, including employment and training, further education, and the development of independent living skills.

Establish Knowledge Centres in Indigenous communities to provide cultural and information technology opportunities for Indigenous youth.



Key Issue

Priority Action

Improving access to and awareness of recreation and entertainment activities

Undertake a major review of the public transport system in Darwin, Palmerston and the rural areas which will involve a high level of consultation with users, including young people.

Explore the feasibility of providing free or low-cost bus transport for young people during youth-specific events to enable more young people to participate.

Develop marketing strategies to better promote activities to young people, including information to grant recipients on how to effectively promote their activities on a limited budget.

Legitimising young people's use of public spaces

Evaluate the effectiveness of the public space protocols developed for Darwin and Palmerston and consider the extension of this initiative to other regions.



Make sure that

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

The importance of providing young people with opportunities to become involved in the design and delivery of policies, programs and services cannot be overestimated. Empowering young people with the means to actively contribute to decision-making processes not only develops individual capabilities and strengths, but it also helps young people to shape the community in which they live. It also assists in creating policies, programs and services that are responsive to young people's needs and aspirations.

Young people want to make their views known and heard. However, structured mechanisms such as youth groups and public forums are not always the most appropriate option. A range of participation avenues is required to cater for the differing needs and preferences of young people. Particular effort needs to be invested in actively involving those

young people who due to their skills, location or personal circumstances may not have the same opportunities to participate as their peers.

Government recognises the expertise of the youth services sector and the value of forming partnerships with community youth organisations to address issues affecting young people, particularly those who are at risk. The views of marginalised young people will be sought by utilising youth service providers to facilitate those connections.

Being able to make informed life choices is also very much dependent on having access to relevant and user-friendly information about programs and services. Government will investigate ways to make information more accessible and appropriately targeted towards young people.





Key Issue

Priority Action

Providing more opportunities for young people to participate in decision-making

Strengthen partnerships with community based youth organisations to utilise their expertise in youth issues, and to build linkages with young people who may not otherwise have their voices heard.

Improve participation avenues for young people in rural and remote communities by expanding Regional Youth Forums, and ensuring that consultation venues and styles are appropriate to the client group.

Expand Community Cabinets into high schools to ensure that young people are included.

Develop an On-Line Chat room on the OYA website so young people can “chat” with Government Ministers on topical issues.

Establish a Youth Participation Register that will enable young people to be included on Government boards and committees.

Consider the establishment of a Youth Participation Grants Program to enhance opportunities for young people to participate in community life.

Maintain support for the Youth Parliament Program to provide a forum for young people to express their views on matters of concern to them.

Seek input from young people into the design and delivery of Museum and Art Gallery activities.

Provide support to the Junior Sport Youth Advisory Group to provide ongoing input and feedback regarding junior sport issues.

Improve interaction with the Police Ethnic Youth Advisory and Action Group as a source of advice on youth issues.

Improve opportunities for young people and youth organisations to become involved in regional development planning processes.

Providing young people with better access to information about programs and services

Develop programs to promote library and information programs to young people.

Provide education campaigns, displays and information to inform young people of their rights as consumers.

Improve young people’s access to information on employment and career opportunities within the NTPS.

Strengthen the OYA website to expand information provided on Government and non-government youth programs and services.

Increase access to information about the Museum and Art Gallery programs to young people in remote areas, through the use of information technology.



Create communities

where young people can feel safe and secure

Government is committed to creating safe communities. Of particular importance to young people is feeling and being safe in public places, at night, and on public transport. Young people want to be able to go out with friends and enjoy their emerging independence without the fear of being harassed or subjected to violence.

This is also important in the school context. Many young people are concerned about the level of bullying and intimidation occurring in schools. Government recognises the importance of this issue and has developed a number of strategies to help reduce inappropriate behaviours in the school environment.

Unfortunately not all young people are raised in safe and supportive family environments. Violence in the home is a reality for many young people and is often linked to issues such as substance abuse, unemployment and poor parenting. To address this issue, Government has introduced new and stronger approaches to deal with domestic

and Aboriginal family violence with specific priority actions for young people.

Safe accommodation is also a key issue. There are some young people who for a number of reasons are unable to live at home. Government is committed to ensuring that these young people can access housing which is affordable and meets their needs.

Government is determined to address crime within the community. However, the underlying causes of crime are generally understood to be complex, and effective approaches to dealing with these issues involve partnerships with communities to engage people in developing effective local solutions. Young people play an important role in contributing to these processes.

Government is implementing important initiatives to deal with juvenile crime. These include diversionary programs which provide an alternative to the formal justice system and aim to reduce the risk of re-offending. Diversionary programs provide young offenders with opportunities to make positive behavioural change and develop important life skills.





