

Chair's Foreword

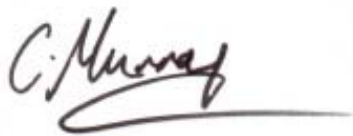
Young Territorians were represented by an energetic and passionate Round Table. The 2005 Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians consisted of 16 members representing various regions across the Northern Territory such as Darwin, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. These young people all worked extremely hard to represent the youth of the Territory. This was achieved by being actively involved in the community, identifying issues directly affecting youth and providing advice to the government from a youth perspective.

This Annual Report is the culmination of the efforts the Round Table put into all they did this year, from the community based projects to participation in advisory committees and so much more. I hope this report allows you to comprehend the dedication the members put into the 2005 Round Table. The challenges we faced in 2005 were well worth it to see the progress we made and the results we achieved.

The Round Table of 2005 were a lively, caring, fantastic bunch of people. As a diverse group of young people we managed to work well together and considering all our differences this is testament to the respect we had for each other.

I would like to thank the Hon Clare Martin MLA as Chief Minister for the opportunity and Ms Marion Scrymgour MLA, Minister for Young Territorians for her support. Thank you also to all who have supported us throughout the year.

It is with pride I now present to all the Annual Report of the 2005 Round Table.



Catherine Murray
Chair

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Meet the 2005 Members - New Beginnings

Felix Allsop



Region: Alice Springs

Age: 18 years old

How ya going guys, I'm Felix. I'm a Year 12 student at St Phillip's College in Alice Springs. I'm a bit of a theatre fan, both acting and backstage work. I've also recently joined up with the St John Volunteers in Alice and am hoping to study to be a paramedic in the not-too-distant future. I'm not the most artistically gifted guy around but, rest assured, I can make a mean sculpture out of minty wrappers. I'm passionate about youth involvement in our community, so I jumped at the chance to apply for the 2005 Round Table.

Joel Bruce-Morich



Region: Darwin

Age: 17 years old

Hi, I am Joel Nathan Cleavland Bruce-Morich and I study at Casuarina Senior College. I joined the Round Table because I wish to help my peers avoid mistreatment and help them to be aware of ways to avoid gang violence. I also wish to help people who have problems with alcohol and drugs. I enjoy boxing, athletics, basketball, travel, golf and expanding my horizon of knowledge.

Alice Chang



Region: Darwin

Age: 24 years old

"You must be the change you wish to see in this world..."

Hello there, my name is Alice Chang and I am a 23 year old medical student at Royal Darwin Hospital. As a student and a young person of Taiwanese heritage, I am passionate about the ability of every young person to make a change. I hope to address youth health issues, promote multiculturalism and empower young people to be involved in the decision making process while on the Round Table this year. Over the past few years I have been actively involved in numerous youth organisations, on both national and international levels, including the National Youth Round Table, World Youth Congress and International Federation of Medical Students Association, to name a few.

Having just returned from Southern India working in the Tsunami relief, and about to travel to rural China to implement a community health program, travelling and working in developed countries is another great passion of mine. But when I have a spare moment to myself, on top of learning French, hip hop dancing and singing in a choir, there's nothing better than putting on some jazz, cooking up a storm and snuggling down with a great book.

"Like they tell you every year - start early, keep to the time and everyone contribute." **Alice, 2005**

Christine Cottle



Region: Palmerston

Age: 16 years old

Hi, my name is Christine Cottle and I'm the youngest of the group. I currently attend Palmerston High School and enjoy spending time with my family and friends. Some of my interests include music, dance and ICT (Information Communication Technology). I am proud to be a part of the 2005 Round Table, as I will be able to help voice issues affecting the youth of the Northern Territory.

involved in decisions that affect their lives. Then we can move forward strong together.

I'm a 25 year old secondary teacher in Darwin and in Indigenous communities and a community youth arts worker. Travelling, social justice, especially by increasing access to empowering education for marginalised communities, writing poetry and heading off out bush with friends are my passions.

I immensely relish facilitating education and youth arts projects that explore social and environmental issues and effect positive social change. I love my work because I get to meet, listen to and learn from the opinions of a great diversity of young people. I believe that when young people have someone to believe in them and listen, amazing things can happen.

For me, youth arts projects and truly meaningful and relevant education create opportunities for young people to express themselves, explore their options, voice their thoughts, share their ideas and be active in making them come to fruition. I aspire to empower young people to believe in themselves and use their voice.

I believe that a greater diversity of perspectives on issues needs to be sought, heard and valued. I strongly believe that young people from a variety of backgrounds should feel they have the right to have their thoughts, concerns and dreams voiced loudly and heard.... because they do!

Pru Gell



Region: Darwin

Age: 25 years old

Hello, my name is Pru. I strongly believe that difference is okay and not something to fear. We can learn from people, not stereotypes. Listening to and learning from people seemingly different to ourselves invites a much needed increase in understanding and acceptance.

I strongly believe that we should learn from history, not repeat it. We should acknowledge the true, shared and diverse history of the colonisation of Indigenous peoples and their country. By acknowledging and accepting true versions of history that too often remain untold, we can obtain a greater understanding of contemporary situations. We can then be a part of creating respectful pathways for all cultures and be

"Don't be lazy, don't be scared to talk to new people, and never box your voice in: let your opinion and the opinions of your peers be heard." **Christine, 2005**

Ramesh Jeffery



Region: Palmerston

Age: 22 years old

G'day, my name is Ramesh and I am currently working as a Tenancy Officer for Territory Housing in the NT Government.

Being a young Territorian, adopted and living here for many years, I have seen and felt many issues that affect us as youths today. I believe through my experiences I can bring a new and different perspective onto the Round Table. The experience I will gain from the Round Table will be positive and at times challenging but I am more than willing to take on any new obstacles and tackle issues out there. I have seen, heard and felt many of the issues out there that affect the youth of today throughout the Northern Territory and I would like to change these or at least influence some changes towards them. As I have always believed that we are the youth of today and will lead tomorrow, so give us a chance and listen to what we have to say. Like anyone, I love hanging out with mates and just basically having a great time. I'm an especially social person and enjoy meeting new people from all walks of life. So being a member of the Round Table suits me perfectly.

"The commitment you make at the beginning of the year truly is worth it at the end! Stay in touch; do not be afraid to ask for help, the OYA staff support is superb. TIME MANAGEMENT!!! Cannot emphasise it enough, ah the beauty of hindsight!"
Catherine, 2005

Sarah Manning



Region: Tennant Creek

Age: 23 years old

Hi, I'm Sarah (aka Sezza). I was born in Darwin in 1982. I have spent the best part of my 22 years living in different places across the Northern Territory. This includes Maningrida, Goulburn Island, Elcho Island, Daly River, Darwin and Wagait Beach. My latest move has taken me to Tennant Creek, where I manage the town's public library. My interests include travelling, camping, cooking, reading (it's a given), flower arranging and anything crafty.

I am really honoured and looking forward to being a member of the Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians, and am looking forward to the opportunity of enriching the lives of young Territorians everywhere. We only get to live once, so we need to make that once count and keep smiling!!

