



Building a Better Future for Young Territorians

2006-07 Progress Report

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

The Northern Territory Government acknowledges and thanks the Darwin Palmerston Sun for the use of the photo on the cover of this report. The photo features the Minister for Young Territorians, Ms Marion Scrymgour MLA, and a member of the 2007 Youth Round Table, Ms Siana Cork, promoting the handbook *You did what? How young Territorians can make things happen in the community*.

The publication is available at www.youth.nt.gov.au

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Minister's Message

I am pleased to present the fourth progress report on *Building a Better Future for Young Territorians*.

Building a Better Future for Young Territorians is the Northern Territory Government's youth policy framework. It sets out our vision for young people aged 12 to 25 years.

The youth policy framework helps government and the community to stay focused on the key issues and priority actions raised by young people and youth service providers through extensive Territory wide consultations.

One way in which we monitor the implementation of the framework is to prepare a progress report to the community every financial year.

The 2006-07 Progress Report highlights government's achievements in delivering programs and services for young Territorians.

I commend the report to you.

MARION SCRYMGOUR MLA
Minister for Young Territorians



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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 to 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 in the Department of the Chief Minister 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 used for an annual progress report to the community.

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

The 2006-07 Progress Report provides a snapshot of government's focus for young Territorians for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007. It reports on our achievements under the key issues as outlined in the youth policy framework.

This report is available from www.youth.nt.gov.au – printed copies of the report are also available from the Office of Youth Affairs.

This report does not include new initiatives for young Indigenous people as outlined in *Closing the Gap on Indigenous Disadvantage: A Generational Plan of Action*. The report was released by government in August 2007 in response to the *Report of the Board of Inquiry into the Protection of Aboriginal Children from Sexual Abuse*. These initiatives will be reported on in the progress report for 2007-08.

Direction One

Improve young people's health and wellbeing

Key Issue: Addressing young people's substance misuse

Our focus	Activity in 2006-07
<i>Supporting the new Volatile Substance Abuse Prevention Act</i>	<p>Government aims to ensure that there is good information about young people and substance misuse and to improve treatment access for young people and their families affected by substance misuse.</p> <p>To support the new <i>Volatile Substance Abuse Prevention Act</i>, treatment services were developed in 2006-07 for both Alice Springs and Darwin.</p> <p>The service in Darwin – operated by the Council of Aboriginal Alcohol Programs Services (CAAPS) – provides for 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. A residential service for up to five young people and their families and supported by the BushMob service was developed and is due for commencement in September 2007.</p> <p>These urban services complement existing outstation programs and community development and prevention activities in selected communities.</p>
<i>Grants program</i>	<p>The Remote Area Aboriginal Alcohol and other Substance Strategy provided small grants for diversionary, educational and intervention activities in relation to substance misuse among young people in Central Australia. A small grants program to support alcohol and other drugs community development activities was also available to support Top End communities.</p>
<i>Red Dust Role Models Program</i>	<p>The <i>Red Dust Role Models Program</i> was funded to work with remote Indigenous communities across the Territory on alcohol and other drug issues. The program used the profile and influence of positive role models from the fields of sport, business, music, film and entertainment. The popular identities were easily recognisable to young Territorians and delivered health messages to inspire healthy lifestyle decisions among remote Indigenous youth. The program ran in the Daly River and Tiwi communities in the Top End, as well as communities in Central Australia.</p>
<i>Licensing inspectors in high schools</i>	<p>An initiative to crack down on the sale of alcohol and cigarettes to underage teenagers was launched in May 2007. The initiative involves Licensing and Regulation working with schools to gather information from students and teachers to identify those shopkeepers, retailers and licensees operating outside the law. Two liaison officers have been appointed to resolve these problems by providing a convenient point of contact and by visiting schools to inform parents, teachers and students of the relevant legislation and the complaint process.</p>
<i>National Youth Tobacco Free Day</i>	<p>A local competition was run throughout the Territory to encourage young people to participate in National Youth Tobacco Free Day activities on 28 March 2007. Community support services were also provided to schools to support drug, alcohol and tobacco education initiatives.</p>

I'm Smarter than Smoking Campaign

The *I'm Smarter Than Smoking* campaign – featuring the Territory's own singing celebrity Jessica Mauboy – was developed in early 2007 and advertisements filmed around youth events that were organised on World No Tobacco Day on 31 May 2007. The campaign was developed for urban and remote communities in the Territory and capitalises on the Smarter than Smoking messages used in other states.

The Territory's *I'm Smarter Than Smoking* campaign aims to discourage the uptake of smoking among young people, as well as encourage all smokers – young and old – to quit. The campaign strategy saw the development of television and radio advertisements, as well as posters and other promotional materials to target the key youth and Indigenous audiences.

Key Issue: Supporting the families of young people

Our focus

Activity in 2006-07

Introduce education for parenthood in the school curriculum

There are VET and SSABSA subjects available in schools that include those with both a career/pathways and a parental perspective on child care.

Homestrength Program

DHCS undertook an evaluation of *Homestrength*, the service run by Centacare to work intensively with families to present children entering out of home care because of child maltreatment concerns.

Child Abuse Taskforce

A Child Abuse Taskforce was established jointly between NT Police and FACS. The taskforce has improved service approaches in relation to child abuse and family violence with a particular focus on:

- Decision-making and reporting support for practitioners who suspect child abuse.
- Progressive implementation of the Domestic and Family Violence Policy, including establishment of a DHCS-wide reference group.

FACS also developed centralised intake and after hours services and collocated these with the joint FACS-NT Police Child Abuse Task Force to provide a more consistent response to suspected child abuse.

DHCS established a collaborative Strategic Management Group with senior managers in NT Police and DEET to oversight actions of the Child Abuse Taskforce and coordinate the implementation of Community Action Plans. The Taskforce participated in a number of investigations and the development of ongoing Community Action Plans to catalyse community responses and solutions to the issues of child sexual assault.

