

## Health and Education Sectors

### Overview

The **Health and Community Services** sector includes all units mainly engaged in providing health and community services.

The **Education** sector includes all units mainly engaged in providing education from pre-school through to post-graduate and technical and further education. Other education services such as driving schools and ballet schools are also part of the sector.

Combined, the sectors make up almost 10% of Territory GSP and almost 20% of employment.

### Outlook and opportunities

Having strong linkages to population, the future development of both the Health and Education sectors is dependent on population growth.

Population growth is an important driver in the Northern Territory, as both a supply of labour and source of demand for locally produced goods and services. Over the year to June 2005, Territory estimated population growth was 1.5%, rising above the national growth rate for the first time in five years. Population growth in the Territory is expected to continue above the national growth rate during 2006 and 2007. For the remainder of the decade, population growth is forecast to average around 1.2%.

Health and education are both considered knowledge-based services. Due to increasing demand, **knowledge-based services sectors are experiencing worldwide growth** and if constraints are addressed, this could flow on to the sector in the Northern Territory.

Having close proximity to the ASEAN region, the Northern Territory has the **potential to develop export markets for its health and education services** to the rising affluent middle/upper class in neighbouring countries.

### NT Workforce issues

Being distant from the main population centres, the training, recruiting and retention of skilled staff is a major challenge to workforce growth in the Northern Territory. An ageing workforce and diminishing labour supply are also major factors impacting on the Northern Territory workforce.

The Northern Territory is the only state or territory expected to have working age population growth throughout the next 50 years<sup>1</sup>. Much of the predicted population growth will be among the Indigenous population, making the attraction and retention of youth and Indigenous people to the Territory workforce of utmost importance.

With major resource based developments in the Northern Territory, opportunities exist to develop appropriate training programs to meet the specific demands of this industry, as well as other industry sectors such as Mining, Manufacturing, Communication and the Property and Business Services sectors.

### Performance

#### At a glance

#### Industry Value Added (2004-05)

|           |                      |
|-----------|----------------------|
| Health    | \$568m (5.8% of GSP) |
| Education | \$382m (3.9% of GSP) |

#### Employment (2004-05)

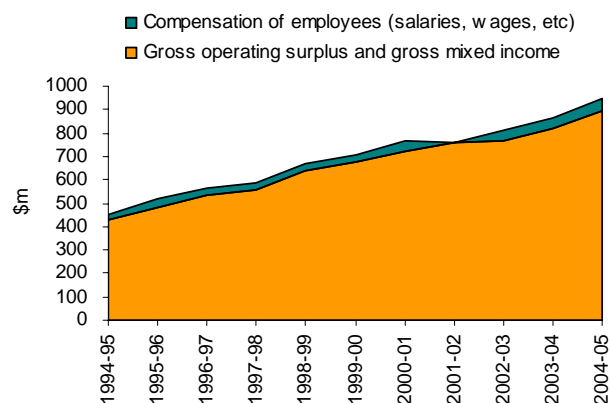
|           |                         |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| Health    | 9984 (10.6% of NT Jobs) |
| Education | 9061 (9.7% of NT Jobs)  |

#### Number of businesses (2004\*)

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| Health    | 805 |
| Education | 165 |

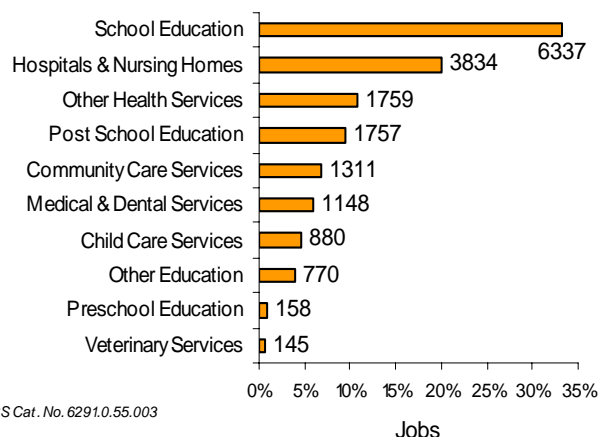
\* latest ABS data available

#### Contribution to Gross State Product (1994-95 to 2004-05)



ABS Cat. No. 5220.0

#### Contribution of sub-sectors to sector employment (2004-05)



ABS Cat. No. 6291.0.55.003

<sup>1</sup> Northern Territory Treasury

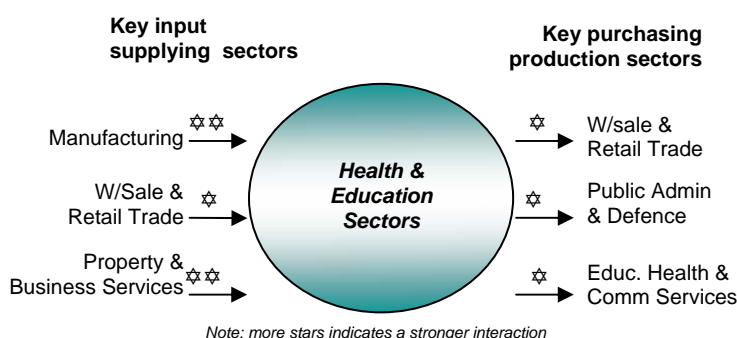


### Sector multipliers and linkages

For every \$1m invested in the Health and Education sectors in the Northern Territory, an estimated \$1 497 694 of output (GVP) is created in the rest of the Northern Territory economy. For every 100 jobs created in the sectors, an estimated 55 jobs are created in the rest of the Northern Territory economy.

