

Youth Policy **SNAPSHOT CENTRAL AUSTRALIA**

NT Government's initiatives and activities for youth

This snapshot should be read in conjunction with the **TERRITORY WIDE** snapshot

Health and wellbeing

Red Dust Role Models Program
(DHF)

The Red Dust Role Models Program is funded to work with Indigenous communities across the Northern Territory on alcohol and other drug issues. The program uses the profile and influence of positive role models from the fields of sport, business, music, film and entertainment. The program runs in Daly River and Tiwi communities in the Top End as well as communities in Central Australia. In 2008-09 a permanent office was established in Alice Springs.

DHF supports the Red Dust Role Models with in-kind support and an annual grant of \$30,000. In 2008-9 an additional one-off grant was provided to enable the purchase of a vehicle.

Grant Programs
(DHF)

- The Remote Area Aboriginal Alcohol and other Substance Strategy Program provides grants of up to \$5000 for diversionary, educational and intervention activities in relation to substance misuse among young people in Central Australia. In 2008-09, 37 grants were provided totalling \$153,869. Grant recipients range from, but are not limited to, local government councils, Aboriginal corporations, community health centres, schools and community sporting groups.
- A separate Tobacco Incentives Grant program provided 11 grants totalling a further \$24,000 for programs to reduce the level of smoking in the Northern Territory, particularly amongst young people.

National School Drug Education Strategy
(DET)

The Department of Education and Training (DET) develops, supports and/or delivers the following programs as part of National School Drug Education Strategy (NSDES) and the Northern Territory Curriculum Framework (NTCF):

- Drug Education Peer Forums – school programs based on student participatory approaches, peer facilitation and leadership. Students in schools across the NT have presented alcohol, drug, and personal safety messages to their peers and the broader school-community through health promotion events, role-plays, performances and posters/information pamphlets, among other activities.
- School Drug Policy Implementation – all Independent, Catholic and State schools in the NT are supported to develop and implement school drug policies to address the strategies of prevention, promotion and intervention in regard to alcohol and other drugs, and medicines at school.

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- Drug Education Professional Learning (PL) workshops for teachers and staff – schools are provided with the opportunity to participate in PL workshops to increase their confidence and competence to plan and deliver curriculum programs, lessons and activities that support the development of skills that young people need to make healthy informed decisions in regard to alcohol, drugs and other substances. Drug Education resources designed for the unique NT context, including the Indigenous Drug Education Support Materials (IDESM), have been used to support these workshops.
 - Development and publication of the Drug and Personal Safety Awareness Program (DaPSAP) – a teaching resource designed to assist school based police officers (SBPOs) to deliver drug and personal safety lessons in conjunction with classroom teachers.
 - National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC) – DET has provided assistance through artwork facilitation, community consultations and advice for the development of the Indigenous component of the Centre’s website for schools and young people - Cannabis: It’s Not Our Culture.
 - Tobacco Cessation Programs (as per National Tobacco Strategy) – Health Promoting Schools have designed and implemented the school-based programs and lessons to support whole-community health projects in regard to reducing tobacco uptake and associated harms e.g. Imanpa Tobacco Cessation Project (Sept 08 – April 09) and Ltyentye Apurte Feel Good Program (May 09 – current).
 - Community support for incidents of petrol sniffing and inhalant abuse – parents, elders, community members, teachers and school staff, youth workers, nurses, sport and recreation officers, government business managers, police and health workers in many NT communities receive support from DET through consultation workshops to help implement effective harm minimisation strategies and evidence-based approaches to address issues related to inhalant abuse, particularly petrol sniffing.

*Licensing,
Regulation and
Alcohol
Strategy*
(DoJ)

The role of School Liaison Officer was established under the Licensing, Regulation and Alcohol Strategy as a result of an identified gap in the services provided to schools in relation to the problem of the consumption of alcohol and tobacco by minors. A Licensing Inspector in each region (North and South) will be directly responsible for all complaints relating to the supply of liquor and tobacco to minors attending school. This way, teachers, parents, school committees and students have direct contact with a Licensing Inspector who could respond to the needs directly and in a timely manner.