DHCS sourced and delivered child forensic interviewing training for FACS and Police staff, in collaboration with NT Police.

Out of Home Care

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.

Care and Protection of Children Act

DHCS has drafted a Bill for the replacement of the *Community Welfare Act*. The Bill has been developed to provide the best legislative framework for protecting children and supporting families in the Territory. The Northern Territory Board of Inquiry into the Protection of Aboriginal Children from Sexual Abuse Report entitled Ampe Akelyernemane Meke Mekarle "*Little Children are Sacred*" has also been taken into consideration.

<i>Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Partnership</i>	<p>Under the joint Australian and Territory governments IFVPP the following projects have been established in the Territory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Implemented the integrated <i>Peace at Home</i> service in the Katherine region in collaboration with NT Police. □ Funded a trial program in East Arnhem harnessing traditional culture to address family violence, abuse and dysfunction (Raypirri Rom). □ Funded and assisted in the development of interventions for children in women's shelters and other sites where children are accompanying parents escaping violence. □ Funded Tangentyere Council through the <i>Safe Families Project</i> to provide a culturally aligned medium-stay home for children separated from their families due to violence, abuse or dysfunction.
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Key Issue: Addressing the sexual health issues of young people

Our focus	Activity in 2006-07
<i>Sexuality education</i>	Supported professional learning to teachers to support the implementation of sexuality education in schools. Professional learning has also been provided to pre-service teachers at Charles Darwin University.
<i>Guidelines on sexual health and assault</i>	<i>Guidelines on Sexual Issues in Children and Young People</i> were revised. DHCS has worked extensively with Remote Area Nurses, Aboriginal Health Workers, medical staff, FACS, the Sexual Assault Referral Centre and NT Police to develop a toolkit of resources to assist remote and urban Primary Health Care Practitioners to identify and manage sexual abuse in people under the age of 18 years. These resources have been distributed to every remote and urban health centre in the Territory. DHCS has also liaised with NT Police and DEET to inform them of the guidelines so all agencies are working consistently on this important issue.

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

Our focus	Activity in 2006-07
<i>Visiting mental health services</i>	Government increased mental health services to rural and remote communities including additional child and adolescent and adult clinical positions for rural and remote areas, increased funding to Aboriginal Mental Health Worker programs and visiting psychiatric services. Visiting services were also expanded to the Katherine region.
<i>Child Psychiatrist Services</i>	Government increased support services for children in East Arnhem through monthly visits by Child Psychiatrist Services. Visits alternate between a Child Psychiatrist and a Child Psychologist.
<i>Headspace</i>	DHCS successfully collaborated with community partners to secure funding and commence arrangements to implement the <i>Headspace Top End</i> youth service initiative.
<i>MindMatters</i> in high schools	A total of 73% of all Territory high schools have received professional development in <i>MindMatters</i> since 2000.

KidsMatter in primary schools

The *KidsMatter* 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.

With *KidsMatter* schools develop and implement a comprehensive plan that addresses the specific mental health needs of their students, These plans focus on social and emotional skills for students, education and support for parents, early intervention for students at risk and their families, and a positive school community.

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 2006-07
<i>Building Better Schools</i>	<p>The \$42 million <i>Building Better Schools Program</i> funded a number of projects that contribute to government's commitment to provide access to quality education that leads to employment, training or further education. An update of some projects include:</p> <p>The <i>Middle Years of Schooling Initiative</i> started in 2007 with Year 10 students joining Years 11 and 12 to form the 'senior years'. From 2008 all Year 7 students across the Territory will join Years 8 and 9 to form the 'middle years'.</p> <p>Student Learning Profiles that record student learning, progress and achievement have been developed in secondary schools. Samples of students work continue to be made available to teachers through CeTool.</p> <p>Twelve Professional Learning Communities were established across the Territory. Evidence based models of best practice in teaching and learning have been developed.</p>
<i>Educational outcomes for Indigenous students in remote areas</i>	<p>At the end of the 2006 school year a record number of 30 Indigenous students from six remote schools completed their 2006 NTCE. Territory remote Indigenous students have surpassed previous records for success in the NTCE. For the first time, senior students at Ramingining CEC have studied for their NTCE through their community school.</p> <p>Improving school attendance among 7000 Indigenous young people in 15 remote townships is the focus of the <i>Remote Learning Partnerships</i> initiative launched by government in February 2007. The initiative aims to deliver improvements for young Indigenous Territorians in attendance and retention, literacy and numeracy and the development of pathways to employment after school.</p> <p>A professional development program for careers advisers and teachers on the provision of pathways mentorship support and the development of transition plans for students has been underway in nine remote schools and three urban schools.</p> <p>The development of transition plans for all Indigenous Year 12 2006 graduates from remote communities supported their transition from school to work and/or further education.</p>
<i>Educational outcomes for 'gifted' students</i>	<p>A revised education policy for 'gifted' students was announced by government in August 2006. The new and improved policy includes a broader definition of 'giftedness', which applies to more students than just those with intellectual prowess. Gifted students will now also include those with high levels of creative, social, emotional or physical abilities that can be developed into a range of talents. The policy can be found at www.education.nt.gov.au/gifted</p>

