



# Youth Minister's Round Table OF YOUNG TERRITORIANS



# Annual Report 2010

## CHAIRPERSON'S OVERVIEW



Retrospectively, I can honestly say last year was an effective and empowering year for the Round Table!

Since we came together in February 2010, we had the opportunity to not only converse regularly with each other, but with the wider community, including many other young people, organisations and our leaders. The Round Table is a group that truly reflects that there is value in what young Territorians have to say.

The Round Table canvassed an astounding 492 young Territorians through the Youth Issues Survey to find out what issues were most important to them. This shaped discussions and gave the group direction. Most importantly, the responses of those young people were communicated directly to the Minister for Young Territorians, the Hon Rob Knight MLA. Some of the most prevalent issues to present themselves from the survey were alcohol and other drugs (including associated anti-social behaviours), violence and safety and boredom or a lack of recreation. The Round Table continued to investigate young Territorians use of alcohol and other drugs due to the overwhelming response - almost 50% of respondents indicated this was the most important issue affecting our young community. Results of this research are provided in this report.

The Round Table produced a number of projects that covered a wide range of topics including: art, expression, body image, housing and financial literacy, sexual assault services, the youth voice, event awareness, mental health and youth services in the rural area. We are extremely proud of the work we have produced and of the broad knowledge we were able to bring to the table.

On behalf of the Round Table we would like to sincerely thank everyone who attended our meetings as a guest, met with us and offered information, advice and support. I would like to convey our immense appreciation and gratitude for the staff at the Office of Youth Affairs for their support, facilitation, knowledge and for the opportunity to be part of something great. I also acknowledge the hard work of the 2010 members in actively using their voice and encouraging others to do the same whilst showing dedication and commitment to their education, workplaces, family and other commitments. Most importantly, I would like to thank families, partners, schools and workplaces of members, who have been tirelessly supportive, encouraging, understanding and proud of Round Table commitments throughout the year. Without them, the year would not have been as great as it was.

I hope that our efforts encourage other young Territorians to get involved in their communities, because there is no such thing as unimportant when it comes to the youth voice.

It is with great pleasure and a mixture of sadness and relief that I present to you the Annual Report of the 2010 Youth Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Moss". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lauren Moss (Chairperson)

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Minister Knight with Round Table members.

## ABBREVIATIONS

CAAPS	Council for Aboriginal Alcohol Program Services Inc
DARWWYN	Darwin and Rural Workers With Youth Network
DHF	Department of Health and Families (Northern Territory Government)
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NT	Northern Territory
NTEIPP	Northern Territory Early Intervention Pilot Program (NTPFES)
NTPFES	NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services (Northern Territory Government)
OYA	Office of Youth Affairs (Northern Territory Government)
RADD	Recording Artists, Actors and Athletes Against Drink Driving
Round Table	Youth Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians



## WHAT IS THE YOUTH MINISTER'S ROUND TABLE OF YOUNG TERRITORIANS?

The former Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians was founded by the Office of Youth Affairs in 1997. The annual Round Table consists of sixteen young people from around the Northern Territory, who act as an avenue for communication between their peers and the Northern Territory Government.

Towards the end of each year, recruitment for the next year's Round Table commences. This process involves the submission of an application and interview with the Coordinator and Chairperson of the current Round Table. This process is intended to discover more about the interests and experiences of the individual applicants to ensure a diverse selection of members are chosen. The group is aged from 15 – 25 years of age and aims to represent the geographic, cultural and ethnic diversity that is apparent in the wider Territory population.

Involvement with other young people is a large component of the program and members consult with their peers through a number of mediums, including focus groups and surveys, which then allows members to represent these views. This is done through four face to face meetings throughout the year, which are attended by the Minister for Young Territorians, Hon Rob Knight MLA. Members of the Round Table also communicate monthly via teleconference.

The concerns and issues raised by young people are often reflected in the community-based projects undertaken by members. The community-based projects are completed by individuals or sub-groups within the Round Table and are presented to Ministers, NT Government Chief Executives and other key government representatives at Parliament House in December, before becoming public documents early in the following year via the Office of Youth Affairs website.

Throughout the year, members also have numerous opportunities to represent the Round Table and to offer a youth perspective on boards, committees, forums and at community events. The group has had access (through both the Office of Youth Affairs and their own arrangements) to a large and diverse range of influential Territorians who have already facilitated social change in their communities.

Through the Round Table, young Territorians learn to be part of a group which aims to facilitate positive social change, raise awareness of youth issues and undertake active research in areas that affect them and their peers. Most importantly, members are able to use their involvement in the Round Table to encourage and involve other young Territorians in decisions that affect their lives.



## MEMBERS OF THE 2010 YOUTH MINISTER'S ROUND TABLE

### Aaron Dowling - Darwin - 24 years old

Hello fellow readers. As a 25 year young Territorian I have had many great experiences as part of the 2010 Round Table. I joined the Round Table because I want to make a difference for young people by making it easier to afford the costs of living, mainly with regard to housing.



The Round Table for 2010 has been great and I have had a lot of fun with fellow members. There have been many opportunities to liaise with government about issues that youth face. We have met many different individuals and agencies who serve the community in a variety of ways.

It is important to educate young people in the areas that affect them most, and that's why I focused on housing. My project aims to make a government initiative that will help young people with living costs, and the Round Table has made that opportunity possible.

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### Amelia Kunoth-Monks - Utopia - 17 years old

Hi my name is Amelia Rosemarie Pangarte Kunoth-Monks. I come from Utopia. I joined the Round Table because I want to make a difference to my community and my project was on the intervention. I am passionate about AFL and the team I barrack for is Essendon. I also enjoy dance and drama.

*\* Note: Amelia resigned from the Round Table in November 2010. We would like to thank her for her valuable contribution to the Round Table and her infectious passion for her community.*

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### Aroha Jennings (Vice Chair) - Darwin - 25 years old

Wow, what an amazing year! I feel so fortunate to have been given the opportunity to work with 15 other amazing young Territorians who have had a proactive and positive involvement in the wider issues that affect NT youth.



Being a part of the Round Table has helped me to value the importance of giving all youth a voice and being heard.

My highlight of 2010 was the Round Table's involvement in working with stakeholders to provide positive and strategic direction in relation to the growing issues of alcohol and other drugs in our community.

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### Celeste Brand - Alice Springs - 20 years old

My name is Celeste and I have lived in Alice Springs for 17 years of my life. I joined the Round Table to voice my opinion and listen to those of others in the Territory. The Round Table has been an amazing experience, because I had the opportunity to meet new friends and learn new information.

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### **Dimity Jessup - Darwin Rural - 17 years old**

I was born in the Northern Territory and have seen things change over time. It was great to be able to voice my opinions to other like-minded and diverse young Territorians through the Round Table, which also gave me a chance to help and express the views of my community. Last year, as a Round Table member, I felt privileged to work with such entertaining, lovely and passionate Territorians that all want to make a difference to other young Territorians around the NT. I am glad to say that I was a 2010 Round Table member and I am thankful for all the support.



### **Elsbeth Blunt - Alice Springs - 25 years old**

I'm Elspeth and I live in Alice Springs, where I work for InCite Youth Arts Inc. I'm passionate about working to create a stronger voice for and with young people in Central Australia and kicking some serious ass.

### **Eun Ju Kim-Baker - Darwin - 19 years old**

The obstacles faced by young people in the Northern Territory are endless; extreme levels of alcohol and other drugs abuse, acute rates of depression and suicide, chronic Aboriginal disadvantage, pervasive sexual assaults, endemic body-image and self-esteem issues. Working to improve all of these issues as one person, is impossible. However, working as one body of common minds is powerful. Membership of the 2010 Round Table meant I was buoyed when I fell flat and was supported when I felt overcome by the tasks at hand. The deepest lesson it has embedded in me is that while anger may drive us, it cannot inspire us. While frustration may fuel us, it cannot sustain us. It is only by working collectively that the burdens are lifted and the joys can be shared. Responsibility for the community's welfare does not belong to any individual alone. It is everyone's business. Inter-generational change starts with us, now.