Jarrad Newman



Region: Alice Springs

Age: 17 years old

Greetings! My name is Jarrad Newman. At age 17, I am one of the younger members on the Round Table, representing the fine 'city' of Alice Springs. Because I'm still at school (Year 11) almost everything I do and everyone I do it with, are youth. I guess that's partly why I joined the Round Table. I'd like to say that getting a chance to experience Darwin's lovely weather is another reason, but I won't.

Catherine Murray (Chair)



Region: Palmerston

Age: 21 years old

Hi, I'm Catherine Murray, I'm 21 years old and live in Palmerston. I work for TIO as an Admin Support Officer. I am very surprised but also grateful and proud to be chosen as Chair for the 2005 Round Table.

I was born overseas and migrated to Darwin, when I was still young. I have done a two and a half year stint in Halls Creek, WA which I have very fond memories of, but for the most part I have lived in Darwin and now Palmerston for the past eight years.

My most passionate hobby is dancing and I love the thrill and excitement that comes from performing. I am very excited about the year ahead and the privilege I have of working with all the members of this fantastic team. I am aiming high and hope to represent youth effectively.

Collectively our voices are strong and we will be heard. An amazing and dedicated team on the Round Table this year are here to make sure of that.

Michael Pearson



Region: Darwin

Age: 22 years old

Hi there, I am Michael Pearson and I am 22 years old. I am currently employed by the NT Government and am heavily involved with NT Cricket. I have decided to join the Round Table

to give open and honest opinions of young Territorians to the people who can initiate change, the Government.

I want everyone to feel that they can contact me about issues that they have and with this knowledge, I will endeavour to do my best for your issues that I will raise to the Round Table.

Hailee Skinner



Region: Darwin Rural

Age: 17 years old

Hi there, my name is Hailee. I'm 16 and in Year 11 at Darwin High School and I live at Humpty Doo. I enjoy shopping with friends, reading and I am an active member of the St John Ambulance Cadets. Being a member of the 2005 Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians gives me the chance to give something back to the youth of the Northern Territory.

Owen Strathie-Murray



Region: Darwin

Age: 23 years old

I am 23 and I'm from Darwin. I'm currently looking for work. For at least 14 years, I have been a young carer and I had the privilege to attend the Young Carer's Summit in Sydney last August. I quite enjoyed being involved and thought I'd also enjoy being on the Round Table. I'm also involved with the NT Carer's Association. I joined the Round Table to help the community rather than sit back and watch and complain about it.

Chloe Smith



Region: Darwin
Age: 16 years old

Hi, my name is Chloe Smith. I'm 17 and am starting Year 12 in 2006 at the Northern Territory Open Education Centre. I was born in Canberra, but have been in Darwin for the last 11 years. I work part-time at ABC Learning Centre in Nightcliff. I have two older sisters who both attend Charles Darwin University.

I wanted to be part of the 2005 Chief Minister's Round Table because I am interested in the mental health and wellbeing of youth in the Territory. I have been a member of the MindMatters team at my school for the past three years which is a group that focuses on the mental health of all members of the school community. I have had many experiences regarding mental health and related issues, both personally and with my peers. At the end of 2005, I hope that I have effectively represented young people in the Territory, by putting forward some of their concerns and pointing out the achievements of many of them, which need to be recognised and at times celebrated.

"It was a great honour to be chosen, it has enabled a huge amount of personal growth. I am far more confident in myself." **Owen, 2005**

"Use the Round Table status to do what you can while you have it, it doesn't last long."
Rebecca, 2005

Rebecca Weller



Region: Tennant Creek
Age: 20 years old

Hi! My name is Bec, I am 20 years old. I grew up in Elliott and was there for 10 years before I moved to Tennant Creek. I loved growing up in the Territory, but was born in Brisbane. I went through Katherine School of the Air, Newcastle Waters School and home school until 1994. I enjoy getting involved in things where I can make a difference, but try and have fun along the way. I love to meet new people, learn about their experiences and being outdoors!

Dwain Westbrook (Vice-Chair)



Region: Alice Springs
Age: 19 years old

Hi, I'm Dwain. I come from Alice Springs and I work making magazines at Waltja, an Aboriginal organisation. I enjoy graphic arts and design and am passionate about youth issues. I am an Aboriginal Australian and would love to be able to bring a unique perspective to the Round Table.

I enjoy outdoor activities and sports and love to listen to music. This year I am working on a Certificate IV in Multimedia. We are looking forward to hearing your input on Territory youth issues.

"The meetings were great, I loved all of them. hard work, but satisfying too." **Felix, 2005**

The Year in a Nutshell - An Overview of our meetings

Meeting 1

This is where it all began. The weekend of meet and greets. There were unfamiliar faces but this was a fantastic opportunity and one of the many reasons people apply for the Round Table, to meet new people. An awesome effort was made by all to get to know each other. Being stuck on a bus for the next hour on our way out to Lake Bennett ensured we had no other choice.

It was down to business when we arrived, we were there for a purpose after all. Regional Reports were first on the agenda. Each member had canvassed their local community and beyond to get a broad range of views and opinions on the issues affecting the youth of the Territory. The issues covered a broad spectrum from violence on the streets to a lack of youth activities. These issues were then collated and presented to the Chief Minister, Hon Clare Martin MLA, who also made the trip down to Lake Bennett. She made us feel at ease and showed a genuine interest in who we were and our reasons for wanting to be there. It was great to see that we have the support of the NT Government and we really do have the opportunity to make a difference.

The Chief Minister was not the only one to make the trip. Last year's Vice Chair Max Morris and media training session presenter Tracy Jones were among others who made the trek and we were thankful for their support and advice.

It was at this meeting that we were split into our teams for the year. These teams would be who we would be working with on our community based projects. There were four teams and they worked under the headings of "Safe and Secure Communities", "Education and Employment", "Health and Wellbeing" and "Young People Participating in Decisions That Affect Their Lives". It was Overwhelming at first, but we were given plenty of support from the team at the Office of Youth Affairs (OYA) and provided with research manuals to help us on our way.

The meeting was jam packed but lots of fun. There were some crazy team building exercises that helped us get to know each other better and we left excited and eager for the year ahead. The opportunity to make a difference... enticing!



Members at the first Youth Round Table meeting for 2005

Meeting 2

Back to do it all again! Excited to meet up with members we hadn't seen since the last meeting, however we didn't have much time for informalities as this was a jam packed weekend. It was straight into it with the regional reports and presentation to the Chief Minister. There were many new issues raised but certainly also some recurring issues. A different member presented an issue that they had a particularly strong interest in. The Chief Minister was all ears and helpful with her responses.

This particular meeting was very busy with eight presenters and visitors such as Serena Wilson, the Chair from last year's Round Table. With six interactive presentations to cram in we were certainly kept on our toes. We provided feedback on the Youth Arts Strategy and were given a chance to find out more about the Volatile Substance Abuse Bill which will affect many young Territorians.