<i>Educational outcomes for students with special needs</i>	<p>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.</p> <p>An evidence based framework is under development through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy and academic research scoping. 2. Action learning projects in 41 school sites (four of these have a specific focus that targets students with special needs). 3. Analysis of previous action learning projects from Territory schools (including 48 projects that were completed in 2006 targeting students with special needs).
<i>Student numbers in classrooms</i>	<p>In August 2006 government introduced a new formula based on student needs, not school type. The new arrangement will benefit all Territory students and bring equity to classrooms. Historically, schools have been staffed according to school type, such as primary or high school, CEC or area school. The new formula means schools are staffed according to student numbers. The staffing formula will be implemented in two stages over three years.</p>
<i>Alternative education</i>	<p>Under the <i>Alternative Education Provision Program</i> a mobile team of five teachers is located in Darwin's northern suburbs, Palmerston and Katherine. 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.</p>
<i>School attendance</i>	<p>In May 2007 government endorsed a six point plan to improve school attendance. The plan was derived from the <i>Enrolment and Attendance Strategic Framework</i> and involves a whole of community and whole of government (including the Australian Government) effort:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community partnerships 2. Clear policy and guidelines 3. Incentives and sanctions 4. Accountability 5. Coordination of existing school based staff 6. Interagency effort <p>Dedicated resources are in place to roll out the plan. A senior adviser has been recruited to oversee the implementation of the six point plan. In 2007, regionally based resources will be recruited to assist local based attendance solutions.</p>
<i>New football academy</i>	<p>A new football academy in Alice Springs designed to engage Indigenous students and improve their education and employment prospects was announced by government in February 2007. Students participating in the program must show commitment towards their education and attend school regularly. The program is funded by the Australian and Northern Territory governments and private sponsors.</p>
<i>School bonus</i>	<p>Government's \$50 <i>Back to School Bonus</i> returned for 2007. The \$50 bonus helps parents and guardians buy uniforms, stationery and books.</p>
<i>Compulsory School Uniforms Policy</i>	<p>Government's new Compulsory School Uniforms Policy was introduced following over six months of consultation with school councils, parents and students. The policy will apply to all students from Transition to Year 9 and be fully operational in the first term of 2008.</p>

Gotta Go (To School)! CD

Students at Gunbalanya school – 330 kilometres east of Darwin – celebrated the launch of the *Gotta Go (To School)! CD*, a song designed to encourage school attendance among Indigenous youth. The song aims to inspire and motivate young Indigenous people to value their education and attend school.

Gotta Go (To School)! highlights the importance of school through messages about reading, writing and counting, and the value of a mainstream education running parallel with Indigenous culture.

Produced by Skinnyfish, a DVD was distributed to schools and the community. The DVD is part of a broad range of initiatives implemented across schools to improve and promote enrolment, attendance and retention levels of Indigenous students across the Territory.

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

Our focus

Activity in 2006-07

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. The 2006 expos were held in Nhulunbuy, Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. There were more than 260 exhibitors – a 50% increase from 2005 exhibitors.

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

A number of government agencies exhibited, including DBERD. Its display aimed to increase the awareness of young people considering business studies as a subject while at school or through tertiary education, entering the *Youth Business Awards* and/or starting a business as a career option.

A comprehensive report has been compiled on the 2006 expo to document results and enable continuous improvement for future expos.

VET in schools program

In 2007 there were 141 VET in schools (VETiS) programs funded, over 51 qualifications and 1524 students. Demand for VETiS continues to grow and anecdotal evidence suggests that it is being considered as an important pathway by a wider range of students. Examples of 2007 programs included: Certificate I in Automotive at Larama, Certificate II in tourism in Borroloola, Certificate I in Engineering in Darwin and Certificate I in Business at Elcho Island.

Try-a-Trade Program

The annual *Try-A-Trade Program* provided over 400 Year 9 students from 19 schools with the opportunity to try a trade in a number of skills shortage areas ranging from construction to cooking. The program is a practical way to give young Territorians a taste for a career in a trade. The 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 over four days in October 2006.

Scholarships and cadetships

In honour of the late Wesley Lanhupuy an Indigenous cadetship program was given his name to acknowledge the contribution he made to the Territory. The *Wesley Lanhupuy Remote Teacher Cadetships* will provide opportunities for remote Indigenous Year 12 graduates to undertake teacher education from 2008. The cadetships provide a living and book allowance, tertiary study reimbursements and a paid 12-week work based placement.

DPI offered Work Integrated Learning Scholarships to four students in 2006-07 and two National Indigenous Cadetship Programs for students studying engineering at the Charles Darwin University. The department also sponsored the prize for the best Masters in Engineering Management student at Charles Darwin University.

Earth/Sciences/Geology Scholarship

The scholarship program is in its third year and is designed to encourage young Territorians to develop skills and knowledge in the mining and petroleum industries via an Earth Sciences degree. Recipients complete the first year of their degree at Charles Darwin University before moving to another university to complete their Earth Sciences and Geology studies. The recipient of the 2007 scholarship was Jordan Abbott-Wightman.

Key Issue: Maximising employment and training opportunities for young people

*Our focus**Activity in 2006-07**New Apprenticeship Program*

The NT Public Sector employed 129 apprentices in 2006-07 under the *New Apprenticeship Program*. Placements were made across every agency and included a range of qualifications including: business, horticulture, aquaculture, conservation and land management, information technology, health, automotive, tourism, dental, zoo keeping, multi media and laboratory skills. The program is open to Territorians aged 15 to 64 years that have not achieved a Certificate III or higher education in the past seven years. About 80% of apprentices are under the age of 26 with 42% being Indigenous.

School Based New Apprenticeships Program

In 2007 16 Indigenous young Territorians are participating in the *School Based New Apprenticeships Program*. The program provides 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. School based apprenticeships are an excellent way of allowing students to try out a vocation through experience, while earning some money and gaining both a Year 12 completion certificate and a Certificate II level qualification. These apprenticeships place students in an excellent position when they finish school to either gain employment or continue in higher education.

NRETA employed seven Indigenous school based apprentices in 2006, four of whom are continuing to work with the agency in 2007. The apprentices are studying a Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management and work in various areas such as: Litchfield National Park, Fogg Dam and the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens. The program is aimed at remote area Indigenous students who may become rangers, natural resource management officers or bushfire control officers with the department in the future.