### **Gavin Henderson - Alice Springs - 17 years old**

Hi there, I am Gavin Henderson. I have lived in the Territory for around 9 years. I joined the Round Table because I wanted to make a change in Alice Springs and make things better for the youth of Alice. Bec and I did a project about the promotion of youth events in Alice. I enjoyed this project and learnt a lot from it. I really enjoyed myself this year while being on the Round Table, and I feel so happy to have worked with a group of young people, like myself, that want to make a change in their own community.

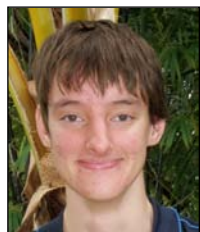
### **Hannah Woerle - Darwin/Limmen National Park - 19 years old**

Hi everyone! I'm Hannah Woerle and I am a fiercely proud Territorian having lived in the NT all my life. I'm passionate about making change for the better in the NT and the Youth Minister's Round Table 2010 was a perfect outlet for that passion. Last year I worked on a project based on Body Image and Self Esteem. If nothing else was achieved from this, I know I have personally gained a deep respect for these issues and I am reflecting this respect on the people around me, sharing the message and increasing understanding for Territorians and Body Image



simply through my awareness of it. All of my Round Table mates also shared this infectious passion with their own projects and the people around them so that feels like a great success! Throughout last year I've met truly beautiful people who are dedicated and inspiring and I've seen change in those around me and in myself. I can only hope that future Round Table members can get as much out of this experience as I did.

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### **Joshua May - Darwin Rural - 17 years old**

Hi, I'm Josh. I love acting and singing and I am in year 11 at Kormilda College. I joined the Round Table because I want to make a difference in the lives of young people in the Territory.

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### **Kelvia Johnson - Darwin Rural - 15 years old**

Hi my name is Kelvia Johnson. I'm thankful that I was a member of the 2010 Round Table to help the voices of young people to be heard. I'd like to help create a safe environment for me and my peers. I was born and raised in Darwin – this is my home and I want to help it as much as possible.



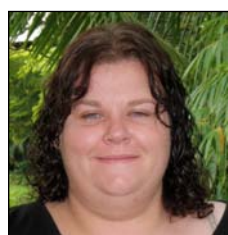
### **Kylie Sambo - Tennant Creek - 15 years old**

Hi, my name is Kylie Sambo. I am from Tennant Creek and I represented the Barkly region. I was born in Alice Springs, then a year later we moved to Tennant Creek to be close to our family. I joined the Round Table because I want to make a difference in my community.

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### **Lauren Moss (Chair) – Darwin - 23 years old**

I feel privileged to have been part of this group of young people last year, and part of a group that cares as much about our community as I do. When I joined the Round Table I knew it was a great opportunity for me, however had no idea I would gain as much as I have from the experience. I have had the opportunity to discuss and present issues and views of my peers, meet influential Territorians and be part of many community forums, networks and events representing the Round Table. The Round Table allowed me and my peers to have a voice and has instilled a vast amount of confidence in us all. It has also made me realise that we can achieve anything we put our minds to. I am proud of the work produced from the 2010 Round Table and look forward to seeing the new generation of Round Tabler's smash it!



### **Rebecca Rowberry - Alice Springs - 25 years old**

Hi, my name is Rebecca Rowberry and I have been living in the Territory for 8 years now. I worked within the Northern Territory Government with the former Department of Health and Families. I joined the Round Table to give a voice to the young people of the Alice Springs community.

Members of the 2010 Round Table had a great time and had lots of fun. We participated in many meetings and activities and met with a variety of influential people who have assisted us along the way. We participated in many activities throughout the

Territory last year and met many new friends who we will keep in contact with. Any young person who wants to make a difference to their community and provide ideas and suggestions should apply to be a Round Table member.

“Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars.” ~ Les Brown.

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### **Sephyr Crook - Darwin Rural - 17 years old**



Being a young Territorian brings with it a lot of opportunity. The Territory is growing rapidly and now is the time to plan for the future. Young visionaries have the chance to set in place the foundations for what they want the Territory to be as they grow older. I have lived in Darwin for 12 years and in the last year have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the Youth Minister's Round Table.

Round Table provided me with an avenue of expression to contribute to Darwin's planning. Round Table is an assurance the opinions and ideals of the young people which I have come to represent do not go unheard.

As part of my involvement with the Round Table I conducted research into the concerns currently facing young Territorians. I realise there are many young people who are proactive and able to inspire change for themselves and their peers, however there also those who need someone else to first ignite the possibility for change in their lives before they are able to better their own circumstance and the circumstance of others in their community.

That is what I hope my role on the Round Table achieved to help ignite that change. I encourage all young Territorians who are able to be proactive, to “speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute, ”(The Bible, Proverbs 31:8-9). In doing so, you are setting the foundations for what we want for the future; a better place for all Territorians.

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### **Skye Clayton - Darwin - 20 years old**

I study Alcohol and other Drugs at CAAPS. I enjoy working and making a difference in the lives of young people. I joined the Round Table in the hope of empowering and steering youth in the right direction. Being a local Indigenous person I want to be a positive role model and voice for youth in my community.

\* Note: due to unforeseen circumstances, Skye withdrew from the Round Table. We still consider her very much a member and would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution she made to the group.

## REPRESENTING THE ROUND TABLE

Throughout the year, members of the Round Table were active in both their own communities and the wider community through participation in events and activities. The group also represented the Round Table on committees, reference groups and attended functions. Most importantly, the 2010 Round Table actively promoted their work in the community through newsletters, the 2010 Youth Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians Facebook page, youth organisations, and through discussions with their peers where they continually encouraged all young Territorians to have a say about things that affect them. This allowed the Round Table to be in a position to advise government on policy and programs that impact young Territorians and to create a profile as approachable young people. This promotion, undertaken by members themselves, has been instrumental in the increase of applications for the Round Table in 2011.

### Activities attended by the Round Table

#### MARCH 2010

- Meeting with Chris Varney, 2009 Australian United Nations Youth Representative on his *Report Back Tour*.
- Submission for the *Inquiry into the Impact of Violence on Young Australians*, resulting in the document *Avoid the Harm - Stay Calm* by the House Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth – Round Table submission delivered by Lauren Moss, Hannah Woerle and Joshua May
- Harmony Day Function, Parliament House – Attended by Lauren Moss, Hannah Woerle and Joshua May
- Regional Development Association NT 1st Quarter General Meeting, Tennant Creek – Attended by Sephyr Crook

#### APRIL 2010

- *Homeless Connect* – Attended by Lauren Moss and Eun Ju Kim-Baker
- Adelaide River ANZAC Day Ceremony – Attended by Dimity Jessup
- *Young Achievers Awards* – Attended by Lauren Moss and Aroha Jennings
- *Snakefesssst* – Attended by Lauren Moss
- Stall at *The Big Gig*, National Youth Week 2010 – Attended by Dimity Jessup and Lauren Moss
- National Youth Week Opening Ceremony, Alice Springs – Attended by Elspeth Blunt and Gavin Henderson
- *Epic Central*, National Youth Week – Attended by Eun Ju Kim-Baker
- Stall at the National Youth Week Closing Ceremony, Alice Springs – Attended by Elspeth Blunt, Bec Rowberry and Gavin Henderson
- *United Nations Youth Association Mock Conference* – Attended by Lauren Moss (guest speaker)