Bass in the Grass promoters stopped in as did Consumer Affairs. Ian O'Reilly from Northern Territory Youth Affairs Network provided us with a valuable talk on networks available to us, helping us feel more confident in approaching our projects knowing there was plenty of information and connections out there. Steven Farrawell provided some valuable information on the Darwin City Council's Safer Suburbs project.

Time was also spent well on our community based projects. Serena did the rounds and provided us with much needed advice and we made good use of our new knowledge from Ian to make good progress on our projects. It was a hectic weekend but we left invigorated and eager for the busy but good times ahead.



Joel, Dwain, Rebecca and Michael at Meeting 2

Meeting 3

It was business as usual for this meeting with Regional Reports first on the agenda. Collating the issues we came across the big ones that affect young people all across the Territory. They were also a few specific issues raised at this meeting such as facilities being in working order at the local schools. We did things a little differently at this meeting as we would not be presenting the issues till the Sunday and they would be presented to Minister Scrymgour this time.

Saturday's focus then became the community based projects. We finalised action plans so that when we parted each team member

would be aware of what was to be done. We knew the following week would be jam packed with surveys and focus groups as each team puts together its project for the final presentations at the end of the year.

The afternoon was then filled with a very fun and interactive training session from Scott Bevis of EAS on "Presentation Skills". This was valuable for our final meeting. The day wrapped with a visit from Sam from OYA to help out with projects. The OYA staff were always on hand to help in our sometimes desperate hour of need.

WebCT was introduced to us on the Sunday morning. It's an awesome initiative that enables members to keep in regular contact and be updated on a safe and secure website. Available only to Round Table members it includes discussion boards, templates of our Regional Reports and other useful information.

Minister Scrymgour then arrived. This was the first time the Minister had met the 2005 Round Table so we were diligent in putting her at ease and allowing her to see that although we are each very different individuals we work well as a team. Team coordinators then gave a brief overview of each community project. The issues we had collated the day before were then presented to the Minister.

After breaking for lunch we had our next guest for the day. Police Commissioner Paul White gave up his Sunday afternoon to come join us. An interactive discussion followed as he answered our questions, many of which stemmed from the issues raised by young people throughout the year, and he even asked a few of his own. He then asked our views on the future and though we are aware there are problems the overwhelming majority were optimistic and positive.

Our next presenter was Daniel Bouchier, a member of the 2004 Round Table. He was speaking to us as part of the NT Statehood Steering Committee. This was an interactive presentation as Daniel fielded all our questions honestly. We answered some of his queries and gave him our views on issues involving statehood. The meeting ended with members well and truly eager to get the projects finished and confident of their new skills courtesy of the training session.



Hailee, Christine, Owen, Ramesh, Jarrad and Michael at Meeting 3

Meeting 4

End of the line! But we had work to do. Regional reports were first up as always. No presentation to the Minister this time though so the issues were raised through formal correspondence. Any issue of major importance that had been continually mentioned throughout the year was also followed up with a letter written to the relevant Government or non-Government body.

We had an opportunity to get final newsletter articles and personal reflections completed then it was practice time! Each team got together and put the final touches to their presentations. Rehearse, rehearse, rehearse, that's what the rest of the afternoon and well into the night was spent doing. We did break for dinner though. You cannot keep us away from food no matter how determined we were to get these presentations perfect.

Sunday began early and there were faces etched in anticipation and a few stomachs filled with butterflies. Onto Parliament House for the big event. We set up in the Litchfield room and it was time for a full run through. Only just enough time mind you then our guests started arriving. We were honoured to have the attendance of the Chief Minister, Minister Scrymgour, Public Employment Commissioner, Mr John Kirwan, the Police Commissioner Mr Paul White, Ms Margaret Banks Chief Executive of the Department of Employment, Education and Training, Mr Richard Coates Chief Executive of the Department of Justice, Ms Sharron Noske and Mr Paul Rajan from the Department of the Chief Minister and Member for Drysdale Mr Chris Natt MLA. The presentations ran as smoothly as one could hope for and relief filled the room as each team got through theirs with only minor hiccups.

Lunch was a most enjoyable treat and the Chief Minister presented the certificates and trophies to each member. They were a great way to remember our time on the Table. Then that was it. Each member had left footprints in the hearts and memories of everyone. There are not enough words to express the gratitude for Vicki's constant support and advice. We had achieved our successes, and the results will speak for themselves.



The 2005 Chief Minister's Youth Round Table

Regional Report Issues

Throughout the year, before each meeting Round Table members were asked to consult with young people in their community to obtain feedback on the key issues affecting them and suggest possible solutions to these issues. Members canvassed youth from all across the Territory.

These issues were then presented in the form of a Regional Report and discussed at each meeting. Issues were collated and formalised in a letter which was sent to the Chief Minister and other relevant Ministers. Members also wrote individually to Ministers and Northern Territory Government agencies if there was an issue that they felt particularly strongly about or if it had been continually raised by a number of young people across the Territory.

The issues have been summarised under the following headings:

- **HEALTH AND WELLBEING**
- **EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT**
- **HAVING FUN AND DEVELOPING NEW SKILLS**
- **SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES**
- **OTHER ISSUES**

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- There is no specific mental health facility for young people in Darwin (or elsewhere in the NT). The Cowdy Ward at Royal Darwin Hospital is not a place for young people – they need to be in a nurturing and supportive environment.
- There is no specific treatment facility in the NT for young people with drug and alcohol abuse issues.
- More support is needed for young Indigenous mothers who have just given birth and may have no family support.
- There needs to be compulsory defensive-driving courses run, at a subsidised cost, for young people as part of obtaining their licence.
- There is a lot of concern among young people about the proposed nuclear waste facility, and insufficient information provided to young people about the issue.
- There needs to be improved access to services and supportive social groups (including gay support groups).

- There needs to be a one-stop shop for mental health services in the Darwin and Darwin rural area, including a specific focus on young people.
- There is a lack of incentives to encourage young people into sport in some regions.
- Teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.
- Support needed for young mothers who don't have family support.
- Counselling service needed for young people affected by others who suicide.
- More community centres in Darwin. With access to youth workers.
- Teenage drinking and drug-taking is a problem in Alice Springs – more support for these young people is needed.
- Binge-drinking is a serious issue among young people, both under-age and of legal age, which is escalating. There needs to be more education about the consequences (for example violence, pregnancy and sexual assault).
- Sexual assault and domestic violence – emotional as well as physical.
- Substance abuse – under-age drinking and drugs (Alice Springs).
- Concerns about poor living conditions for town camp children and young people in Alice Springs (malnutrition, child abuse).
- There are insufficient ambulances in the Top End of the Territory (Darwin/Palmerston and Rural) and the wait is too long, especially in the rural area.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

- More promotion about job opportunities for those school leavers who would not access a career counsellor.
- Lack of good teachers in Palmerston (quality and quantity).
- There are not enough public high schools in Darwin, Palmerston and the rural area and private schools are too expensive – when will the new high school at Palmerston be built?
- Transition from high school difficult – young people need to be taught job-seeking skills.
- Career guidance information such as Futures Expo should be provided later in the year when students are thinking about their futures beyond school.
- Lack of information about young workers' rights in the workplace.