Key Issue

Priority Action

Addressing issues of personal safety and crime prevention and reduction

Establish and support regional and Indigenous crime prevention councils to stimulate community involvement in crime prevention, with young people involved in developing local solutions.

Ensure that grants provided to community organisations and regional crime prevention councils to develop crime prevention programs include those with a youth focus.

Improve across-Government and community collaboration to implement youth initiatives and strategies with a crime prevention focus. These include strategies to reduce juvenile crime in Darwin, Palmerston and Alice Springs.

Develop and implement a whole-of-government crime prevention strategy which will involve consultations with young people as key stakeholders.

Encourage youth involvement in regional crime prevention forums.

Provide funding for “youth beat” patrols in Darwin’s northern suburbs and Palmerston to engage with young people congregating in public places, intervene where appropriate and provide a referral point for services.

Use multi-media technology to design and deliver crime prevention information to a range of audiences. Young people will be specifically targeted.

Investigate community education and prevention resources for young people at risk or affected by sexual assault.

Introduce an education campaign to improve behaviour and safety on school buses.

Address issues of road safety for young people by considering the expansion of a curriculum-based approach to road safety education into secondary schools.

Dealing with young offenders

Provide a range of programs to divert young offenders from the formal justice system, to encourage positive behaviour change and the development of life skills. These include family conferences, victim/offender conferencing, and community programs.

Establish Community Youth Development Units in targeted regions and remote communities to co-ordinate programs and services for all young people in the community, including young offenders.

Provide a range of rehabilitation and education programs for young offenders in custody.



Key Issue

Priority Action

Reduce the incidence of bullying and anti-social behaviour in schools

Implement School Behaviour Management Plans to address bullying and violent behaviours.

Develop an Extreme Behaviours Initiative as part of the Student Enrolment, Attendance and Retention Strategy to provide safe learning and working environments.

Develop an Aggression Management Policy that will encompass a system wide approach in all public education workplaces to cover aggressive behaviour.

Pilot the Real Justice early intervention behaviour management program in three Northern Territory Government schools.

Addressing domestic and family violence

Make sure that the views of Territory youth are considered in implementing the Domestic and Aboriginal Family Violence Strategies.

Release a new workshop manual to assist young people to avoid abusive relationships.

Test and implement models of community education for young people at risk or who have experienced domestic or family violence.

Work in partnership with the Northern Territory university to establish more effective ways of providing information on domestic and Aboriginal family violence to young people.

Improving relations between young people and the Police

Implement recommendations from the review of the School Based Policing Scheme. The review acknowledges the valuable work undertaken by police officers in the school community and seeks to strengthen the role of the Scheme in providing education to young people on a range of legal and social issues.

Ensuring young people have access to safe and affordable accommodation

Trial a youth housing model for homeless youth in the Palmerston and rural area.

Support the Community Headleasing Project, a pilot program designed for youth to gain skills and experience prior to the transition to public tenancy.

Undertake a major review of the *Housing Act* and housing policies to improve accessibility of accommodation to target groups, including young people.



Implementation, reporting and review

The Office of Youth Affairs in the Department of the Chief Minister is responsible for monitoring the implementation of *Building A Better Future*, the Northern Territory Government's policy framework for young Territorians.

Northern Territory Government agencies will report to the Office of Youth Affairs on progress against each of the Directions, as well as any new initiatives which may be developed in response to emerging needs and evidence based best practice. This information will be used by the Office to prepare an annual progress report to Government, the Legislative Assembly, and the community.

Young people and youth organisations will be systematically consulted to provide input and assist

in making sure that the framework remains relevant.

Consultation mechanisms will include:

- regular meetings with youth sector organisations;
- enhanced on-line feedback mechanisms;
- expanded regional consultations with a specific focus on engaging marginalised young people; and
- regional input on youth issues through the Community Issues Forums established under the Social Development Strategy.

A formal and comprehensive review of this document will take place in two years, and will involve a wide range of youth stakeholders.





Appendix A

– Acknowledgements

OYA would like to acknowledge the assistance of the following communities, organisations and individuals in the development of this document:

- Alice Springs Youth Accommodation Support Service
- Anglicare
- ANZAC Hill High School
- ATSIC Tennant Creek
- Australian Red Cross – The Shak
- Barunga
- Beswick
- Borroloola
- Carpentaria Disability Services
- Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
- Centralian College
- Chief Minister’s Round Table of Young Territorians
- Darwin Accommodation Services
- Darwin City Council “Grind Team”
- Don Dale Centre
- GAP Youth Centre
- Henbury School
- Henbury School Outreach Group – Casuarina Secondary College
- Kalkaringi/Daguragu
- Kybrook/Pine Creek
- Marrara – AFL NT
- Migrant Resource Centre
- Nhulunbuy Half Court
- Northern Territory Government Trainees