	<p>It is anticipated that successful program participants will win adult apprenticeships on completion of Year 12 and will continue with the agency as adult apprentices to become well qualified and well experienced members of the permanent workforce.</p> <p>NT Police also employs school based apprentices. Students are based one day a week in different sections, and develop an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of NT Police.</p>
<i>Deadly Digital Multi Media Training Program</i>	<p>The Youth Diversion Scheme partnered other Australian and Territory government programs to support Certificate II in Media and Screen training delivered in conjunction with the CYDUs in Tennant Creek and Groote Eylandt. Fifteen 'at risk' Indigenous students in each community have learnt digital filming and editing skills as part of the program. The Deadly Digital program has assisted with improving literacy and, for some participants, re-engagement with school and employment. In Tennant Creek, this program has led to the establishment of a youth enterprise initiative with the CYDU being hired to do filming and editing for community organisations. Further training in business enterprise skills and more intensive media skills is planned for delivery later in 2007.</p>
<i>National Indigenous Cadetship Program</i>	<p>Twenty-three cadets commenced in the NT Public Sector in 2006 and 17 in 2007 under the <i>National Indigenous Cadetship Program</i>. The program offers career opportunities for Indigenous people during and after completing tertiary studies. Most cadets are under the age of 26.</p>
<i>Graduate Development Program</i>	<p>Thirty-seven graduates were employed in the NT Public Sector in 2006-07 under the <i>Graduate Development Program</i>. The program develops skills while providing an opportunity to broaden knowledge of working in a public sector environment in the Territory.</p>
<i>Training opportunities</i>	<p>NYW 2007 provided opportunities for young Territorians to access training programs to enhance their skills and personal development. Young people aged 18 to 25 years were offered free training workshops in Alice Springs and Darwin to develop their communications skills.</p> <p>Young people employed in the NT Public Sector – in all regions of the Territory – were given the opportunity to undertake career planning sessions. The sessions were sponsored by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment.</p> <p>DPIFM organised a mock Strategic Leadership Team meeting in which young staff members took on roles of senior managers and participated in a mock senior management forum. The idea behind this meeting was to provide an outlet for ideas and opinions of the younger staff members on the current issues being faced by the department. The meeting also provided an opportunity for an insight into decision making processes and governance systems.</p>
<i>Training for Remote Youth Program</i>	<p>The <i>Training for Remote Youth Program</i> is aimed at bringing youth disengaged from, or at threat of being disengaged from school, Registered Training Organisations and local communities/schools together to provide structured training, learning and work experiences that prepares them for employment in the community or re-engages them in further learning. Examples of current programs include: basic mechanics in Tennant Creek, welding skills in Wadeye and automotive training in Numbulwar.</p>
<i>Financial management literacy programs</i>	<p>Existing relevant resources from other states – <i>Money Stuff</i>, <i>StartSmart</i> and <i>Consumer Stuff</i>) have been reviewed and modified to the needs of Territory students and lesson sequences and teacher support programs developed around them.</p>

<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. Program implementation is meeting expectations to date with evidence of improved achievement at the school level. Evidence of improved literacy outcomes at the system level is anticipated with the 2008 Year 9 literacy test in the inaugural National Assessment Program.
<i>Building Relationships and School Wellbeing Project</i>	Since commencing in June 2004 <i>Building Relationships and School Wellbeing</i> has been rolled out to 31 government schools, 12,527 of the 32,921 students and 1,088 of the 2,440 teachers. The program continues to assist schools in Darwin and the northern suburbs, Palmerston, Arnhemland, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs to build stronger relationships within the school community, align policies with the Safe Schools NT Code of Behaviour and improve processes and programs that improve school wellbeing and behaviour.
<i>School grants</i>	<p>The 2007 <i>Australians Working Together</i> grants awarded seven grants to organisations. The program provides resources to boost employment and training opportunities for disadvantaged Territorians. The program boasts a success rate of over 70% with participants now either working, moving on to further training or higher education or staying at school and being actively involved in planning for the future.</p> <p>The <i>Remote Transition from School Grants</i> have been provided to CECs, 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 government's funding to non-government agencies to provide supported work experience.</p> <p>In 2007, 19 projects met the criteria for the <i>Enterprise Grants</i> – 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>	The <i>Employment Disadvantage Pathways Project</i> established in 2005-06 responds to the report: <i>Creating Effective Pathways to Employment and Training for the Employment Disadvantaged in the Northern Territory</i> . The report highlights the challenges faced by the Territory's employment disadvantaged, including young Territorians, and made 21 recommendations for consideration and action by government. Work on a number of the report's recommendations is being undertaken through a cooperative arrangement with the Australian and Territory governments and the community sector.
<i>School to work transition</i>	The <i>School to Work Transition Strategic Plan 2007-09</i> was developed in consultation with stakeholders. The aim of the plan is to assist young people to make a successful transition from school to work, further education or training so they can actively contribute to the economic and social development of the Territory.
<i>Jobs Plan 3</i>	<p>JP3 was released in 2007. It builds on the momentum created by previous jobs plans and will further assist Territorians to gain employment. JP3 aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that the target of 10,000 apprentice and trainee commencements over four years is achieved. <input type="checkbox"/> Facilitate the transition of school students into employment, further education or training.

- Assist Indigenous Territorians, particularly those in remote areas, to access training linked to employment opportunities.

JP3 commits to the continuation of the workwear/workgear program, the expansion of the workready program and employer incentives.

Double Trouble!

In August 2006 government announced a \$243,000 funding package for the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association's children's television series *Double Trouble*. The 13 part children's drama series will feature Indigenous actors and themes and present a fresh, positive image of Indigenous children. *Double Trouble* will provide training and employment opportunities for a number of young Territorians in a range of skills in the screen industry.

Incentive schemes for employers, apprentices and trainees

The incentive scheme for employers is set to change from July 2007 under JP3. The old incentives were skills shortage (415 allocated in total since 2004) and small business (635 allocated since 2004).

Through the *Workwear/Workgear Bonus Scheme*, government aims to help apprentices and trainees with the costs they incur buying workwear, safety gear and other work related necessities during the first year of their apprenticeship or traineeship.