- Young people under 18 should receive equal pay for doing the same work as their 18 and over peers.
- Young carers in school should be identified and given support.
- Not enough course and subject choices at Charles Darwin University (CDU).
- There are not enough job opportunities for school leavers – need experience (raised by Tennant Creek).

HAVING FUN AND DEVELOPING NEW SKILLS

- General lack of entertainment and things to do for young people (including Nhulunbuy, Jabiru, Alice Springs).
- Not much to do other than skateparks (in Darwin and the Northern Suburbs)
- A public noticeboard in the Alice Springs mall would be good to advertise youth activities.
- More public transport needed late at night to and from recreational and sporting activities, particularly in Alice Springs and Darwin's rural area.
- More advertising of recreational activities in schools would be good.
- There is a perception that there is inconsistency in funding for some youth programs eg funding targeted specifically for Indigenous young people.
- Some sort of subsidized transport to and from Jabiru to Darwin for a day trip once a week would be good for young people to access shopping, cinemas etc.
- The waterslide at Parap Pool needs to be replaced.
- Youth arts not supported as much as adult arts.
- Information about youth activities should be posted at the bus depots.
- Not enough entertainment for young people at Palmerston – Einsteins should re-open.
- Need more information about what is available for young people to do in Alice Springs.
- Most activities in the town are geared to 18 year olds and over (Alice Springs).
- Young people have asked for more sporting activities then don't commit to attending (raised by Tennant Creek).

SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES

- Alcohol abuse leading to safety issues in Tennant Creek.
- Need for improved lighting in alleys/laneways around Darwin's Northern Suburbs and Palmerston
- Insufficient lighting in the main street of Tennant Creek - response from DoJ to this issue noted (grant provided).
- Relationships between police and young people need improving (particularly raised by Tennant Creek).
- Young people with modified cars feel that they are being unfairly targeted by police (raised by Tennant Creek).
- Drink-driving by young people an issue, including hoons speeding in the suburbs.
- Low level of awareness and poor driving skills is contributing to the road toll – young people need more driver education.
- Drink spiking at pubs and nightclubs still an issue.
- Under-age people at nightclubs in town (Darwin) still an issue – bouncers are letting young people in, especially young women.
- Aggressive nightclub bouncers are a concern.
- Need to have a legalized, designated graffiti wall(s) in Darwin to reduce illegal graffiti and give young people a creative outlet.
- Teenage gangs on the street at night in the Northern Suburbs, and threats of violence/incidents of assault.
- Harassment and bullying at school, including homophobia.
- Sexual harassment becoming an issue at the Palmerston Shopping Centre.
- Police relationships with young people in Tennant Creek are particularly bad.
- Racism in and out of schools is becoming a serious issue, with respect to all cultures not just Indigenous, and particularly with respect to Islamic young women.
- Lack of safety after dark in Alice Springs, particularly for young women.
- The skatepark in Alice Springs is not safe after dark – needs to be supervised.
- Rock-throwing in the suburbs and around shopping centres.
- Too much trouble at the Palmerston Skate Park and not enough security.
- Problems with young people roaming around the streets at night – why aren't they in bed? (raised by everyone but especially by Alice Springs).

- Gangs at Palmerston are dangerous and violent, particularly around the bus depot – needs to be more security.
- Not enough security at areas where young people hang out (Tennant Creek).
- Intimidation and racism – divided community (Tennant Creek).
- Need some more restrictions on alcohol sales in the town (Alice Springs).
- Need clarification about the proposed petrol-sniffing legislation and what it means for police powers.
- Young people under 18 are running amok – anti-social behaviour is getting out of hand (Alice Springs).
- Lack of safety walking through town after dark (Alice Springs).

OTHER ISSUES

- Young people are getting into debt with credit cards (this issue was discussed with the Consumer Affairs Council at the meeting).
- Young people need to be educated on housing/accommodation costs – the means test for rental assistance also needs to be raised.
- There is a lack of licence testers in Darwin – there is a two month wait list.
- Too much negative media attention given to young people and youth issues – should be more positive stories.
- Large numbers of African refugees coming to Darwin who need support with services such as housing and interpreters.
- Some buses not air-conditioned, particularly those used to transport young people with special needs.
- Lack of understanding about young carers – who they are and what they do.
- Difficult to meet people of the opposite sex outside the clubbing scene.
- Bus services in the rural area are sub-standard.
- Parents need to be more involved with their children.
- Negative flow-on effect of young people leaving the town – loss of services and activities (for example, go-karts in Tennant Creek).
- Young people need role models to change bad behaviour.
- Gay people do not have the same rights as other people.
- Needs to be specific and youth-friendly information on how the proposed workplace agreement impacts on young people.

Community Based Projects

Members were divided into four teams this year to work on community based projects that came under the following headings:

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT PROJECT TEAM

Investigation into the adequateness of support for young Territorians in their school to work transition.

A successful transition is a positive, fulfilling experience that secures a future full of possibilities.

An unsuccessful transition results in an individual finding themselves in a position they are neither suited to, qualified for or interested in. This can have negative repercussions and compromise future possibilities.

Individuals may encounter wellbeing, social and economical problems, and on a larger scale the business and the economic wellbeing of the Northern Territory may be harmed through wrong career choices. The best guarantee for avoiding an unsuccessful transition from school to work is through the adequate preparation and support of young people as they approach and experience this stage in their lives. This report investigates the impact current career preparation activities have on young Territorians.

Executive Summary

A successful transition is a positive, fulfilling experience that secures a future full of possibilities. An unsuccessful transition results in an individual finding themselves in a position they are neither suited to, qualified for or interested in. This can have negative repercussions and compromise future possibilities. Individuals may encounter wellbeing, social and economical problems, and on a larger scale the business and the economic wellbeing of the Northern Territory may be harmed through wrong career choices. The best guarantee for avoiding an unsuccessful transition from school to work is through the adequate preparation and support of young people as they approach and experience this stage in their lives.

This report investigates the impact current career preparation activities have on young Territorians.

In Term 3 2005, students from various Northern Territory secondary schools provided feedback on the activities they had been exposed to, how successful and adequate they felt these activities were and where students felt improvements could be made. Career advisers were



Employment & Education Project team members; Hailee, Ramesh, Sarah and Christine.

similarly surveyed and shared their thoughts on the preparation of students for the school to work transition, and their experiences as career advisers. As a result of the feedback from both students and career advisers it was determined that current practices, although helping young Territorians to some extent, need improvement so they more adequately prepare individuals for their school to work transition. The surveys determined:

- imbalances in the information presented to students exist and despite increased efforts to promote non-tertiary based pathways, tertiary-orientated pathways maintain a stronghold in school environments;
- there needs to be an expansion of current efforts to a) reduce the imbalance noted above and b) to ensure all young Territorians are adequately prepared for their transition;
- careers as a subject and career advisers are undervalued and need to be made a bigger school priority; and
- the relationship between school and work needs reanalysing.