The function of the role is:

- to protect the minor in all instances
- identify and collect intelligence relating to retailers who may be selling liquor and tobacco to minors and take appropriate action i.e. warnings, and/or surveillance work

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- actively promote the role of School Liaison Officer by proactively visiting schools and offering expertise, printed materials or presentations
 - Reduce the consumption of liquor by minors by:
 - a) making it harder to access
 - b) discouraging the social acceptability of the consumption of alcohol by minors, particularly for the NT
 - c) prosecuting persons who sell and supply liquor and tobacco products to minors.

New initiatives to be undertaken include:

- update and re-connect communication lines with schools in the Northern region
- reinforce the guidelines set by DET in relation to the consumption of alcohol on school property
- initiate an educational process in relation to Responsible Service of Alcohol Courses for all students (as well as an educational tool, it also provides the students with a qualification)
- network with other bodies that have similar agendas i.e. DHF. Liaise with these bodies to incorporate a whole-of-government approach to the education of young persons in the harm related to alcohol and tobacco use and misuse
- discover and address any other areas of concern that are identified by Schools that Licensing, Regulation and Alcohol Strategy can play a proactive role within the school environment
- consult with the Youth Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians to promote the strategy.

Workforce training

(DHF)

Training for remote workers was delivered in 2008-09 regarding the management of sexual health issues in children and young people for health professionals in the non-government health sector. Education for staff on sexual health and positive lifestyles for young people living in rural and remote communities was also delivered.

Child Abuse Task Force

(PFES and DHF)

The Child Abuse Taskforce (CAT), a combined initiative between the NT Police and NTFC continues to achieve positive results in urban and remote communities. The Taskforce initiative is in line with the vision 'A Safe and Secure Northern Territory' and the NT Caring for Our Children Reform Agenda which recognises the need to develop a strategic approach towards the investigation of serious and systematic abuse of children.

Whilst the protection of children and young people is a major responsibility of both Police and NTFC, the Child Abuse Taskforce focuses on allegations of organised or multiple abuse, involving one or more abuser and a number of related or non-related maltreated children and young people. Other relevant agencies such as DET are also engaged where relevant to contribute in a complex abuse investigation.

<p><i>Visiting mental health services</i> (DHF)</p>	<p>Mental Health Services have expanded their services to rural and remote communities.</p> <p>In 2008-09, additional positions have been created in both the Top End and in Central Australia to further increase services to remote communities.</p> <p>In Central Australia, visiting child and adolescent psychiatrists provide services to some remote communities in Central Australia on a regular basis. A psychologist also visits Tennant Creek regularly and new child and adolescent positions will enable expansion of these services.</p>
<p>headspace (DHF)</p>	<p><i>headspace</i> Top End and <i>headspace</i> Central Australia are two of 30 Community of Youth Services (CYS) sites established across Australia with funding from the Australian Government. DHF is a consortium member in each of the NT sites.</p> <p>The aim of CYSS is to improve access to health and wellbeing services for young people aged 12 to 15 years, by bringing together local youth mental health, drug and alcohol, primary care and education, training and support agencies. Each <i>headspace</i> service is being implemented by a consortium of local agencies, working in partnership to facilitate more coordinated, integrated and holistic care for young people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>headspace</i> Central Australia: Central Australian Aboriginal Congress is the lead agency of the local consortium of organisations including DHF, the Mental Health Association of Central Australia, GPNNT and Alice Springs Youth Accommodation and Support Services. <p>DHF and <i>headspace</i> Top End have now established shared intake assessment processes whereby young people in the <i>headspace</i> target age group will undergo an initial assessment at <i>headspace</i> before a decision is made regarding any need for specialist treatment and care through Top End Mental Health Services (TEMHS).</p> <p>A consultant psychiatrist from TEMHS is also now attending fortnightly clinical case review meetings to provide consultation liaison advice to staff at <i>headspace</i> Top End.</p> <p>A similar arrangement has been established in Central Australia, with a DHF visiting child and adolescent psychiatrist and a visiting child and adolescent psychologist providing consultation and liaison on a regular basis.</p>