#### MAY 2010

- *Territory 2030 Strategic Plan* – Round Table members met with the Steering Committee and made comment on the newly released Strategic Plan – Round Table Meeting 2
- Statehood Steering Committee – Round Table Meeting 2
- Alcohol and Other Drugs Focus Group – Attended by Lauren Moss, Sephyr Crook, Eun Ju Kim-Baker and Aaron Dowling

## **JUNE 2010**

- Meeting with the Australian Electoral Commission – Attended by Aroha Jennings, Hannah Woerle and Lauren Moss
- Meeting with Samah Hadid, 2010 Australian United Nations Youth Representative
- Meeting with the Licensing Commission – Attended by Lauren Moss, Aroha Jennings and Hannah Woerle, also attended Meeting 3

## **JULY 2010**

- *Multicultural Youth NT Youth Reception* – Attended by Lauren Moss
- Members at the former *Department of Health and Families Stall* at the Royal Darwin Show – Hannah Woerle, Aroha Jennings, Aaron Dowling, Joshua May, Dimity Jessup and Lauren Moss

## **AUGUST 2010**

- ABC Radio 2010 *Election Forum: Have your say* – Attended by Aroha Jennings
- Consultations with *Northern Territory Early Intervention Pilot Program staff* – Attended by Aroha Jennings, Lauren Moss and Dimity Jessup, also attended Meeting 3
- Meeting with the Licensing Commission – Attended by Lauren Moss, Aroha Jennings and Hannah Woerle, also attended Meeting 3 (June/August)

## **SEPTEMBER 2010**

- Consultations with *Northern Territory Early Intervention Pilot Program staff* – Attended by Aroha Jennings, Lauren Moss and Dimity Jessup; also attended Meeting 3
- Representative on the *Youth Policy Framework Review Reference Group* – Lauren Moss
- *Round Table* consultation with staff members for the planning of Weddell – Attended by Lauren Moss, Aroha Jennings and Dimity Jessup
- Interviews and meetings as per 2010 projects
- Weddell Public Consultation – Attended by Joshua May
- Vigil for Victims of HIV/AIDS – Attended by Eun Ju Kim-Baker
- Weddell Youth Consultation – Attended by Lauren Moss and Aroha Jennings
- Representative on Regional Development Association NT – Attended by Sephyr Crook (all year)
- Palmerston Festival - Illumination Night – Attended by Sephyr Crook
- Palmerston festival - Family Fun Day – Attended by Sephyr Crook
- National Child Protection Week Breakfast – Attended by Sephyr Crook
- Darwin Youth Organisation Network meeting – Attended by Lauren Moss, Aroha Jennings and Sephyr Crooke

## **OCTOBER 2010**

- Launch and judging of entries into the Department of Justice School Liaison Anti-Alcohol Campaign – Attended by Lauren Moss (launch), Joshua May and Aroha Jennings (judges)
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month Activities – Attended by Eun Ju Kim-Baker
- NT Australia Day Council Australian of the Year Awards – Attended by Lauren Moss (judge and attendee)

## **NOVEMBER 2010**

- Meeting with the Department of Education – Attended by Lauren Moss
- Regional Development Association NT 3rd Quarter General Meeting, Alice Springs – Attended by Sephyr Crook
- Meet the Youth Minister and his Round Table, Alice Springs – Attended by Elspeth Blunt, Gavin Henderson, Bec Rowberry and Celeste Brand
- Focus Group re: Mental Health and Rural Youth Services, Humpty Doo Skate Park – Attended by Sephyr Crook and Dimity Jessup
- Youth Consultation with Planet Savers - Attended by Eun Ju Kim-Baker
- Darwin and Rural Workers With Youth Network (DARWWYN) guest speaker – Attended by Lauren Moss
- Meeting with the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition – Attended by Lauren Moss and Eun Ju Kim Baker
- Dripstone Middle School presentation to Personal Learning Plan Class – Attended by Lauren Moss
- Dripstone Middle School Health Expo – Attended by Lauren Moss
- Presentation to Council for Aboriginal Alcohol Program Services Inc (CAAPS) – Attended by Lauren Moss

## **DECEMBER 2010**

- NT Early Intervention Pilot Program Launch and blue light disco (Katherine) – Attended by Lauren Moss

## **Media Exposure**

### **FEBRUARY 2010**

- ABC Drive with Vicki Kerrigan re: Round Table and initial survey of young Territorians – Lauren Moss and Joshua May

### **MARCH 2010**

- ABC The Country Hour Radio Interview Re: Inquiry into the Impact of Violence on Young Australians – Hannah Woerle, Joshua May and Lauren Moss
- Interview with Stateline NT re: Inquiry into the Impact of Violence on Young Australians – Hannah Woerle, Joshua May and Lauren Moss
- ABC Radio Drive with Vicki Kerrigan re: Inquiry into the Impact of Violence on Young Australians – Joshua May

### **APRIL 2010**

- Territory FM Interview with Damien Hale – Lauren Moss and Hannah Woerle re: National Youth Week
- ABC Radio Drive with Vicki Kerrigan re: Meeting 1 – Aroha Jennings and Lauren Moss

### **MAY 2010**

- ABC Radio Drive with Vicki Kerrigan re: Meeting 2 and alcohol at events – Aroha Jennings and Lauren Moss

### **AUGUST 2010**

- ABC Radio Sunday Morning with Richard Margetson re: young Territorians enrolling to vote – Lauren Moss

- Hot 100 re: young Territorians enrolling to vote – Lauren Moss
- NT News re: young Territorians deadline to enrol to vote – Lauren Moss
- NT News re: young Territorians the importance of voting – Aroha Jennings
- ABC Radio Sunday Morning with Richard Margetson re: election – Lauren Moss (part of election panel)
- Ridealong with the Police Commissioner and General Manager of the NT News (Saturday Extra, July) – Lauren Moss
- ABC Radio Breakfast with Julia Christensen re: Ridealong

### **SEPTEMBER 2010**

- ABC Radio Drive with Vicki Kerrigan re: Weddell Public Consultation – Joshua May

### **OCTOBER 2010**

- Katherine Times re: recruitment for the 2011 Youth Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians – Aroha Jennings
- The Advocate re: recruitment for 2011 Youth Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians – Elspeth Blunt

### **NOVEMBER 2010**

- ABC Radio Drive with Rohan Barwick re: Skin Deep Campaign – Lauren Moss
- ABC Radio Drive with Vicki Kerrigan re: Skin Deep Campaign – Lauren Moss

### **DECEMBER 2010**

- ABC Radio Breakfast with Julia Christensen re: Round Table Soccer Match - Lauren Moss



## ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Those who are members of the Round Table take on the responsibility as a voluntary role, additional to their existing commitments. In 2010, members included full-time students, full-time employees, those that were engaged in both full-time work and study, unemployed young people and those that were, for some of the year engaged in neither work nor study. On top of work, education, sport, hobbies, the Round Table and spending time with family and friends, many members of the 2010 Round Table also found time to be involved in the community in other ways, separate to their involvement in Round Table capacity.

A number of members were also representatives on other youth advisory boards and groups such as the Headspace Central Australia Youth Advisory Group (Central Australia) and the United Nations Youth Association. Throughout the year members showed unwavering passion and commitment to positive outcomes for the community by attending, in their own right, community events and activities such as the After the Flood Fundraiser for Victims of the Pakistan Flood, Asylum Seekers in Darwin Awareness Night, community talent quests and shows and school holiday programs.

Many members were already very active members within the Northern Territory community, working in voluntary capacity for local sporting groups and getting involved with volunteering programs. Some members of the Round Table admittedly were not hugely active in the community prior to their involvement in the 2010 Round Table and have enjoyed the journey, discovering what they can get involved in and meeting people who share their passions, and can now declare that they are active participants!



## MEETING GUESTS

The Round Table would like to acknowledge and thank the following community members for meeting with us in 2010, sharing their knowledge and allowing us to communicate our views.