The major recommendations of this report are:

- It is necessary for current career preparation activities to be expanded or modified to ensure these programs sufficiently meet the needs of students. The ongoing evaluation of these programs is essential.
- The status of career-orientated activities needs to be markedly improved in the school environment by placing a higher value on career advisers and by increasing the support given to teachers fulfilling these roles. Careers as a secondary school subject must also be given precedence.
- Schools and organisations need to become more flexible in their handling of career preparatory activities and support students in their chosen pathways; as students must adhere to stringent guidelines at present, some students are forced into non-ideal pathways.

The view of this report is that career preparation of students needs to be given a much stronger focus as the one-size-fits-all approach is not appropriate and is compromising how adequately prepared young Territorians are for the school to work transition. There needs to be a much more individualised approach and instead of focusing primarily on students who are successful by common standards, recognition needs to be given based on the pathway choices made by young Territorians and the contribution that is made towards the end result. By ensuring that

young Territorians are adequately prepared for the school to work transition we are ensuring a much brighter future for young people and for the Northern Territory.



Youth Participation and Decision making team members; Catherine, Jarrad and Felix.

YOUTH PARTICIPATING IN DECISIONS THAT AFFECT THEIR LIVES PROJECT TEAM

This report researches the need for and the content of a Northern Territory specific information guide that provides young Territorians with a resource for effecting change. Similar guides have been published in other Australian states but because of the unique demographics of the Northern Territory, existing publications are not entirely relevant. This report considers the Territory's

demographics in the context of a resource that will contribute to youth participation and decision-making.

Executive Summary

The youth of today are passionate people. We have issues and opinions, suggestions and solutions. We therefore want to be heard. Many young people do not know how to go about making this possible though. The purpose of this project was to research the need for a Northern Territory specific publication to make it easier for young people to get their point across. Examples of such publications exist in other states and evidence suggests that they are quite successful. The NT is a unique place and our demographics are very different to that of the southern states. It was not just a matter of looking at whether young people in the Territory needed such a publication but also what specific requirements would need to be put into such a publication to make it a success in the Territory.

To achieve this we consulted with the relevant people – young people themselves. To conduct a fair consultation of young people in an environment such as the Territory, special consideration was made for the fact that the Territory is geographically sparse with many rural and regional communities. We therefore used surveys as one of our main tools to source information. The surveys provided us with the basic information such as percentage of the surveyed population that identify themselves as Indigenous and the ratio of male to female. We then had multiple choice questions that provided us with feedback on what form the publication, if it were to go ahead, would be presented in. Some longer answer questions were also included to provide us with an in depth

insight to the ideas and comments of the young people involved in the survey. Surveys were distributed across the Territory through the help of fellow Round Table members and with the co-operation of schools. Results were tabulated into graphs and can be found in the Findings section of this report.

Once fully assessed the information gathered from the surveys and the comments made by young people resulted in the following recommendations being put forward:

- Young people to be actively involved in the process of putting together an information pack detailing the ways in which individuals can become better involved in the decision making process in their communities.
- The pack should be made available on the Internet. This was considered the most accessible and useful medium by young people.
- To have the pack effectively promoted.
- Young people's involvement is paramount in the success of this information pack.

Decisions are constantly being made about young people without young people being involved in any of the processes, let alone even consulted. Therefore the success of this information publication is essential in allowing young people to actively participate in decisions that affect their lives. To provide them with options and the know how is a positive action for the Northern Territory as whole. Youth are the future, allowing us to have some form of control over our futures will give us the pride and responsibility we deserve.

SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES PROJECT TEAM

The Safe and Secure Communities Project Team investigated the relationship between young people and the Police in the Northern Territory. The investigations set out to identify areas where this relationship could be improved.

The members of the Project Team are representative of the Northern Territory with a variety of backgrounds and members residing in Darwin, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs



Safe and Secure Communities Project team members; Joel, Dwain, Rebecca and Michael.

The issue of the relationship between young people and the police was identified by Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Darwin members of the Round Table through consultations with other young people, via Regional Reports, and their own personal experiences. The relationship was identified by many of these young people as one that needed improving.

Executive Summary

The Safe and Secure Communities Project Team investigated the relationship between young people and the Police in the Northern Territory. Our investigations set out to identify areas where this relationship could be improved.

The data collection methods that we utilised were surveys, interviews and focus groups. The surveys were targeted at young people aged 12-25 years which was the definition of a young person used by the project team. The surveys were circulated in Darwin, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. Sanderson High School was used to circulate a large number of the surveys in the Darwin area.

Youth focus groups were held in the Darwin and Tennant Creek areas, with Mission Australia organising the young people for the Darwin focus groups. Mission Australia organised four participants that they worked with to attend the session who provided very honest answers to the questions asked. Tennant Creek also ran a youth focus group that had eight participants. This focus group was organised by our Tennant Creek member Rebecca Weller. There was one police focus group that was held in Darwin, attended by three officers which was organised by the Senior Sergeant in charge of the Crime Prevention Unit.

Summary of Findings

- Of the young people surveyed, 23% said that they had been held in custody or arrested by the police.
- Young people surveyed rated the police as average or better than average in regards to their professionalism, courtesy, helpfulness, understanding and fairness.
- Generally, young people surveyed had had more positive experiences with police than negative.
- Over 36% of young people surveyed had had involvement with the police outside of their official role. Most of these interactions were through the Blue Light Disco Program.
- Some young people that the project team talked to felt that police stereotyped them negatively.
- The School Based Constable program was praised by the young people surveyed and the police.



Health and Wellbeing Project team members; Chloe, Owen, Pru and Alice

HEALTH AND WELLBEING PROJECT TEAM

Aware n Strong Young Women's Project. How to break the silence on violence against women: Young women's ideas

Project Aim

1. To find out young women's perspectives on:
 - a) What factors may prevent a young woman from reporting violence;
 - b) How support services can best promote themselves; and
 - c) The most effective way to educate people about the issue to effect change.
2. Provide useful and beneficial feedback on young women's perspectives on the issue of violence against women to relevant non-government organisations and government agencies.

Executive Summary

The *Aware n Strong young women's project* sourced young Territorian women's views on violence against women and how to break the silence surrounding this pervasive issue. We collected 70 young women's views via a questionnaire and a focus group. We wanted their constructive ideas and real concerns to be heard by the non-government and government agencies that support them.

"Yo women against violence is a crime, it's not ok So it's time to take a stand and act today."

Young women's focus group

"It is a big issue affecting many young people."

Young woman 22 years Darwin

Violence against women is an issue that affects young women and men, their families, friends, their communities and the Northern Territory as a whole. A significant number of young women experience violence, directly and/or indirectly but unfortunately do not report it. There are a range of factors that impede young women reporting.

Violence against women occurs in our community yet there is limited community and school-based education focussed on this issue. Discussion on violence against women needs to be louder and increased community education is a pathway to achieve this. The silencing of the high rate of violence against women in our community supports its continuation.

Increasing young women's awareness of services available to survivors of violence through community education is important. If well supported and informed, young women will make choices that are right for them. Thus we need to know how best to inform young women of the services that are available to them and how community education can be most effective.