As at June 2007, 2959 workwear/workgear bonuses have been paid since its introduction.

In 2007 the *Workready Program* will work with around 150 Year 10, 11 and 12 students who have shown a commitment to undertaking vocational education and training and school based apprenticeships or traineeships. Work is underway to increase the number of schools participating in the program.

Public forum

A public forum *Barkly 'Young People and Work'* was held in Tennant Creek in June 2007 to discuss what actions were needed to support more young people to get and keep jobs.

The forum was organised by government in partnership with the Australian Government's Indigenous Coordination Centre, the Tennant Creek Town Council and local community organisations. The forum developed a list of 27 projects to be implemented locally to improve pathways into employment for young people. By way of example, the proposed *Tennant Creek Young Men's Program* targets young men aged 12 to 20 years and focuses on how young men can be successful fathers.

Youth Employment Strategy Framework

Priority project seven of *Moving Alice Ahead* relates to workforce development. This project will develop a Youth Employment Strategy Framework that will enable a coordinated and targeted approach to increasing employment outcomes for young people in Alice Springs, particularly Indigenous young people.

Young people in business

Young budding entrepreneurs and those already in business continue to be supported through programs and services provided by DBERD. In 2006-07, 23% of young people attended *October Business Month* activities, 18% attended *Territory Business Upskills* activities and 13% attended *Starting a Business* workshops.

A number of presentations to students studying business were held on the topic of 'starting a business'.

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

Our focus	Activity in 2006-07
<i>Youth Business Awards</i>	Budding entrepreneurs and winners of the NT Youth Business Awards presented their business plan to the Minister for Employment, Education and Training in December 2006. The program provides students with 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 their business and are required to pay it back through the profits gained from their business venture. The program is an annual program sponsored and supported by DEET, DBERD and the Small Business Association NT.
<i>Young Business Champions</i>	Young Business Champions is an initiative to raise the profile of young Territorians in business and to encourage young people to consider business as a career option. Six young champions – in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs – were promoted and profiled.
<i>Residential Beef Cattle Production Program Award</i>	The Tennant Creek CYDU – supported by NT Police and DEET – continues to deliver a Residential Beef Cattle Production Program for young people at risk. Late in 2006 it received a National Crime Prevention Award of \$10,000 acknowledging the success of the program.

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 2006-07
<i>Contemporary music concerts</i>	BASSINTEGRASS and BASSINTHEDUST concerts are now widely anticipated by young Territorians. Held in May 2007 BASSINTEGRASS acts included Jet, Eskimo Joe, Hilltop Hoods, Young Divas, Shannon Noll, TZU, Behind Crimson Eyes, Little Birdy, Mammal and Lowrider. Local bands included Enth Degree, The Moxie, The Strikes and The Weathermen. Free public transport is generally provided.
<i>Upgrade to sports facilities</i>	Government announced an \$800 000 grant in 2005-06 to Tracy Village Sports and Social Club to upgrade its sporting facilities for Territory baseball and softball leagues allowing night competitions for the first time ever. The grant was used to install professional lighting at Tracy Village and allowed more flexible hours for training and games. Night lighting has led to a higher participation rate in junior sport. The construction was completed in 2006-07.
<i>New facility at Palmerston</i>	Young Territorians now have access to another first class recreational facility funded by government. The new Palmerston Recreation Centre opened in March 2007 and was one of the venues hosting the Arafura Games. The new air conditioned centre is expanding sporting activities in Palmerston to make full use of the facilities.
<i>Arafura Games</i>	The Arafura Games provided a range of sporting and recreational opportunities for young Territorians that were advertised in the <i>Arafura Daily</i> .
<i>Sport and recreation officers</i>	In partnership with councils, government funds 40 sport and recreation officers to run sport and recreation programs for young Indigenous people in remote communities.
<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 NYW (April) and the major school holidays (June/July and December/January). For 2006-07 106 grants totalling \$127,310 were awarded to young people and community organisations through the program.
<i>National Youth Week 2007</i>	NYW has become the Territory's greatest opportunity to showcase the talents and potential of young people. NYW 2007 was held from Saturday 14 to Sunday 22 April and the slogan was <i>Launch Yourself</i> . OYA coordinated 111 innovative and fun activities that reflected young Territorians' interests, issues and concerns. Thirty-two 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>Activities organised by MAGNT</i>	<p>In October 2006, MAGNT participated in a national program, <i>The Big Draw</i>. The annual event encourages young people to be creative through drawing.</p> <p>The <i>Kids Flick Fest</i> held in April 2007 engaged young people from diverse backgrounds in a recreational activity focusing on Australian or Australian content children's films.</p>
<i>Arts Grant Program</i>	<p>The <i>Arts Grant Program</i> provides triennial funding to the 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>Community Benefit Fund Grant Program</i>	<p>The <i>Community Benefit Fund Grant Program</i> provided grants of up to \$5000 to community organisations, specifically targeting youth projects covering the areas of sport, recreation, arts and health.</p>
<i>School holiday program for young people at risk</i>	<p>The NT Police Crime Prevention Section conducted a program for "youth at risk" during the December 2006/January 2007 school holiday period to provide positive activities and interaction with Police. This included a three day camp that provided activities to promote self esteem, conflict resolution skills and culture sharing for the Indigenous young people and those from African backgrounds.</p>
<i>Blue light discos</i>	<p>NT Police held blue light discos in urban, rural and remote communities in the Territory. In the Top End over 30,000 young people, parents and community members attended discos. The discos provide young people with a positive drug and alcohol free entertainment and positive interaction with local police.</p>