*\* Note: Titles correct at time of meeting.*

### **Meeting 1: 27 & 28 February 2010**

NAME	TITLE
Hon Rob Knight MLA	Minister for Young Territorians
Mr Fred McCue	Youth Advisor to Minister Knight
Ms Clare Gardiner-Barnes	Executive Director, NT Families and Children (Department of Health and Families - DHF)
Mrs Debra Zupp	Director, Youth Services Branch (DHF)
Miss Larnie McClintock	Vice Chairperson, 2009 Youth Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians 2010 NT Young Member for National Youth Week
Creative Territory	Media Training

### **Meeting 2: 15 & 16 May 2010**

NAME	TITLE
Hon Rob Knight MLA	Minister for Young Territorians
Mr Fred McCue	Youth Advisor to Minister Knight
Ms Clare Gardiner-Barnes	Executive Director, NT Families and Children (DHF)
Ms Debra Zupp	Director, Youth Services Branch (DHF)
Mr Daniel Bourchier	Statehood Steering Committee
Mr Michael Tatham	Statehood Steering Committee
Ms Tess Lea	Associate Professor, Charles Darwin University
Ms Marion Scrymgour MLA	Parliamentary Secretary for Territory 2030
Mr Chris Grace	Territory 2030 Implementation Unit
Mrs Karlee Dalton	Territory 2030 Implementation Unit
Mr Mark McAdie	Assistant Police Commissioner
Mr Anthony Sievers	Alcohol and Other Drugs Unit (DHF)
Ms Sarah Gobbert	Alcohol and Other Drugs Unit (DHF)

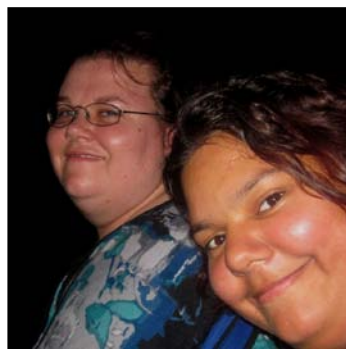
### **Meeting 3: 28 & 29 August 2010**

NAME	TITLE
Mr Sam Stewart	Youth Advisor to Minister Knight
Ms Clare Gardiner-Barnes	Executive Director, NT Families and Children (DHF)
Ms Debra Zupp	Director, Youth Services Branch (DHF)
Ms Jennah Wardrope	Consumer Affairs (DoJ)
Mr Micheil Brodie	Licensing, Regulation and Alcohol Strategy
Ms Jane Alley	Licensing, Regulation and Alcohol Strategy
Mr John McRoberts APM	NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services Commission
Ms Jeanette Callaghan	NT Early Intervention Pilot Program (NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services)
Ms Judith McKay	NT Early Intervention Pilot Program (NTPFES)
Mr Trent McCarthy	Public Speaking and Presentation Skills

**Meeting guests outside of set Round Table meetings:**

NAME	TITLE
Ms Elizabeth Warnock	Youth Coordinator, Multicultural Youth NT
Mr Robert Puggsley	Australian Electoral Commission

These guests covered a large range of topics and transferred to us a huge amount of knowledge based on their own experiences and professions. As a result the Round Table was able to gain a more comprehensive view of affairs in the Northern Territory and have valuable input into programs, publications and topics of discussion.



## MEETINGS

### Meeting One: Darwin Airport Resort 27 & 28 February

The first meeting included guest speakers including the 2009 Round Table Member and NT Young Member for National Youth Week Ms Larnie McClintock who provided positive advice and an account of her favourite experiences and highlights as Vice Chairperson, such as having the opportunity to meet with numerous Ministers. As the NT Young Member for National Youth Week, Larnie discussed ways for young Territorians to get involved through events, competitions and activities for 2010 National Youth Week

The Round Table participated in media training which not only provided an opportunity for fun, but also developed the groups' skills in communicating effectively with the media.

The Round Table was especially appreciative of having the opportunity to express the views of 492 young people from all around the Territory, with a particularly strong representation of Alice Springs to the Minister for Young Territorians, Hon Rob Knight MLA. While a diverse range of issues were raised, almost 50 per cent of young people surveyed stated that alcohol and drugs were of major concern to them, often in conjunction with other issues. Members of the Round Table believed that many of these responses indicated a cycle in which drugs and alcohol are not only a cause of many other problems but a symptom and an effect also.

Other issues that featured strongly were violence, lack of entertainment and recreation, education and employment and bullying and peer pressure. Some of these issues formed the basis of 2010 Community Based Projects and were discussed with the media and local leaders.

This meeting was not only the first opportunity members had to get to know each other as a cohesive group, but also the first to meet the Hon Rob Knight MLA, Minister for Young Territorians, his Advisor for Young Territorians, Mr Fred McCue, Executive Director of NT Families and Children (DHF), Ms Claire Gardiner-Barnes and Director of the Youth Services Branch, Ms Debra Zupp. Results of the Youth Issues Survey were orally presented and discussed with the Minister and his colleagues and the Round Table committed to take further action on the issue of alcohol and other drugs.

The Round Table was also provided with the opportunity to lodge a submission to the 'Inquiry into the Impact of Violence on Young Australians', conducted by the Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth. The results of the Youth Issues Surveys and Round Table stance were discussed at the meeting and later formed the submission that was presented via teleconference to the Standing Committee on the 17<sup>th</sup> March. Round Table members have been cited in the resulting report *'Avoid Harm, Stay Calm'*.

At the first meeting the Round Table nominated member Sephyr Crook to represent the group on the Australian Regional Development Association Northern Territory Committee. This was an ongoing commitment throughout the year with the committee meeting in various locations around the Northern Territory.

The Round Table spent much of the first meeting getting to know each other, allocating positions and gathering content for the first *2010 Round About the NT Newsletter*. Expectations for the year were discussed and members recorded video bios for the OYA website to ensure that other young people and community stakeholders would know who their local members were.

The first meeting of the year was also the last meeting coordinated by the Senior Policy Officer, Vicki Schultz, who had been Round Table Coordinator for six years.

## **Meeting Two: Darwin Airport Resort 15 & 16 May**

The second meeting was packed full of visitors. Some of the activities and guests over the weekend included:

- Statehood Steering Committee  
Round Table members were invited to give their comments or ask questions about the potential impact of statehood.
- Department of Health and Families, Alcohol and Other Drugs Program  
This presentation shed more light on the issue of alcohol and other substances in the Northern Territory and what is in action to combat it.
- Territory 2030  
The Parliamentary Secretary of Territory 2030 held a forum with Round Table members where information was shared on the strategic plan and how it would impact on Round Table members. Round Table members asked questions regarding accountability, measures and the strategies. Members were vocal in the discussion and enjoyed the insight and candidness of Secretary to the Steering Committee, Ms Marion Scrymgeour.

Members were also able to find their feet with their community based projects with the assistance of Associate Professor Tess Lea's Project Management workshop. Ms Lea provided invaluable one-on-one time with project groups.

Members were presented with their Team Management Profiles, revealing many different personalities within the group and ways in which to work effectively as a team.

A highlight of the weekend was meeting with the Minister for Young Territorians, the Hon Rob Knight MLA, Executive Director of the Department of Health and Families, Ms Claire Gardiner-Barnes and Director, Youth Services Branch, Ms Debra Zupp. The session was very informative, and gave Round Table members the opportunity to update the Minister on our alcohol and other drugs research (as a result of focus groups), and to be updated on the development of the Alice Springs Youth Hub.

The Round Table also met with Assistant Police Commissioner Mark McAdie, regarding our Darwin and rural focus group findings on alcohol and other drugs and violence. Another issue that was discussed related to the sale of alcohol at local events, such as concerts and sporting events. It was the Round Table's view that although the sale of alcohol should perhaps be banned from family orientated events, it should not be banned at all Territory events. Some recommendations were to review the strength of alcohol on sale, or allocate each adult with a certain amount of drinks. It was also believed that the practice of the responsible sale of alcohol is a major concern at these events.