Our group had two main aims. These were:

1. To find out young women's perspectives on:
 - a) What factors may prevent a young woman from reporting violence;
 - b) How support services can best promote themselves; and
 - c) The most effective way to educate people about the issue to effect change.
2. Provide useful and beneficial feedback on young women's perspectives on the issue of violence against women to relevant non-government organisations and government agencies.

We wanted this project to have ongoing benefits beyond the completion of our report. Ideally the findings of our project are used to feed into future projects and programs that focus on young women. A range of non-government organisations and government agencies have expressed interest in our project findings and recommendations. Therefore it is encouraging to know that there may be indirect and direct community benefits of our *Aware n Strong Young Women* project.

The five main areas we investigated were:

1. *Do young women identify violence against women as an issue?*
2. *Which factors inhibit women from reporting violence?*
3. *How can relevant service providers' best promote themselves?*
4. *Do young women believe community education on violence against women is important?*
5. *How should community education on the issue be designed to affect change?*

Consultation

Consultation with young people and non-government and government agencies occurred at a series of stages throughout our project via:

- One-on-one discussion by phone and face-to face.
- A questionnaire.
- Focus group.
- Providing feedback to relevant non-government organisations and government agencies.

Findings

1. *Violence against women is an issue for young women: 56 out of 70 young women know a peer who has experienced violence.*
2. *While many young women believe it is important to report violence a significant number are less likely to actually do so.*
3. *Many young women do not report violence.*

4. 100% of young women believe community education is important to make people aware of the issue. Young women believe for effective community education it should be:
 - for young women and men separately, and then they join together;
 - should be interactive, self-defence sessions was the most popular activity. Community art projects are also popular;
 - should be in small groups;
 - with people of the same age group;
 - at a forum with young women from different schools and youth centres; and
 - facilitated by young people, survivors of violence and youth workers.

Recommendations

1. **Increase community education on the issue of violence against women.** Community education should be delivered in a culturally appropriate manner in urban and regional centres and in remote communities. It should be facilitated in a way that young women will find effective as detailed in Finding Four above.
2. **Create positions for violence against women educators within the Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) and related non-government agencies** to develop a Stop Violence Against Women educational resource kit and regularly deliver sessions in schools and youth centres.
3. **Produce an educational Stop Violence Against Women educational resource kit** that can be used as a tool for Stop Violence Against Women community educators. This kit also needs to contain a supplementary component with practical resources for teachers and youth workers who have ongoing contact with young people. Young people, women who are survivors of violence, youth workers, police, teachers and staff from non-government and government agencies from a range of cultural backgrounds should be involved in the development of the kit.
4. **Create a 'Stop Violence Against Women Community Education Grant Fund'.** Local community networks should be invited to apply for grants to develop community education strategies which are relevant for their local communities. Please refer to the South Australian example in the full version of the recommendations within this report.
5. **Consult with relevant non-government agencies on what resources they require to increase their capacity** to provide much needed support for young women. Furthermore assist these agencies to promote themselves so that young women have increased awareness of them.
6. **Police to do community outreach in a relaxed manner** so that young women are more comfortable approaching and reporting violence to them.

Round Table Commitments and Community Engagement

Round Table members were active in their communities throughout the year. Members have consulted with over 200 young people through the Regional Reports process and over 600 young people as part of their Project Team work.

Members have also been representing the views of other young Territorians through formal responses to Government agencies on policy and program initiatives; representation on a broad range of committees; attending functions in their capacity as Round Table members; and participating in a variety of community based activities.

A summary of the activities for the Round Table members is detailed below.

Input to Government Policy and Programs

- Provided comment to the Department of Justice on the Unauthorised Internet Photos Discussion Paper.
- Gave feedback to ArtsNT on the proposed Youth Arts Strategy.
- Advised the Office of Women's Policy on ways to attract young people to the Alicia Johnston Memorial Lecture.
- Provided feedback to the Department of Community Development, Sports and Cultural Affairs (now the Department of Local Government, Housing and Sport) on the proposed Sport Linkup Website.
- Advised the Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development (now the Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development) on how to make their Futures Expo stand more appealing to young people.
- Prepared the 2005 NT Election – "What's in it for Young Territorians" document.
- Provided feedback to St Vincent De Paul society in regards to their youth web page.

Participation in Committees/Meetings/Forums

- Young Member of the Multicultural Council of the Northern Territory.
- Member of the Youth Affairs Interdepartmental Committee.
- Youth Justice Forum – participants.
- Child and Youth Safety Sub Committee, Alice Springs Crime Prevention Council – Member.
- Neighbourhood Watch Northern Region - Board Member.

- Barkly Safer Communities Committee – Member.
- Darwin Crime Prevention Committee – Member.
- Chair of the Round Table attended the first ever Ministerial Youth Council meeting in Adelaide.
- Middle Years Schooling Reference Group – Member.
- Main Street Landscaping Master Plan committee - Youth Representative.
- Management Committee, Women’s Refuge - Member.
- Sat on the Panel that selected the NT Australian of the Year Awards in each category.
- Member of National Youth Week 2005 Tennant Creek Organising Committee.
- Youth Forum Organising Committee – Member, held in June in Tennant Creek.
- Nuclear Dump Public Meeting – Attended the first meeting then presented at the second meeting.

National Youth Week 2005

Members were eager and excited to participate as much as possible with Youth Week Activities in 2005. From Darwin to the Barkly Region, members attended as many events advertised as possible. A few members went a step further and organised some of their own events and even assisted with the clean up!

Darwin:

- Attended the NT Young Achiever Awards night, also recognised as being the official opening of National Youth Week 2005.
- Organised and facilitated a series of “Theatre for Empowerment” workshops with newly arrived young women refugees from Africa.
- Organised and helped run the Skate Competition that was held at Leanyer Recreation Park.

Palmerston:

- Attended the Pool Party held at Palmerston Leisure Centre, by Danila Dilba and Mission Australia and involving a range of games and activities.

Tennant Creek:

- Attended the Mountain Bike Races.
- Was present at the official opening of National Youth Week 2005 in Tennant Creek which included an art exhibition.
- Consulted with young people and helped to organise a Disco.

- Assisted with the Pool Party.
- Was a Backstage Crew Member for the Battle of the Bands Event.
- Helped with the cleanup after the Skate Park Event.
- Attended the Performance evening which was the culmination of workshops held throughout the week.

