

NORTHERN TERRITORY
**Family and
Community
Services
Advisory
Council**

Chairperson's Foreword

Valuing families and communities are important issues for the Territory. The government is committed to supporting and strengthening families and communities to help individuals lead healthier lives.

The establishment of a Family and Community Advisory Council is to provide advice directly to the Minister of Family and Community Services on policy and strategies that advance the *Building Healthier Communities 2004 - 2009* framework for Health and Community Services, and on other matters relating to the welfare of families and communities.

The Council is a mechanism for the community to work with Government to progress an equitable and quality system, and supports directions established under the *Building Healthier Communities* framework.



Mr Charlie King
Chairperson
Family and Community Service
Advisory Council

FAACSAC

* Terms of Reference

The Family and Community Services Advisory Council:

Provides knowledge-based and impartial advice and perspectives to the Minister for Family and Community Services on:

- matters affecting the care, protection and best interests of children and young people
- measures to support individuals, families, children, young people and communities, particularly those who experience disadvantage
- strategies that respond to the diverse needs and circumstances of the Territory
- families, individuals, children, young people and communities, that assist them through crises and to enjoy the best possible quality of life.

Contributes to and draws from the deliberations of other Government advisory bodies as required.

Responds to specific references as requested by the Minister for Family and Community Services or Chief Executive Officer, Department of Health and Community Services.

Provides a mechanism for the community and consumers to work with Government to progress an accessible, equitable, good quality and integrated community service system.

* Priorities

Monitor the status and improve the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities in the Northern Territory and identify their care and support needs.

Monitor and comment on the impact of public policy on families and communities.

Provide advice about consumer and community views and priorities and strategies to promote informed consumer and community participation.

* Membership

The Council comprises up to 18 members (including the Chairperson) broadly reflecting the Territory's population. The members bring a range of perspectives about children and families in the Territory, and knowledge about their developmental and support needs across life stages and circumstances.

Membership is for a period not exceeding two years, with half the membership retiring each year. Members may seek reappointment for a second consecutive period, ie a maximum membership of four years

The Minister appoints Council members following a public call for expressions of interest and/or direct contact with community groups to initiate an expression of interest.

* meetings

The council meets for two days, three times a year. Special ad hoc meetings will be held as required.

The council has the opportunity to invite other participants to meetings to provide input, present to, discuss and work with the council on particular issues.

The council may form subcommittees to undertake specific projects.

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Requests for the Council to consider issues can be made in writing to the Chairperson.

Correspondence to be addressed to:

Chairperson
Family and Community Services
Advisory Council
Northern Territory Department of
Health and Community Services
Po Box 40596
Casuarina NT 0811
Email: FACSAC@nt.gov.au
www.nt.gov.au/health

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

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