## **Meeting Three: Tracey Village Sports and Social Club 28 & 29 August**

The third meeting marked our final meeting before the Round Table was to present our projects to the Northern Territory Government in December. A great time was had with Mr Trent McCarthy delivering an invaluable public speaking session. The NT Early Intervention Pilot Program staff attended the meeting to discuss Round Table findings on alcohol and other drugs with Commissioner of Police John McRoberts. Responses delivered can be found in the Alcohol and Other Drugs section of this report. The Round Table also discussed with these guests the importance of and ways to achieve a positive relationship between young people and the Northern Territory Police Force. Consumer Affairs discussed how best to promote their services and causes to young Territorians, including requesting feedback on their publication *'The Consumer'*, for example what topics should be covered and what the publication should look like.

Round Table members also invited representatives of the Licensing Commission to attend the meeting so they could present their findings on alcohol and other drugs, as well as to inform the group on upcoming directives and measures to combat the issue of alcohol and other drugs in the NT.

As Minister Knight was unable to attend this meeting due to other commitments, the Round Table updated the Ministerial Advisor for Young Territorians, Mr Sam Stewart on progress with discovering more about the youth drinking culture in the Territory and community based projects being undertaken. This session also gave members an opportunity to find out more about what the Advisor's position entails and Sam's previous experience in youth affairs.

#### **Meeting Four: Darwin Airport Resort/Parliament House 4 & 5 December**

The last meeting of the 2010 Round Table involved a lot of final preparation of presentations, with members spending much of the day practising and gaining feedback. The group then headed to Marrara oval for a game of soccer with some other influential Territorians:

<b>White Team</b>	<b>Red Team</b>
Lauren Moss (Captain)	Aroha Jennings (Captain)
Hon Rob Knight MLA	John Elferink, MLA
Hon Delia Lawrie MLA	Gary Barnes
Peter Styles, MLA	Joanne Townsend
Dave Tollner, MLA	Adam Steer
Larnie McClintock	Grant Galvin
Josh Batten	Laetitia Lemke
Aaron Dowling	Elsbeth Blunt
Celeste Brand	Gavin Henderson
Dimity Jessup	Hannah Woerle
Eun Ju Kim-Baker	Kelvia-Lee Johnson
Joshua May	Clare Gardiner-Barnes
Sephyr Crook	

In what was a relief to all that the match ended in a draw between the White and Red Teams! Sunday was more serious as the Round Table members took to Parliament House, presenting projects to:

- Minister for Young Territorians, the Hon Rob Knight MLA;
- Chief Executive, Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts, Mr Jim Grant;
- Chief Executive, Department of Justice, Mr Greg Shanahan;
- Chief Executive, Department of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services, Mr Ken Davies;
- Chief Executive, Department of Education and Training, Mr Gary Barnes;
- Executive Director, NT Families and Children (DHF), Ms Clare Gardiner-Barnes; and
- A/Director, Youth Services Branch, Ms Joanne Townsend.

The completed projects were provided to the Northern Territory Government for consideration and made public via the OYA website in January 2011.

The Minister for Young Territorians, the Hon Rob Knight MLA, hosted a luncheon for Round Table members, their families and presentation guests. This was an opportunity for the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to thank families and partners for their support and encouragement throughout the year. The Minister also made a presentation to members, thanking them for their hard work and commitment during their tenure on the Round Table.



## COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS

Prior to the first Round Table meeting in February, members were asked to communicate with young Territorians via a survey to identify the major concerns for young people. These 492 surveys were collated with the major themes revealed to the public via an interview with ABC Radio. Additionally these were presented at the first meeting, where they were discussed with the Minister for Young Territorians, the Hon Rob Knight MLA. Many of the issues revealed in the surveys were addressed through the Round Table's Community Based Projects, and many have resulted in further consultation with young Territorians.

The projects focused on a range of areas including social, educational, health and recreational concerns. In order to research thoroughly for these projects, the teams undertook various methods including focus groups, interviews, surveys, internet research and existing literature.

The group was divided into project teams and completed a total of five projects. The teams and projects were:

### 1. Team Fun

Project 1: The Creative Arts Project

Project 2: The Youth Activities in Alice Springs Project

### 2. Team Peer Programs

Project 3: The Taminmin Wellbeing Project

Project 4: Skin Deep: Body Image, Self Esteem and Eating Disorder Services in the NT

Project 5: Rural Darwin Youth Services

### 3. Team Undercover

Project 6: The Housing and Financial Literacy Project

### 4. Team EEK

Project 7: The Youth Sexual Assault Services Project

Project 8: 'Shout Out Loud'; a Voice for Young People in Alice Springs

Following is a summary of the eight projects that were undertaken including a project summary, main aims and major findings.

*Note: The following are summarised and projects must be referred to for full recommendations and context ([www.youth.nt.gov.au](http://www.youth.nt.gov.au)). Project, 1, 3 and 6 are currently not yet publicly available.*



## **THE CREATIVE ARTS PROJECT**

**By Joshua May**

The project aimed to scope the interest levels of young people from the Darwin/rural area in the creation of a specialised centre for creative arts in the Palmerston/Rural area. The project collated evidence through a face-to-face survey and was conducted between February 2010 and November 2010. The overall response to the project was positive, and a number of recommendations arose from both the author and the public. The recommendations were based on further public consultation, management and operations, cost and working in conjunction with proposed plans from Hon Mr Gerry Wood MLA.

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## **THE YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN ALICE SPRINGS PROJECT**

**By Gavin Henderson and Rebecca Rowberry**

The *Team Fun Group*, which consisted of Rebecca Rowberry and Gavin Henderson, decided to address the concerns of Alice Springs youth by looking at the lack of youth events provided in the community, which would supply diversion from drugs, alcohol and crime.

With this focus in mind, Team Fun created, distributed and analysed a second survey about the effectiveness of advertising youth events in Alice Springs, and also the best way of providing this information to the youth. The data from these surveys has been provided in detail throughout the Major Findings section of the report.

The project has resulted in a website being prepared by 2011 Returning Member Gavin Henderson, who hopes to trial and release the website within his second term.

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## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN SCHOOLS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY EDUCATION SYSTEM: A CASE STUDY OF TAMINMIN COLLEGE AND MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS**

**By Dimity Jessup**

The Project on Mental health in schools had changed several times during the year until it gained the name *'Health and Wellbeing in Schools in the Northern Territory Education System: A Case Study of Taminmin College and Mental Health Programs'*.

Presenting this project to Ministers and department officials gave the project leader confidence that something will be done about this highly significant problem that is not being addressed at this point in time.

When carrying out the research it was disturbing to find the large amount of people who have a mental illness, for example *'One in every five adolescents are likely to experience a diagnosable depressive episode by the age of 18'* ([www.headspace.org.au](http://www.headspace.org.au)) and those who do suffer a mental illness suffer in silence.

The project's recommendations revolved around placing mental health programs into all Territory schools to help reduce the rising rate of mental health illnesses and put in place the tools needed to prevent future problems. By having mental health education in all Territory schools as a clear curriculum base it will be easier for people to speak up and not be left to suffer in silence.

## **THE SKIN DEEP: BODY IMAGE, SELF ESTEEM AND EATING DISORDER SERVICES IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY PROJECT**

**By Aroha Jennings, Hannah Woerle and Lauren Moss**

As the Mission Australia 2010 Survey of Young Australians revealed, almost 1 in 3 young Territorian respondents selected 'Body Image' as their number one personal concern. The Skin Deep team wanted to ensure the knowledge and tools were readily available for young Territorians to live happy, healthy and confident lives.