Education

<p><i>Alice Springs Indigenous Education Strategy</i> (DET)</p>	<p>The Alice Springs Indigenous Education Strategy was introduced during 2007-08 to engage Indigenous students and improve their education and employment prospects. Under the strategy a number of initiatives have grown or been implemented during 2008-09 including the Alice Springs Football Academy Program (Clontarf Foundation), the Alice Springs Partnership for Success Program (Polly Farmer Foundation) and the Girls at the Centre Project. The Australian and Northern Territory Governments and private sponsors including The Smith Family fund the following initiatives:</p>
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- Clontarf academies have been expanded and now include seven government schools across the Territory. Clontarf programs in the Territory are jointly funded by the Australian Government, the Northern Northern Territory Government and the Clontarf Foundation. The Clontarf Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to improve the education, health, life skills, self-esteem and employment outcomes of young Indigenous men through the establishment of football academies. The foundation engages and supports participants in mainstream education until they complete Year 12 and then assists them to find employment.
- The Polly Farmer Foundation Program is an academic program for Indigenous students who have the capacity, interest and potential to go on and complete their secondary education. It provides assistance and support for students with homework by tutors to improve educational achievement and generate positive aspirations for higher education. Approximately 30 students participated in the program in 2008-09.
- The Girls at the Centre project targets Indigenous girls in government middle schools from years 7 to 9 and provides an individualised approach to engaging the students through programs designed to tap into their areas of interest. It aims to improve literacy and numeracy skills and support them to complete their senior years education. The project commenced in April 2008 and approximately 35 girls participated in 2008-09.

Regional Youth Education Coordination Project
(DET)

DET is working in partnership with the Australian Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) on a Regional Youth Education Coordination Project. This Project focuses on disengaged youth and middle years students at risk of disengagement in 13 remote communities in Central Australia. Programs such as School Holiday Activity Programs, BMX and a Learning Support Program 'Sing It Up' delivered by non-government organisations are being linked into school curriculum and VET courses by two departmental regional coordinators. The project has resulted in a significant increase in secondary enrolments in two remote communities as well as improved school attendance.

Remote area visits
(DLGH)

In 2008-09, the Water Safety Branch visited the remote communities of Yuendumu, Ti Tree, Nhulunbuy, Alyangula, Umbakumba, Angurugu, Ngukurr, Milyakburra and Numbulwar. Students were provided with hands-on water safety education from the Water Safety Lesson Plans. More remote area visits are planned for 2009-10 including the coastal communities of North East Arnhem Land.

Youth Action Plan – Alice Springs

The Northern Territory Government launched the Alice Springs Youth Action Plan on 19 February 2009 to tackle youth crime and support children and families throughout the community.

*(DCM, PFES
and DHF)*

As a result, a Police-based Youth Services Coordinator was recruited to oversee the implementation of the plan and ensure government and non-government services are coordinated and delivered effectively.

A key element of the plan is the creation of a new middle school in Alice Springs which will operate across two campuses at Gillen and Anzac Hill.

The school will be open for the start of the 2010 school year and will provide students with wider subject choices, programs tailored to meet individual needs and improved access to resources and infrastructure.

A new voluntary 'No school, No service' initiative was implemented with local businesses to ensure that children attend school. Local businesses involved who see a school-aged child not accompanied by an adult or without a leave pass will not serve the child during school hours.

*Bush Tucker
Garden*

The Alice Springs Desert Park assisted in the planning and establishment a bush tucker garden at Yipirinya School.