Key Issue: Promoting the achievements of young people

Our focus	Activity in 2006-07
<i>Recognising young athletes</i>	<p>The Territory's best up-and-coming athletes were rewarded for their efforts with 31 from 14 sports receiving NTIS scholarships for 2006-07. Ten new athletes were included in the 2006-07 scholarship program. NTIS scholarships open doors for athletes to first class facilities such as access to coaching, strength and conditioning, physiology, nutrition, biomechanics/skill acquisition, sports medicine and physiotherapy, psychology, career and education counselling and high performance management services.</p> <p>In 2006-07 118 athletes (aged 12 to 25 years) were awarded Full Scholarships by NTIS across 15 different sports. A further 49 athletes were awarded Associated Scholarships.</p>
<i>NT Training Awards</i>	<p>The NT Training Awards winners were announced in September 2006 honouring the Territory's top apprentices, trainees, students and employers.</p>

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

Our focus	Activity in 2006-07
<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. Fifteen young people participated in the program in 2007. The program operates in Darwin and Palmerston and will extend to Alice Springs in 2008.
<i>Engaging youth at risk</i>	The Office of Sport and Recreation is developing projects aimed at providing development opportunities for youth at risk, including the provision of coaching courses, presentation skills and leadership programs.
<i>Indigenous leadership and development programs</i>	Forty-seven Indigenous students are currently participating in the <i>Indigenous Students Leadership and Mentoring Program</i> . Students have attended leadership camps and workshops focusing on leadership, team building and effective communication. Mentors work with students to help them achieve their goals. Scholarship funding can be accessed for study purposes.
	Young Territorians from six remote communities in Central Australia were given the opportunity to learn the skills to make and edit films, create radio programs and promote tourism in their regions under a new training program funded by government. Young people from Ikuntji, Areyonga, Harts Range, Titjikala, Willowra and Nyirrpi will take part in the \$75 300 <i>Training for Remote Youth Program</i> . The program provides young people in remote areas with the opportunity to gain valuable IT skills. Under this program, around 130 young people – including those who are in danger of disengaging from school based education – will be involved in structured learning experiences to prepare them for further training or for employment.
	NRETA used the school based apprenticeship program to provide leadership and development opportunities for young Indigenous people. Participants in this program study a Certificate II of Conservation and Land Management but also undertake training in other areas such as riding quadbikes, using chainsaws, welding, using chemicals and fire fighting. Students learnt other skills through engaging in a variety of workplace tasks such as repairing and maintaining equipment and facilities, talking to visitors, setting and checking crocodile traps and weed control. While much of the work is hard yakka the students all enjoy riding quadbikes and taking the boat out to check for crocs!
<i>Leeuwin II Top End Explorer Voyages Program</i>	The <i>Leeuwin II Top End Explorer Voyages Program</i> engaged 80 young Territorians aged 13 to 25 years in 2007. Participants left their comfort zones behind to learn all aspects of sailing a square-rigged ship, including setting sail charting a course and the importance of teamwork.
<i>Junior Police Rangers Scheme</i>	The NT Police <i>Junior Police Rangers Scheme</i> had 75 young people participating. The program conducts activities and training with young people to develop their leadership capabilities.
<i>Science study day</i>	Year 11 and 12 students were inspired to consider a career in a museum environment through an interactive science day.

<i>YouthLEAD</i>	An environmental leadership development program to engage young Territorians was held for the first time in the Top End during NYW 2007. YouthLEAD is an award winning national youth environmental leadership and social enterprise program aimed at developing young leaders to build a sustainable community. The three day workshop was run by Oz GREEN with support from NRETA. A number of participants have formed a group called YouthTEA (Territorians for Environmental Awareness) with the aim of engaging other young people in the Territory with big environmental issues.
<i>Junior Ranger Program</i>	Government's long-running <i>Junior Ranger Program</i> has again seen the graduation of a group of young Territorians who are now equipped with all the bush knowledge needed to identify cane toads, investigate insects and understand weed biocontrol. The Parks and Wildlife Junior Ranger Program is a free environmental based program for Territorians aged 9-14 years.
<i>National Museum Challenge</i>	MAGNT in conjunction with the National Museum of Australia hosted the <i>National History Challenge</i> – a research based competition for students in Years 5 to 12 held in May 2007. The theme was 'lessons from the past'. Students explored the history of Maralinga as well as a mystery object from the Territory's maritime collection.
<i>Work experience placements</i>	NRETA worked with YouthWorx NT to provide work experience placements for Year 10 students in the <i>Workready Program</i> . Students were placed in diverse areas ranging from the crocodile management team and various national parks. Students are able to observe professionals at work.

Key Issue: Improving access to and awareness of recreation and entertainment activities

Our focus	Activity in 2006-07
<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>Opportunities for young people from different backgrounds</i>	The Office of Sport and Recreation is exploring recreation and entertainment project opportunities for young people from culturally and linguistically diverse background through partnerships with the Office of Multicultural Affairs (DCM) and the Melaleuca Refugee Centre.
<i>What's on in the holidays</i>	Government's dedicated youth website www.youth.nt.gov.au informed the community about recreation and entertainment activities over the major school holidays.
<i>Remote holiday activities in CYDUs</i>	The NT Police Youth Diversion Scheme CYDUs offer a range of holiday activities and programs during holidays. Programs operate in Tennant Creek, Groote Eylandt, Borroloola, Galiwin'ku, Tiwi Islands and Docker River. Other holiday program support in conjunction with other partners was provided at Maningrida, Papunya, Ikuntji, Mutitjulu, Mt Liebig and Imanpa.
<i>Changes to the bus fare structure</i>	In August 2006 government announced changes to the bus fare structure to reduce the cost of travel for Territorians. Concession fares for students will now cost 50c for three hours of unlimited travel on any one day.