The team undertook consultation with young Territorians via survey, focus groups and a confidential email account to gather information on the way young people perceive themselves and the level of services for eating and body disorders in the Northern Territory.

Local and national health organisations and government staff were also liaised with to gain a broader view of body image, self esteem and eating disorders in the Northern Territory context. In addition to this, a literature and web review was conducted, to investigate actions taken in other jurisdictions to battle the issues associated with poor body image and self esteem.

There was a general agreement amongst those consulted that there is an inadequate level of positive body image messages being conveyed to young Territorians, and that services that assist those with eating disorders can be difficult to locate and navigate. The team concluded, amongst other things, that positive messages must be spread to combat the negative messages and ideals that are currently inundating our young people.

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## **YOUTH STATION**

**By Sephyr Crook and Kelvia Johnson**

The report "*Youth Station*" compiled on behalf of the Youth Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians recommends the establishment of a Youth Station in Darwin's rural area.

The relatively high proportionate youth population, the extremely high rate of suicide within the Litchfield Shire, the correlation between greater rates of suicide and domestic violence with greater remoteness and other contributing factors listed in the report, all demonstrate an absolute need for a unified approach to youth services in the rural area. The current provision to the rural area leaves many service gaps in meeting the health and wellbeing needs of rural youth. The Station would have a major role in networking existing services providing a 'one stop-shop' for youth where they are able to access various services, including health and wellbeing resources, emergency relief and social activities. The project team obtained 500 signatures from Territorians in support of the establishment of a Youth Station in Darwin's rural area.

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## **THE HOUSING AND FINANCIAL LITERACY PROJECT**

**By Aaron Dowling and Celeste Brand**

Housing and Financial Literacy is very important for young people as with these resources and abilities young people have shelter, safety and stability. These factors create a community where young people feel safe and secure; therefore the ability to afford a home is very important for young people and the community.

The Undercover Team researched ways to make housing more affordable, giving young Territorians the opportunity to have a stable financial future.

As members of the 2010 Youth Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians we had the opportunity to express our concerns on issues affecting young people living in the Territory. Our objective is to further educate young people in financial management so that they are capable of buying property at the challenging high costs that are involved in this process.

As Round Table members, we informed government that young people need more support with housing prospects in the Northern Territory. We also would like to see housing and financial literacy programs/subjects taught in educational institutions including schools and universities.

We offer this report to government in hope that it will assist to reach a solution to overcome the issues and difficult barriers young people face today, and in future, regarding the cost of living and in particularly housing.

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## **HEARING WHISPERED VOICES: ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE IN YOUTH SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**By Eun Ju Kim-Baker**

Sexual assault is a traumatic experience for individuals and communities. It is a complex entity that requires a multifarious response, not only from victims and their service providers but from all tiers of government and all members of the public. This report outlines a range of recommendations that significantly enhance the quality of sexual assault service provision for young people, thus improving their lives and the collective welfare of our community.

*The Little Children are Sacred Report* (2007) estimated that "only 10-20% of all [offences] are reported and a smaller number again are the subject of prosecutions." The exact magnitude of the problem may be unknown, but its well-documented severity is a powerful call to action.

In researching this report, a range of strategies were implemented. The primary method was 23 recorded interviews with service providers and experts. Interviewees were drawn from many agencies, such as those providing emergency shelter, legal aid, prevention education, domestic violence counselling, financial assistance for violent crimes and victims' advocacy. Additional research methods included focus groups with Ruby Gaea Darwin Centre against Rape, co-authorship of a chapter with National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, rural and remote fieldwork, consultation with four victims/survivors, quarterly youth forums and extensive literature reviews.

The report is encased in four 'parts,' each of which thematically assesses shortcomings in service provision. *Part I* finds the paucity of prevention services, especially for respectful relationships education for young people, requires immediate rectification. It further highlights that the scarcity of rehabilitation programs for juvenile sexual offenders and diversion programs for potential offenders is of grave concern. *Part II* recommends the reform of NT Government practices in resource allocation, as these practices frequently exacerbate the already difficult conditions of local service delivery. Additionally, the lack of a single representative body with the capacity to facilitate networking and collaboration within the service sector must be remedied.

*Part III* emphasises that children's welfare must be better considered by policy-makers and that their inclusion in governmental decision-making processes is paramount. Two mechanisms are proposed to help achieve this; Child Impact Analyses and Child Impact Statements. Finally, *Part IV* recounts the experiences of victims who pursued incidents of assault through the judicial system, thus outlining calls to soften the reporting experience.

Key elements of this softening are the building of an interview annex at the Peter McCauley Police Centre and the improvement of victims' facilities at the Supreme Court and Magistrates Court of the Northern Territory.

Essentially, research revealed an imbalance in our societal preoccupation with offenders over the young people who are victimised. Without reversing this distressing trend until concern for both parties reaches equilibrium, efforts for meaningful reform will continue to struggle.

If we only listen to the voices of service providers on the front line, of victims and survivors at the coalface of suffering, of children who are dependent on our empathy, of communities who are best at understanding their needs, we will find that what must be done to improve the situation becomes clear.

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## **LISTEN UP & SHOUT OUT: BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES IN ALICE SPRINGS**

**By Elspeth Blunt**

Listening to young people is important because their knowledge, ideas and passion is integral to social progress, they have a right to be heard and it leads to stronger communities. 'Listen Up & Speak Out' refers to the mutual responsibilities of young people to 'speak out', and of decision makers to 'listen up'. Sometimes it seems like we speak different languages: decision makers often use jargon and young people use slang, but I believe if we really tried we could develop a common language. This report is all about ways of finding that common ground for good dialogue to take place. There's heaps of different ways of doing it. I spoke to a lot of people about what they thought would work and looked at models from other regional towns around Australia.

While researching I met intelligent and motivated young people who challenged the 'lazy, drug taking, delinquent' youth stereotypes. I spoke to some people who perpetuate the stereotype - who are the 'youth on the streets' on Friday nights. Both groups of young people were passionate, creative and articulate and had a lot to say about how to improve community safety, yet lacked the mechanisms to voice their concerns and ideas.

Decision makers have a moral obligation to actively engage young people. Youth as a key constituency in Local Government Areas should be heard, as, like everyone else in the community, have the right to have their say and to be listened to with respect.

Through the Youth Hub and Youth Action Plan, expensive and important decisions are being made about young people in Alice Springs and at no point have they been asked for input. There have been no efforts made to consult young people. It's not only outrageously bad practice, but young people could contribute to the success of these initiatives, with better decisions and outcomes.

Youth participation should be taken seriously and be implemented more effectively in Alice Springs, taking both a top down and a bottom up approach - both are equally important. If any youth advisory groups or similar structures are implemented, young people need to be engaged in a '**bottom up**' or grass roots process of co-designing these structures. This needs to happen with trained and resourced staff like an OYA representative in Alice Springs or a Youth Development Officer sitting within an NGO. The NT Government should also consider a '**top down**' department wide approach to youth engagement, e.g. DET to encourage stronger student representation bodies within and between schools.

Youth engagement strategies should aim to work on youth events, act as a 'go to' group for the wider community (including business, Police, youth services and other departments and NGOs) to turn to for youth consultation on a broad range of issues, network and collaborate with other youth groups which have more restrictive agendas, advocate for young people through promoting positive stories and have input into youth strategies and policies.

When young people feel left out, ignored and their contributions are unimportant they may feel disempowered or oppressed. Young people who are disengaged and have no input into the community are unlikely to feel like an active and valued part of the community, which can lead to low levels of self esteem, little respect for other community members and no reason to care about community facilities and resources – all elements that foster crime, alienation, vandalism, alcohol and drug abuse and other anti-social behaviours. When young people do participate in making decisions that affect their lives it leads to us feeling like a valued member of their community, we take ownership of our community and feel empowered to contribute more to make it a better place – fostering harmony, social cohesion and community pride.