Community Involvement

- Participated at the Office of Youth Affairs display at the Futures Expos across the Territory.
- Conducted an African youth focus group about domestic violence issues.
- Participated in the refugee women tie dye workshop and English classes.
- Attended Harmony Day celebrations across the Territory.
- Volunteered with Red Cross.
- Prepared the Tennant Creek application for the Triple J competition "One Night Stand".
- Spoke to Family Planning about the issue of female health clinics.
- Met with Dawn House workers regarding the services and programs they coordinate.
- Attended the Fringe Festival planning meeting to discuss youth arts opportunities.
- Attended and participated in workshops on Aboriginal Family Violence and Domestic Violence and Culture.
- Assisted in the editing of the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Transgender Legal Kit Handbook.
- Organised and facilitated information and feedback sessions on the Sanderson High School Bullying and Harassment Policy.
- Participated in the "Reckless Circus" workshop at Corrugated Iron Youth Arts.
- Attended the Parks and Wildlife Masterplan Forum prior to making a submission.
- Attended and participated in a forum on Middle Schools Consultation Briefing in the NT.
- Volunteered at the Basketball Fun Nights in Tennant Creek.
- Volunteered and participated in the Desert Harmony Festival.
- Membership of Junior Police Rangers, St John Ambulance Cadets, Duke of Edinburgh Awards.
- Member of the Darwin High School Round Table.
- Member of Tennant Creek women's refuge.

Attendance at Functions

- Met Prince Charles on his visit to Alice Springs.
- Launch of the CREATE Foundation's (Y) our Stories Video and Book.
- Opening of the YMCA Youth Parliament.
- Opening of the NT Government Regional Legislative Assembly Sittings.
- Attended the Young Achiever Awards Presentation night.
- A few members accepted an invitation to board the Leeuwin for a Day Sail.
- Attended the presentation of Young Australian of the Year, Khoa Do, in Tennant Creek.
- Invited by the Administrator of the Northern Territory to attend the Queen's Birthday celebratory dinner.

"This isn't just a fun ride; its a lot of work. When I came onto the Round Table it was far better than what I had expected." **Christine, 2005**

"If you're in this make sure you're committed to it all the way and always help and support one another." **Ramesh, 2005**



Alice Springs Youth Round Table members meeting Prince Charles.

REFLECTIONS - Final Impressions

Felix

It's been a pretty intense year for me. Trying to juggle the Round Table, Year 12 and a very healthy social life. Being a member for the less than organised variety of young people, it has been a bit of a slog, so I don't recommend it to people in my position unless you're particularly on the ball... but if you are, go for it, it's a ton of fun.

It's been interesting sharing a conference room with 14 other motivated young people, particularly as most of us come from different backgrounds and have vastly different (and often opposing) priorities and concerns; it's made for some great heated discussions.

So dudes, if you're reading this, you're probably already interested. However, if you're currently tied to a chair with matchsticks in your eyelids and being forced to read what I've written, I totally recommend the experience (if you ever get untied).

Cheers.



Joel

The Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians was a great opportunity to meet other Territorians interested in expressing youth issues and getting our major issues recognised. Our teams made a lot of progress on our group reports and at the final meeting we presented these reports to the Chief Minister and other invited guests.



Alice

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Explore. Dream. Discover" Mark Twain.

2005 has been a year of change. I have been to India and back. Been to rural China and back. Been to Europe and back. I went through the most gruelling year of my medical degree, still battle weary but feeling a semblance of becoming a doctor now. Being bestowed with the most incredible opportunity but had to voluntarily give it away at the last minute. I have worked hard, stressed out, cried, panicked, lived through

some of the darkest moments in my life. And I survived. And I gained more out of it than I ever thought possible – friendship, self knowledge and the ability to self care. Dreams fulfilled, dreams lost, and learning to deal with both with serenity and still walk ahead with hope.

Being on the Round Table has been one of those experiences that has been the highlight of this year. I was able to work with a group of like minded, incredible young people and advocate for issues on health, young women and multiculturalism. We had a vision, we had a purpose, and we wanted to make a difference. Although the plan for our project has evolved and changed, we came out of it with knowledge, new skills and feelings of accomplishment. We supported and encouraged each other through ups and downs in the year, lived through the changes together and I am so proud of our team.

I cannot believe how quickly this year has gone.

I still believe pain is no good, and change is uncomfortable. But if you had to have it, close your eyes and take that horrible plunge into the unknown, because your friends will be there to catch you. And it won't be so bad.

Trust me, I'm almost a doctor.

Christine

This year was filled with adventure, thrill and many breathtaking moments. However these words do not come close to describing the unique experiences that the Chief Minister's Round Table can bring to anyone. The opportunity to represent youth, to meet other people who are passionate about what they believe in and as well as getting the work done, always having fun and enjoying the time spent there.

2005 has been an interesting year for me in many ways. I've met interesting people from all over the Northern Territory, reunited with one of my best mates, made new friends, been to some pretty cool places and the list goes on. The hardest thing I learnt was to accept the different views other people have on various topics.



I'd recommend that anyone interested should at least have a go at this even if you think you won't get in because a chance to do something like this will only come round once in a blue moon (if you're not sure where to look). So get out there and give it a go!

Peace Out

Pru

In 2005 I have enjoyed a range of community projects that involved working with a diverse range of young people. I have learnt a great deal from other young people through: facilitating 'Empowerment through Theatre' workshops for young African refugee women; co-coordinating a community health education theatre project in Timor Loro Sae with young people; teaching at a Darwin high school and at an Indigenous community in North East Arnhem land, Gapuwiyak; being on the Youth Round Table and coordinating the Health and Wellbeing Team's project: Aware n Strong Young Women. Our Aware n Strong Young Women Project interviewed young women about the issue of violence against women and their ideas on how to effectively raise awareness of this issue to effect change.



The issues that were raised by young Territorians throughout the year have been passed to the relevant Ministers. I hope these are seriously considered and action is taken. I am particularly interested in seeing what action is taken on these issues:

- Racism predominately directed towards Indigenous peoples through increased cross-cultural awareness training for service providers such as police and teachers.
- Nuclear Dump being forced upon the Territory.
- Ending discriminatory unequal rights for Gay, Lesbian and Transgender people so all have equal recognition before the law.
- Homophobia by introducing anti-homophobia education in schools.
- Bullying of students and teachers.
- Education that caters to the diversity of the Territory.
- Creating a holistic youth specific and well coordinated mental health facility.
- Violence against women through proactive community education with both women and men.

I have enjoyed my time on the Table and thank my team and other members for their enthusiasm and of course Vicki, Deb, Sam, Annie and Cara for their genuine support, warmth and sense of fun.

Young people are the experts of their own experiences. Young people from a diverse range of backgrounds should be consulted with in an appropriate, relevant and meaningful manner. If young people have a space to voice their real concerns and proactive ideas and be heard then we have the best chance of meeting their needs.

Martin Luther King said "Our lives begin to begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter"

So young people lets speak up, share our ideas, be loud, be proud and be heard.

Ramesh

Being on the Round Table has definitely been an experience I won't forget. In a way it has opened my eyes more to the youth issues out there and just how passionate groups and individuals are.

I've learnt that we are the youth of today and the future leaders, so when we speak we should be heard on all levels. The Round Table does just that. It allows the youth of the NT to finally be heard and have their say. As a member of the Round Table not only will I take with me a greater understanding of how important we as youth today are, but also some great friendships and memories that will stay with me forever.

The Round Table can have its lows, but the highs outweigh it by a long shot. I am lucky to have been part of this remarkable opportunity that has not only influenced my life, but hopefully others.