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 2006-07
<i>Chief Executive's Student Forum</i>	The <i>Chief Executive's Student Forum</i> continues to be a valuable youth participation mechanism to discuss educational issues and contribute to decision-making. Sixteen students in Years 11 and 12 from across the Territory meet four times a year with the Chief Executive and other senior executives from DEET.
<i>Youth participation handbook</i>	OYA developed a youth participation handbook titled <i>You did what? How young Territorians can make things happen in the community</i> . The handbook is filled with over 20 big ideas on how young people can participate in decision-making and take action on issues they feel strongly about. The content and direction of the handbook was informed through recommendations made by the 2005 Youth Round Table.
<i>Youth Round Table</i>	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 government and enables them to have input to decision-making. The 2006 Youth Round Table met formally four times during 2006 and had direct input into government policy and programs with a youth focus. Members consulted directly with over 90 young Territorians through the regional reporting process and 1,200 as part of their community-based projects. Copies of the project reports are available at www.youth.nt.gov.au .
<i>Youth consultations</i>	OYA 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 2006-07, the office facilitated the following consultations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="509 1525 1401 1592">□ A youth forum in Batchelor to discuss the perceived increase of antisocial behaviour at the request of the Member for Daly. <li data-bbox="509 1615 1477 1715">□ Meetings with a number of youth organisations and schools in Alice Springs to raise awareness of the services and programs available to young Territorians and discuss local youth issues. <li data-bbox="509 1738 1477 1805">□ A young women's forum in Galiwin'ku as part of the Women's Forum and Community Cabinet programs.
<i>Students on 'talkback'</i>	MAGNT collaborated with the National Museum of Australia on the <i>Talkback Classroom</i> program. The program enabled students to interview the 'movers and shakers' in Australia on the issue of "Indigenous rights – how far have we come?".

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

Our focus	Activity in 2006-07
<i>Moneystuff</i>	To complement the <i>Moneystuff</i> interactive financial consumer literacy program for young people, a website for young consumers has been developed by DOJ. The website has links to 114 fact sheets to key consumer and financial topics relating to buying, renting and scams.
<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.
<i>Youth Services Directory</i>	As part of its role as a central coordination agency, OYA produced a <i>Youth Services Directory</i> 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>	Government’s youth website www.youth.nt.gov.au provides young people, community organisations and parents/carers with a range of information on services and programs available to young Territorians.

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 2006-07
<i>Youth Diversion Scheme Community Grants Program</i>	The NT Police managed YDS 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. Remote CYDUs also provide risk abatement activities for young people at risk and operate in Tennant Creek, Groote Eylandt, Borroloola, Galiwin'ku, Tiwi Islands and Docker River. Other program support was provided to youth programs at Maningrida, Papunya, Ikuntji, Mutitjulu, Mt Liebig and Imanpa. The Central Australian Youth Link Up Service continues to provide to support youth programs in the southern region.
<i>School Based Police Officer Scheme</i>	Twenty-one School Based Police Officers were attached to secondary schools in the Territory, and provide services to feeder primary schools. The officers provide liaison for young people and school staff to Police and provide a proactive presence and support within the schools. Officers also present a range of lessons to students including drug and personal safety awareness from programs developed in partnership between NT Police and DEET.
<i>Road safety reforms</i>	In 2006-07, the NT Road Safety Taskforce recommended a range of measures to improve road safety in the Territory. Graduated driver licensing was introduced in the Territory on 1 July 2007 to increase the learner period to a minimum of six months and increase the provisional driver period to two years – for drivers under 25 – to better prepare young and new drivers for the road and reduce their risk of crashing. A ban on the use of mobile phones for learner and provisional drivers will also assist in reducing driver distraction in these early stages of driving while young and new drivers are gaining experience on the road.
<i>Safety on our buses</i>	Transport safety officers have been employed to monitor the bus network, especially at peak times. Officers provide assistance to drivers and passengers and help keep young people safe while using public transport.
<i>Northern Suburbs Youth Activities Funding</i>	To address antisocial and criminal behaviour among young people in the northern suburbs, the Minister for Young Territorians awarded \$30,000 to the Melaleuca Refugee Centre for the provision of affordable and accessible activities for young people aged 12 to 25 years in the northern suburbs. Melaleuca Refugee Centre has developed collaborative partnerships with other service providers to deliver the activities including the Australian Red Cross Youth Programs, Brown's Mart, the Multicultural Council of the NT, Mission Australia and the NT Police. All planned activities were suggested by young people through extensive consultations. Upcoming activities will be promoted on the <i>Youth Blast</i> website (www.youthblast.org.au).

<i>24 hour child protection/child abuse hotline</i>	DHCS has 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.
<i>After hours service model for young people at risk</i>	<p>Representatives from about 13 key community organisations in Alice Springs attended a forum hosted by DHCS in May 2007. The aim of the forum was to enable participants to provide views on the issues facing young people in Central Australia, as well as suggestions on how best to tackle these issues including developing an after hours service model for young people at risk.</p> <p>The after hours service model would provide for a safe place and a linked process for case management and referral for identified young people. The service is part of a broader youth service network in Alice Springs with significant resources.</p> <p>Work is underway to enhance recreational services in Alice Springs, through the enhancement of the two existing services, the Gap Youth Centre and the Alice Springs Youth Centre. Recreational activities are an important component of an early intervention approach to managing youth at risk, but also as a strategy for the engagement of young people as key community members.</p>
<i>School holiday programs for young people at risk</i>	FACS provided funding to Mission Australia for the delivery of the school holiday program for young people at risk in the northern suburbs. Funding was also provided to Red Cross to extend the hours of <i>The Shak</i> at Casuarina.

Key Issue: Dealing with young offenders

Our focus	Activity in 2006-07
<i>Dealing with gang related activity</i>	<p>In August 2006 government introduced a new legislative package to deal with gang related activity. The <i>Justice Legislation Amendment (Group Criminal Activities) Act</i> aims to help break up gangs, and reduce their impact on the community. The provisions in the Act are aimed at shutting down gangs by dismantling their power bases and targeting criminal connections.</p> <p>Under the legislation, gang members can be issued with a notice prohibiting them from being in a particular place for up to 72 hours where they, or the gang they are with, are reasonably suspected of having committed or being about to commit an offence. They can be charged with violent disorder if they are part of a group engaging in violent behaviour, and when they come before the courts non-association and place restriction orders can be imposed as part of bail and sentence. In the case of serious organised crime, the police can issue a notice preventing consorting between those convicted of such crimes in the past where they reasonably believe by stopping consorting they will stop further crime.</p>
<i>Youth Diversion Scheme</i>	YDS is an essential component of 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. NT Police manages and delivers the scheme and administers and supports the YDS Community Grants Program.