Talking to young people is not hard, it's not costly, it's not a fundamental shift in philosophy, it's just something we can't afford to forget, something we need to do and we need to do it well.



## YOUTH CONSULTATION

One of the main functions of the Round Table is to liaise with young people in the community and report back to the Northern Territory Government on issues and concerns raised by young people. Round Table members in 2010 continuously liaised with young people in their communities. The issues raised were discussed within the Round Table and appropriate action taken, with the Minister regularly updated on what topics the Round Table was working on.

Actions included:

- Further consultation with young Territorians, including focus groups and surveys;
- Taking the concern to a particular group or individual;
- Speaking to the media regarding certain topics; and
- Inviting an expert in the area to a meeting to have further discussion about the issue.

At the conclusion of each face to face meeting the issues that had been raised were compiled into a formal letter to the Minister for Young Territorians to ensure that the Territory Government was kept up to date about the concerns for young Territorians.

In 2010, over a thousand young Territorians were consulted via surveys, focus groups, interviews and email correspondence on different issues that affect our community.

A collation of the Round Table's initial youth issues survey is attached at Appendix A.



## THE ROUND TABLE INVESTIGATES: YOUNG TERRITORIANS, ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Due to an overwhelming number of responses to the Round Table survey of Young Territorians indicating that alcohol and other drugs – and associated behaviours – were the biggest concern of young Territorians, the Round Table felt obligated to reflect this in their year's work. The fact that this issue was reflected in almost 50% of surveys was immediately conveyed to the Minister for Young Territorians, the Hon Rob Knight MLA, at Meeting 1.

The first action taken by the Round Table was to conduct a focus group on alcohol and other drugs and violence, held at the electoral office of the Hon Kon Vatskalis MLA. The Round Table continued to consider these issues in the Northern Territory context. With regard to the sale of alcohol at events, a response was prepared and delivered to the Assistant Commissioner of Police Mark McAdie. Round Table members also participated in numerous consultations with Ms Jeanette Callaghan and Ms Judith McKay, staff members who are undertaking the NT Early Intervention Pilot Program (NTEIPP). Lauren Moss, Chairperson of the Round Table, participated in a 'ride-along' with the Commissioner of Police, John McRoberts, the General Manager of the NT News, Grant Galvin and Superintendent Jamie Chalker, to give and gain perspective on the true effects of binge drinking. The Round Table, through the media, publicly discussed these issues.

The Round Table also arranged a meeting with the Licensing Commission (who attended Meeting 3) to talk about future directions and the canvassing of young people. This was the most important action of all, and was continued through a drug and alcohol specific survey.

### *Focus Group findings – Darwin (Casuarina) and Darwin Rural*

These focus groups indicated that:

- a factor linked to the prevalent use of alcohol and other drugs among young Territorians is the Territory culture and a sense of pride and ownership around being the largest consumers of alcohol in the country;
- violence, boredom, and the skipping of school and work are some of the largest issues in conjunction with alcohol and other drugs;
- the use of alcohol and other substances is beginning at a younger age and behaviours are much more excessive;
- many young people do not know the long-term effects of binge drinking and drinking in excess;
- there is a multitude of available services and young people feel confident that they could identify services to help them, or that they would be easy to find if they had an issue with alcohol or other drugs; and
- the new Territory Government advertising "Real Champs Look Out For Their Mates" is more effective than advertising showing young people what could happen if they drink too much.

It is also important to note that in the questions relating to violence not one participant within the Casuarina Focus Group could remember the non-emergency contact number for the Police (131 444) and that the reporting of violent incidents depended in part on severity, whether the individual was personally affected and the nature of the incident. This indicates that mandatory reporting may be a grey area for young people in our community.

*Round Table response to staff of the NTEIPP*

**1. What are the messages that young people receive about alcohol? (E.g. in the media, music, internet?)**

The Round Table's responses to this question were very mixed. It was generally accepted that popular culture (which is accessible and aimed at a variety of ages within the youth bracket) glorifies the use of alcohol, as though it is the norm. Live music events for instance, are often only held at licensed events, and popular music and television reference it constantly, but not in a way which is deemed negative.

It was also commented that drinking is ingrained in the Territory lifestyle, and it is therefore hard to tell young people what a safe amount of alcohol to consume is, when everyone else centres their interactions around the consumption of alcohol – even rites of passage are celebrated with alcohol.

Despite this, it was noted amongst different members that messages coming from news and current affairs programs, as well as many government initiatives such as Recording Artists, Actors and Athletes Against Drink Driving (RADD) reflect the negative aspect of alcohol use, and that young people are made aware that drinking is harmful, however alcohol restriction/prohibition messages from politicians can isolate young people.

**2. What are the risks for young people that may result in harm from alcohol?**

The Round Table responses reflected many ideas around what harmful affects alcohol may have and included physical (abuse for instance) and psychological issues (brain development, impaired decision making, peer pressure etc). Others included a loss of employment, suicide, homelessness, lack of education, crime and harm to the community, bullying, harm through social network sites and repetition through generations.

**3. What strategies are available to keep young people safe? (If police are seen as part of a young person's personal safety plan, would they keep young people safe? How could police keep young people safe?)**

Round Table responses to this question tended to be around the fact that there needs to be more strategies available to keep young people safe, as opposed to what is actually available. Some agreed that many young people have a reliable person that they are able to call if they were in trouble and that police are not seen as approachable as they should be. It was also noted that there are safe houses, although there is a lack of this sort of strategy for young people over the age of 15. Knowledge of what services and strategies are out there was also of a concern to one member.

It was suggested that young people need to be encouraged to rely on themselves, and that the presence of the City Safe crew is making a difference in how safe some young people feel when on a night out.

**4. How do we revisit safety being a high concern for young people?**

Round Table members suggested a number of ways in which we could revisit safety. Two members firmly agreed that instilling and developing a sense of independence, individualism and strength in our young people is the place to start (empowerment). It was also suggested that legislation and policies need to be revisited, the regaining of the trust of young people is important, that the development of youth/police events and non-alcohol activities is necessary (so that there is a safe and fun alternative) and real effect stories should be shared with youth. It was also suggested that activities held in the central business district may help and that there is a need for more funding for existing youth diversionary and recreational programs and services.

## **5. What are your thoughts on education to reduce harms from youth drinking?**

Some Round Table members indicated that programs need to happen at school before the drinking occurs and others backed the old programs such as Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE). It was suggested and agreed by a couple of members that campaigning should become more superficial as young people become more concerned with image – this is a view that came across through one of our Alcohol and Other Drug focus groups earlier in the year. It was agreed by some members that young people are inundated with information and that eventually this information simply becomes noise.

As with many issues it is a concern of some members that youth that are of school leaver age or non attendees often miss out on much of the information and that there needs to be more education geared towards and accessible to such young people – non attendees could be the most vulnerable.

It was a concern that funding for non-Government organisation programs is minimal and short term, and supported by many that a realistic, harm minimisation approaches should be taken – scare tactics only work up to a certain age. This was also a mixed response as some members believed that a certain amount of shock should be included. It was agreed by some members that we are going in the right direction with more realistic campaigns. Many responses went back to the idea that real experiences are the way to go, perhaps even in the direction of visits to rehab centres – many are intimidated by campaigns.

## **6. What would an effective marketing campaign look like?**

Some ideas for what an effective marketing campaign would look like included campaigns reflecting real life situations. It was suggested that the Northern Territory look at the campaigns of other states/territories and overseas, targeting a combination of mediums, including campaigning on social networking sites. This would help to counter-balance the messages that young people already get from these sites i.e. friend's status updates from their nights out, indicating that it's just what young people do.

Some members believed it is important to avoid gore as this can lead to desensitisation and that this is also the case with harping on about health risks – identifying that it is not all fun and games would be more effective.