The Health and Education sectors have large interactions with other sectors of the Northern Territory economy.

The Health and Education sectors have particularly strong forward linkages (ie. they provide services) to other production sectors of the Northern Territory. Only the Electricity, Water and Gas sector has stronger forward linkages.



### Sector contribution to regional development and Indigenous employment

Due to the nature of the sectors, they are very urban focused with 91% of businesses and 80% of jobs located in the two major urban centres of Darwin and Alice Springs.

#### Number of business and employment by region (2001)

|                       | No. *       | Employment    | % Indigenous |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Darwin                | 1051        | 8634          | 6.5%         |
| Darwin region balance | -           | 651           | 36.3%        |
| East Arnhem           | 34          | 767           | 30.2%        |
| Katherine Region      | 87          | 1199          | 14.9%        |
| Barkly Region         | 17          | 385           | 26.2%        |
| Central Region        | 402         | 3434          | 13.9%        |
|                       | <b>1591</b> | <b>15 073</b> | <b>11.9%</b> |

Source: \*ABS Cat. 8136.0.55.001 ABS 2001 Census  
Note: Data is not directly comparable

### Government activity in the Health and Education sectors

The Department of Health and Community Services provides services that work together for the health and wellbeing of our communities. *Building Healthier Communities: A Framework for Health and Community Services 2004-2009* provides Government's vision for health and community services in the NT.

The Northern Territory Department of Employment, Education and Training has developed the *Jobs Plan NT: Building the Northern Territory Workforce* to build a skilled and dynamic workforce to meet the challenges of economic growth. This three-way planning structure is supported by the employment and training strategy, government programs and workforce information, and includes:

- *Workforce Employment and Training Strategy* – which will provide the vision, strategic direction and key priority areas;
- *Jobs NT* – which will link employment and training opportunities with annual Government spending; and
- *Workforce NT* – a comprehensive report which will bring together research data and other information to strategically develop and target employment and training programs.

### International education

The number of fee-paying overseas students in Northern Territory educational facilities has been steady over the last few years, with significant numbers studying in Government and non-Government schools. Nationally, recent changes to immigration regulations has resulted in a decline in full-fee-paying overseas students in 2003 and 2004.

#### International student enrolments in schools

|                  | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Govt Schools     | 124  | 129  | 90   | 68   |
| Non-Govt Schools | 38   | 49   | 57   | 69   |

Source: Department of Employment, Education and Training

The Department of Employment, Education and Training facilitates the recruitment and placement of full-fee-paying overseas students in NT Government schools, and builds and maintains links with national and international organisations and departments in regard to international education activities and issues.

International students are also able to undertake tertiary education in the Northern Territory at Charles Darwin University (CDU). In 2005, enrolments for commencing and continuing students increased by 10% relative to 2004.

#### International students at CDU (2005)

|            | Semester 1 | Semester 2 |
|------------|------------|------------|
| Commencing | 97         | 87         |
| Continuing | 137        | 183        |
| Total      | 234        | 270        |

Source: Charles Darwin University

Students from over 60 countries study at CDU, with China, India, the Philippines and Indonesia being the key markets. There was an increase of more than 20% in enrolments from India in 2005 due to targeted marketing and recruitment activities.

### International health care

Through the Northern Territory Aerial Medical Service, the Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH) provides health care to northern Australia, parts of South East Asia and ships and oil rigs in the Timor Sea.

RDH has played a vital role in recent disasters in the South East Asian region, providing treatment for victims arriving in Australia and sending staff to affected areas. A National Trauma Centre is being established at the hospital in recognition of the strategic role the Northern Territory plays in the region and the hospital's world-class reputation in dealing with large-scale incidents.

Rotating surgical trainee programs for nurses and doctors from Indonesia are also being established at RDH with reciprocal arrangements planned for RDH staff. This exchange represents benefits for both Indonesia and Australia.

Source: Department of Health and Community Services

Territory Business Centres, located in major regional centres, are the initial contact and referral point for starting a business, business & industry licence information, business planning assistance and links to departmental assistance programs.

### For Further Information

**Contact:** Please contact the Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development, Economic Development Division, for further information.

**Phone:** 1800 193 111

**Website:** [www.nt.gov.au/business](http://www.nt.gov.au/business)

**Information current as at:** June 2006

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