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

Our focus	Activity in 2006-07
<i>Safe Schools NT Framework</i>	<p>A campaign against violence in schools launched by government on 1 May 2007 aims to create safer schools to deliver better educational outcomes for children and young people. The <i>Safe Schools NT Framework</i> encourages school communities to develop policies and practices around bullying and child protection and includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The <i>Safe Schools NT Code of Behaviour</i> makes it clear that violence in schools is unacceptable and sets out the responses schools can take, including police involvement. All government schools will revise their current behaviour management policies by the end of 2007. 2. A series of youth friendly posters promoting <i>Safe Schools</i>. 3. A new <i>Safe Schools</i> website www.safeschools.nt.gov.au with information sheets for parents, students and teachers about the behaviour code, professional learning modules for teachers and links to other related information. <p>A Positive Learning Centre has been established at Sanderson High School on a trial basis in 2007. The centre provides a space where upper primary students exhibiting behaviours that prevent other students from learning or pose a risk to the safety of others can be accommodated. It provides a temporary placement and students remain enrolled at their own school while attending the centre.</p>

Key Issue: Addressing domestic and family violence

Our focus	Activity in 2006-07
<i>Advertising campaign</i>	<p>Young Indigenous All Stars Richard Tambling, Aaron Davey and Daniel Motlop featured in a new Territory-wide advertising campaign showing how men can stop domestic and family violence.</p>
<i>Stop It Before It Starts</i>	<p>The anti-violence program – <i>Stop It Before It Starts</i> – was implemented in remote communities and is being evaluated. An officer was appointed to research, adapt and promote relevant material to specific remote school communities to increase awareness of personal safety programs. Developed and promoted mandatory reporting training to DEET personnel. A protective behaviours program was contextualised for remote Indigenous students. Training was provided to significant community members and identified school staff in three localities to provide ongoing support for students in the area of self protection.</p>
<i>IFVPP Bilateral Projects</i>	<p>IFVPP 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. IFVPP funding ends in June 2008. Through this funding stream some programs have particular impact on young people.</p>

Internal domestic and family violence strategies in DHCS In September 2006 DHCS endorsed the *Policy Approach to Identified Domestic and Family Violence in Health Care Settings*. This policy can be found on the DHCS website www.health.nt.gov.au.

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 DHCS 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.

Work is ongoing to implement the policy across DHCS. To date this has included the establishment of a senior level Domestic and Family Reference Group. This group has a strong focus on staff training. One priority area is FACS, hospital and health centre employees who have specific training needs in relation to domestic and family violence and child protection.

Key Issue: Improving relations between young people and the Police

Our focus Activity in 2006-07

Youth Justice Act The *Youth Justice Act* took effect from August 2006. The Act includes a presumption for the diversion of youth in all but the most serious of offences. It also provides for the establishment of a Youth Justice Advisory Committee, a Youth Justice Court with provision for specialist sentencing options and regulation of detention centres.

Cop This! *Cop This!* is a general guide for young people who may have contact with the police but may not understand their responsibilities and their rights when doing so. *Cop This!* Was produced by the NT Legal Aid Commission and is part of a package of information that includes a DVD and a teaching resource for schools. A competition for the design elements of *Cop This!* was held in high schools during NYW 2007.

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

Our focus Activity in 2006-07

Youth Headleasing Program Government continues to support the *Youth Headleasing Program* administered by the YWCA. The program provides pathways for Territorians aged 16 to 17 years to secure public housing and the skills to support them in the transition to public tenancy.

Ongoing review of legislation and policies The *Housing Act*, housing policy and procedures are under ongoing review to better meet the needs of young people accessing public housing.

<i>Funding to community groups</i>	<p>Under the Community Housing Program administered by Territory Housing, Alice Springs Youth Accommodation Support Services upgraded Ampe Akweke (a five bedroom house in Gillen) to offer supported accommodation to teenage mothers.</p> <p>Territory Housing provides ongoing commitment to community organisations – such as Anglicare and the YWCA – that offer youth supported accommodation and services.</p>
<i>Supported Accommodation and Assistance Program</i>	<p>SAAP is jointly funded by the Northern Territory and Australian governments. FACS administers the program in the Territory and contracts non-government agencies to provide accommodation and support to homeless people and women and children escaping domestic and family violence. In 2006-07 SAAP funded 37 agencies across the Territory – 27 services in the northern region and 10 in the southern region. Eleven services were targeted specifically for women – 10 for women and children escaping domestic and family violence and one for single women without children. SAAP also provided services for young people, families and single men.</p>

Glossary of acronyms used

CALD	Culturally and Linguistically Diverse
CEC	Community Education Centre
CYDUs	Community Youth Development Units
DBERD	Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development
DCM	Department of the Chief Minister
DHCS	Department of Health and Community Services
DEET	Department of Employment, Education and Training
DOJ	Department of Justice
DPI	Department of Planning and Infrastructure
DPIFM	Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines
FACS	Family and Children's Services Program of DHCS
IFVPP	Indigenous Family Violence Partnership Program
JP3	Jobs Plan 3
MAGNT	Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory
NRETA	Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts
NTCE	Northern Territory Certificate of Education
NTIS	Northern Territory Institute of Sport
NYW	National Youth Week
OYA	Office of Youth Affairs
SAAP	Support Accommodation and Assistance Program
SSABSA	Senior Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia
VET	Vocational Education and Training
VETiS	Vocational Education and Training in Schools
YDS	Youth Diversion Scheme