“Politicians should visit schools all year round not just at pre-election times.”
[Female, Darwin]



- NT Police Ethnic Advisory Group – Youth Action & Advisory Group
- Oenpelli
- St Mary's
- St Philip's College
- Santa Teresa
- Somerville Community Services
- Super Tuesday Forum – Anglicare
- Taminmin High School
- Yirrkala
- YMCA Palmerston
- Young ethnic people
- Young people with disabilities (NTU)
- YWCA of Darwin – Oakley/Stanley House



Appendix B

– Submissions received responding to the preliminary paper

Community Organisations/Individuals

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
- Alice Springs Town Council
- Alice Springs Youth Accommodation and Support Services Inc
- Anglicare Youth Programs
- Anyinginyi Congress Aboriginal Corporation, Tennant Creek
- Barunga Manyallaluk Community Government Council
- Darwin Accommodation Services
- Darwin City Council Youth Advisory Group
- Katherine Town Council
- Litchfield Shire Council
- Music Industry Development Inc
- Northern Territory Youth Affairs Network
- Nyangatjatjara College
- The Scouts Association of Australia – Northern Territory Branch
- Wunala Creche (Borroloola)



Northern Territory Government Agencies

- Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development
- Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs
- Department of Corporate and Information Services
- Department of Employment, Education and Training
- Department of Health and Community Services
- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment
- Department of Justice
- Northern Territory Treasury
- Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment
- Office of Women's Policy
- Police, Fire and Emergency Services



“We need to travel 60kms to have fun.”

[Female, rural area]



Appendix C

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“Having only one area school means we go up to year 10 only so young people move away for the final two years and do not return.”

[Female, Adelaide River]



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Taskforce on Illicit Drugs (2002), Final Report (Department of Health and Community Services, Darwin)

Youth Pathways Action Plan Taskforce (2001), Footprints to the Future, (Canberra)



Appendix D

– Northern territory public sector agencies

Department of the Chief Minister

- Office of Indigenous Policy
- Office of Territory Development
- Social Policy Unit
 - Community Engagement Division
 - Office of Youth Affairs
 - Office of Women's Policy
 - Office of Ethnic Affairs
 - Office of Senior Territorians

General Enquiries: (08) 8999 5511

www.nt.gov.au/dcm

Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development

- Business, Trade and International Relations
- Minerals and Energy
- Primary Industry and Fisheries

General Enquiries: (08) 8924 4280

Toll Free: 1800 193 111

www.dbird.nt.gov.au

Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs

- Arts, Museums and Library Services
- Housing and Infrastructure
- Local Government and Regional Development
- Sport and Recreation
- Regional Services
- Aboriginal Interpreter Service

General Enquiries: (08) 8999 8397

www.nt.gov.au/cdsca



Department of Corporate and Information Services

- Financial Services
- Human Resource Services
- Information Technology Services
- Tenders and Contracts
- Government Printing Office
- NT Fleet
- NT Property Management

General Enquiries: (08) 8999 5511
www.nt.gov.au/dcis

Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment

- Northern Territory Public Sector Employment Programs

General Enquiries: (08) 8999 5511
www.nt.gov.au/ocpe

Department of Employment, Education and Training

- Education
- Employment and Training
- Work Health and Electrical Safety

General Enquiries: (08) 8999 5511
www.deet.nt.gov.au

Department of Health and Community Services

- Public Health
- Primary Level Health
- Acute and Specialist Care
- Community Services
- Organisational Support

General Enquiries: (08) 8999 2400
www.health.nt.gov.au



“Form youth leadership groups from each community and work with them to get more youth feedback.”

[Male, remote community]



Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment

- Lands, Planning and Environment
- Transport and Infrastructure
- Parks and Wildlife

General Enquiries: (08) 8999 8911

www.ipe.nt.gov.au

Department of Justice

- Anti-Discrimination Commissioner
- Attorney-General's
- Consumer Affairs and Business Affairs
- Correctional Services
- Courts Administration
- Information Commissioner
- Office of Crime Prevention
- Public Prosecutions

General Enquiries: (08) 8999 6047

www.nt.gov.au/justice

Police, Fire and Emergency Services

- NT Police
- NT Fire and Rescue Service
- Emergency Services

General Enquiries: (08) 8922 3344

www.nt.gov.au/pfes

Northern Territory Treasury

- Northern Territory Treasury
- Procurement Review Board
- Northern Territory Licensing Commission
- Northern Territory Superannuation Office
- Northern Territory Treasury Corporation
- Utilities Commission

General Enquiries: (08) 8999 7406

www.nt.gov.au/ntt