Sarah

Wow – what a jam-packed (v.awesome) year! Talk about busy – surveys, basketball games, reports, consultations, youth performances, more surveys, discos, more reports, forums, Triple J One-night-stand entries and more reports – phew. It has really been a year of



achievements and I've felt privileged to be a part of the dynamic youth community in Tennant Creek and the Barkly. I only hope I have done a good job in representing this group of amazing young Territorians. As for 2006 – best of luck to the new Round Table and to young Territorians - remember the Round Table is an excellent forum for promoting youth issues so keep an eye out for your local reps or think about joining up for 2007.

Don't forget – the future (especially yours!!) is what you make it!

OYA is awesome – thanks guys for your support this year, we (obviously) couldn't do it without you!!

Catherine

It began with a passion. I was full of ideas, solutions and opinions. Having spent my time on the Round Table this year though, I have had my eyes opened to the many issues and problems that affect a wide variety of youth across the Territory. All this can at first be overwhelming and disheartening but then the purpose of the Round Table presents itself. We have been the voice for youth and I am eternally grateful for the opportunity this has provided me with. The doors that have been opened to me because of this experience have left me with so many wonderful memories that I won't be forgetting anytime soon.



Highlights have included sitting in on the selection panel for the NT Australian of the Year Awards, a day sail on the Leeuwin, and flying to Adelaide in May as the NT representative for the first Ministerial Youth Council meeting.

I walk away from this year with a mixture of emotions but the strongest is most certainly hope. The youth do have a voice, we are passionate, we are loud and we want to be heard! While initiatives such as the Round Table stay active then anything is possible as young people take charge of their future. We were an amazing group this year with each member bringing something special to the Round Table. We beat a lot of odds to achieve so many great things. I am thankful for the privilege to work with these caring, respectful and dedicated individuals. I wish you all the best in this world as each and every one of you deserve it.

A very big shout out to Vicki and Deb also, you both are so deserving of all the praise we give you J. A special thanks to all the staff at OYA, Sam, Annie, Cara, Megan. All your help was very much appreciated and most definitely did not go unnoticed.

I truly do highly recommend anyone to apply as it is something well worth being a part of!

Jarrad

It is difficult to explain exactly what it is like to be on the Round Table of Young Territorians. It's certainly like nothing else I have ever done, perhaps that's because the Table itself is quite unique. Young people, unlike other groups in the community are not used to representing themselves. Too often the issues 'important to youth' are decided and dealt with by committees that have no connection with whom they are discussing. The Round Table empowers the youth of the Northern Territory and that is why I have been both proud and honoured to be a part of this group. My advice to the young people of the NT, whether on the Table or not, is this: know what you want to do and go after it with all you have got.

The Round Table empowers the youth of the Territory.

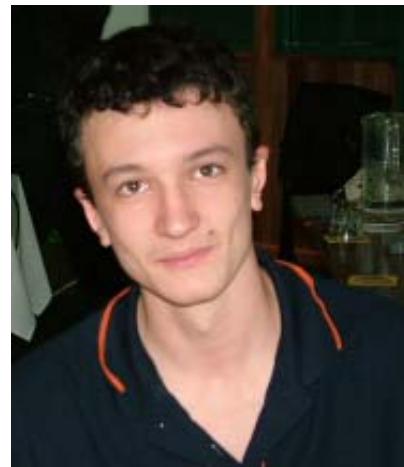
Michael

What an absolutely amazing experience, from the five am team building canoe sessions to the fun of playing cards with the rest of the group. It has been an experience of fun and meeting new friends.

There was also a learning experience with the many issues raised by the youth from around the Territory. The multicultural society that is the Territory raises a wide variety of issues that are all important. Learning what others are passionate about has opened my eyes to the issues of youth around Darwin and left me with a better understanding of young people.

The great aspect of the Round Table is the ability to get your passionate issues heard in a forum of like minded youth. These issues then get to the representatives of the community, our Chief Minister and the Ministers of the Government. It also gives you a chance to see these people work and interact with youth.

It is by far one of the most rewarding experiences of my life and I wish it didn't have to end.



"Everyone says it, but be organised. I would also say really know what you want to get from the table and work hard to achieve it, the Table is a tool, it's up to you to use it." **Jarrad, 2005**



Hailee

This year WOW! How fun and fast this year has gone. The people I have met have made an impact with their uniqueness and special talents, I will never forget these people. Sitting on this advisory group of the Round Table has given me the strength and confidence to stand up and give the youth opinion and my opinion to the Government of the Northern Territory.

I would like to thank the team that I was in, Employment and Education - Sarah Manning, Christine Cottle, and the wonderful Ramesh Jeffery. Thanks also to the Office of Youth Affairs including Vicki and Deb.

I wish good luck to next year's knights of the Round Table for 2006, make sure you have fun and enjoy it to the max! I am very thankful for the chance to be on this great Round Table.



Chloe

I can't believe it's over, my how time flies when you're having fun. I have loved being part of such an amazing and talented group. We have worked so hard and I hope our project continues after this year.

If I could go back and change anything it would have been to get stuck into our project sooner. I have made friendships that will last a lifetime.

Keep Rocking!

Owen

I had a great time. I just wish I could have been more help to my team. I've learnt a lot about myself and about the Government. I hope that many Government departments find our project report useful. I'm glad I got the chance to be on the Round Table. It was an unforgettable experience.

"Start work on your project as soon as you can." Owen, 2005



Rebecca

If anyone is ever wondering whether to join the Round Table, I encourage them. It's a great opportunity and a chance to make new friends and learn of other backgrounds.

Every town and suburb has their issues but it's when you realise that you can make a difference and you do, it's really rewarding.

I am so sad that this year is over but I am grateful that it happened because of what I have learnt and the most amazing people I have met.

To fellow members – thank you so much for your wisdom, kindness and friendship, I won't forget ANY of you! Love Bex.



Dwain

It's been great to spend the year on the Round Table. I've had a really busy year but the experience was great! Some highlights were the first meeting, meeting Prince Charles, exciting discussions, interesting people and much more.

It wasn't all fun and games though with lots of hard work, regional reports and surveys, lots of drawing graphs (for our team project). The work paid off and thanks to the team (and many others who helped) we ended up with a report to pass onto the Government.

Thank you all for helping out to make this a successful and enjoyable time. All the people who helped with the project, regional reports and stayed up till 3 am chatting.

RT2005, you are an amazing group of young people. Thanks Vicki and Deb, you have been great too! This has been a really big year in so many ways, so thanks everyone, I hope to see



"The Round Table is one of the best and most rewarding thing someone can do, no matter who you are, you can never have too many friends."

Rebecca, 2005

"Come in with an open mind and be prepared to work and meet some good friends."

Michael, 2005

Acknowledgements

you all again sometime in the future.

Northern Territory Government
Department of Chief Minister
NT Office of Youth Affairs

We would also like to thank all young Territorians who got involved and provided their voice for us to represent. Stay Loud, Stay Proud!
We can make a difference.



"The Highlight was meeting people who care about what Youth have to say, and acting on it" **Hailee, 2005**