It was suggested that a separate unit of police officers, without guns and hats, specifically targeting night safety, might help change the image/perception of youth in regards to police. One member also described a unit that they had heard about made up of young people trained to deal with situations (who did not have powers, but were able to cope with situations and could attend youth events).

## **7. What does a positive relationship between young people and police look like? How could this be achieved?**

It was believed by some that police are perceived as the “bad guy” and they need to be more visible and in the presence of young people much more than they currently are. The human element of the police force should be reinforced so that the public are not receiving the image that police are clean cut, flawless and untouchable themselves – that they are also community figures, just like those they are serving. It was agreed by some that there needs to be more positive interactions, as opposed to simply interacting with the police when a negative event has occurred.

It was suggested that school constables bear the burden of beginning the rapport; many Round Table members had stories and memories of their relationships and positive experiences both personally and in a community sense with the police force, ranging from community living to the urban area.

It was also suggested that police would benefit from interacting with young people, and that there should be more events and activities to promote chances for positive interactions such as a youth vs police sports series, remote youth fishing/camping etc, and that they could attend events in a support role. Some members agreed that the Police Citizens Youth Club and blue light discos can be effective in building those relationships in a way that involves the community.

It was also suggested that there be a community group established as an advisory group for the NT Police force, made up of community members, including youth representatives.

As with any profession, it was generally accepted that the attitude of the individual police member is important.

**8. What are future engagement opportunities between the YRT and the NT Early Intervention Pilot Program (NTEIPP)?**

Round Table members suggested ways in which we could engage with the NTEIPP could include:

- Round Table continuing to consult with young people on these issues;
- Social and recreational events;
- Sharing of information between groups;
- Membership on community committee;
- Round Table to provide feedback and be engaged in the process; and
- Holding joint events to promote a healthy and good relationship.

**9. Do you think different marketing campaigns are needed for different age groups? Why?**

Round Table members had a mixed view on whether different marketing campaigns were necessary across age groups. It was suggested that there be a blanket campaign and also separate campaigns. Not only do different age groups respond differently to messages (dependent on what their priorities are at the time of receipt), but different age groups can have vastly different experiences with alcohol.

Surveys were conducted with young Territorians on the issue of alcohol and other drugs in our community. The results of these surveys will be published in 2011 with any subsequent research conducted.

## PUBLICATIONS

### **Youth Issues Survey (Appendix A)**

Each member is asked to survey a range of young people in their community via a Youth Issues Survey to find out the main issue/s of concern to them. These results are collated by the Office of Youth Affairs and provided to the Minister for Young Territorians and stakeholders for information. The survey also offers members an opportunity to introduce themselves to their peers and provide information on their role on the Round Table.

The primary purpose of the survey is to increase the members' awareness of the issues young people face in their community and introduce them to a simple achievable example of community engagement prior to the first meeting. The identified issues form the basis of further action, investigation and consultation by the members during the year.

### **Newsletters (Appendix B) Round About the NT**

The Round Table feels that it is important to report back to the community on how they are advocating for young people and how they are involved in important decision-making processes. More importantly, it is a chance for members to show young people who have raised issues and concerns with the Round Table that their views are conveyed to government.

One of the ways in which members undertake this communication is the newsletter 'Round About the NT', which is released subsequent to each meeting. It has also been used as a medium through which the Round Table can inform young people of events in the community, for example; how to stay safe online and how to conduct a tax return. The newsletter is sent to young people, youth organisations, schools and community organisations on the Office of Youth Affairs mailing list (details on how to join are at the end of this publication).

### **Internet**

#### ***2010 Youth Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians Facebook Page***

Building on the success of the 2009 Youth Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians Facebook page and armed with the knowledge the social networking site is used by peers, the Round Table have highly utilised this tool of communication. The membership of the page at 7 February 2011 stood at 209 members. Round Table members regularly update this page with community events, project updates and items for discussion.

#### ***Skin Deep Facebook Page (Lauren Moss, Aroha Jennings and Hannah Woerle)***

The Skin Deep Facebook Page was created as part of the Skin Deep campaign to share information, stimulate discussion and share positive messages in the areas of body image, self esteem and eating disorders. As at 7 February 2011 this page had 192 members, including young people, eating disorder support groups and national, international and Territory leaders.

#### ***Website for Youth Activities in Alice Springs project***

This website was launched to the public in May 2011. It was created in response to the finding that young people prefer to use the internet to find out about activities in Alice Springs and will feature an easily accessible calendar of events!

### **Other**

Cited in *Avoid the Harm, Stay Calm*, the resulting report from the Inquiry into the Impact of Violence on Young Australians (submission can be found at Appendix 2)

#### ***The Annual Report***

Each year an annual report is compiled by the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Round Table and publicly released. The annual reports of previous years can be located on the Office of Youth Affairs website.

## EVALUATION

The Round Table is a constantly evolving program, adapting with the changing needs of young people in the Northern Territory. At the end of each face to face meeting, the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson conduct a wrap up session consisting of Round Table members only. Feedback is collated and anonymously fed back to the Coordinator of the Round Table, via the Chairperson. This feedback is then taken into consideration and acting upon as appropriate.

At the conclusion of the final meeting the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson met to conduct an in depth evaluation of the year. A reflection survey was also sent to all members of the Round Table and telephone calls conducted to ensure that the Round Table members had the opportunity to provide feedback to the Office of Youth Affairs as a means of assessing what worked well and what can be improved for the following year.





Are you a young person (12-25 years of age) living in the Northern Territory? If so, we need your help! This is a quick survey to find out what young people consider are the 'most important' issues in their regions.

The Youth Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians is a direct communication avenue between young Territorians and the Northern Territory Government. The Round Table consists of 16 members who are aged 15 to 25 years. This issue will be presented to the Minister for Young Territorians and may be chosen by members to work on throughout the year as a project.

<b>Age</b>	<b>Suburb/Community/Town</b>
<b>Gender</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	<b>Name of School or Work (if applicable)</b>
<b>What's the main language spoken at home?</b>	<b>Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

What do you think is the most important issue facing young people in your region?

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Any ideas for a solution?

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If your issue is progressed would you like to be involved?  Yes  No  
If yes, please complete mailing list form attached.

Office of Youth Affairs  
Department of Health and Families  
PO Box 40596  
CASUARINA NT 0810

Free Call: 1800 652 736  
Email: [oya@nt.gov.au](mailto:oya@nt.gov.au)  
Fax: 8999 3883  
[www.youth.nt.gov.au](http://www.youth.nt.gov.au)

If you would like to receive information about youth activities/initiatives/events please complete and return this form to the Office of Youth Affairs.

**Office of Youth Affairs**  
PO Box 40596 Email: oya@nt.gov.au

OR

**Fax: (08) 8999 3883**

**CASUARINA NT 0811**

**www.youth.nt.gov.au**

**New Contact Details**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander: Yes  No

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Facsimile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**If applicable:**

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please add our details to the OYA Mailing List

Please add our details to the OYA Emailing List

**If you have any queries regarding this form, please telephone**

**(08) 8999 3862.**

**PRIVACY STATEMENT**

The Office of Youth Affairs (OYA) is collecting the information on this form for the purpose of adding your name or updating your current details on our mailing list. The mailing list is used to distribute the Youth Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians Newsletter "Round About the NT", as well as details of forthcoming Youth Grants Programs, Awards and other Programs organised by OYA. Your personal information will not be used for any other purpose, added to any other mailing list or be disclosed to any person or organisation without your consent unless authorised or required by law. The personal information you provide can be accessed and corrected if necessary by you or your nominated representative by application or request to OYA. If you have any queries, please telephone the Office of Youth Affairs on 08 8999 3862 or via GPO Box 40596, CASUARINA NT 0801.



# Youth Minister's Round Table OF YOUNG TERRITORIANS



# Annual Report 2010