(NRETAS)

Training and employment

*Enterprise
Grants*

(DET)

Enterprise Grants offer students the opportunity to participate in projects aligned with VET, vocational and enterprise learning outcomes in the senior and middle years of schooling. Enterprise Grant funding may support 'real' or simulated projects that foster livelihood activities, small enterprise or work opportunities for students in co-operation and partnership with their communities to develop enterprising attitudes and attributes, including creativity, self-reliance, a capacity to respond to change, and an ability to generate, recognise and seize opportunities.

These skills are particularly relevant to enhancing the education of boys, addressing issues for Indigenous students and those in rural and remote communities. In 2008-09, provincial, remote and very remote schools received grants.

- In 2008, 34 Enterprise projects were funded.
- In 2009, 29 Enterprise projects are funded.

An example of how these grants were used is at Soapy Bore Homeland Centre where the students conducted a seed jewellery enterprise. As part of their enterprise, they collected seeds in the local area and made them into modern, attractive jewellery. The students worked with an Alice Springs-based jeweller. Students created a range of jewellery pieces including earrings, bracelets and necklaces and sold these at a night market in Alice Springs.

<i>The annual Careers Expo</i> (DET)	<p>The annual Careers Expo is an opportunity for students, teachers, parents, and the general public in the Territory to explore career opportunities and identify future career pathways.</p> <p>Expos were run in August 2008 in Tennant Creek, Alice Springs, Darwin, Nhulunbuy and Katherine, with over 3300 students and participants attending.</p> <p>2008 Expos had 250 exhibitors from a broad range of industries and higher education institutions. This impacted positively on the students and participants.</p> <p>Overall exhibitor satisfaction with the 2008 Careers Expo in all regions was high due to the introduction of the Careers Passport along with the Careers Trail questionnaire. These tools were distributed to schools prior to the Expo which dramatically increased student preparation. This resulted in a noticeable increase in exhibitor/student interaction.</p>
<i>Training for remote youth</i> (DET)	<p>Training for Remote Youth program is aimed at bringing youth disengaged from school, registered training organisations and local communities/schools together to provide structured training and learning experiences that prepares youth for employment in the community or re-engages them in further learning.</p> <p>Examples of current programs include: basic mechanics, welding, hospitality and automotive training.</p>
Fun, entertainment and skills development	
<i>Youth Engagement Grants Program</i> (DHF)	<p>The Youth Engagement Grants Program engages young Territorians aged 12 to 25 years through a variety of drug and alcohol free recreational events and youth development and leadership programs. The funding rounds for the grants coincide with National Youth Week and the major school holidays (June/July and December/January). In 2008-09, 105 grants totalling \$136,400 were awarded to young people and community organisations through the program.</p>
<i>Themis</i> (PFES)	<p>Police working within remote Aboriginal Communities as part of the Commonwealth Government's Emergency Response are extremely active in getting involved in various activities within the community. The aim is to build positive relationships between police and the community. Police Officers at the communities actively involve themselves in the organising of various recreational and entertainment opportunities such as football clinics and games, Blue Light Discos and BBQs. Police Officers involve themselves in the many events that occur within the communities in a positive, proactive policing manner.</p>
<i>Remote Festivals Fund</i> (NRETAS)	<p>The Remote Festivals Fund supports remote community festivals and/or develops artistic programming and initiatives. Youth involvement rates in remote communities are high and therefore this fund increases access to arts activities.</p>

Safety and security

Road safety awareness campaigns (DPI)

- In 2008-09, key road safety education messages were delivered to 35,648 students at Territory schools and childcare centres.
- The Indigenous Road Safety AFL Partnership program commenced in March 2009, with participation in remote community healthy lifestyle carnivals held in Utopia, Barunga, Katherine and Darwin.
- The back to school road safety awareness campaign targeted at drivers, parents and students was promoted through newspaper and radio advertising.

Mandatory reporting of domestic and family violence (DHF)

Changes to the *Domestic and Family Violence Act* came into effect on 12 March 2009, when it became mandatory for all adults in the Territory to report serious physical harm to Police. The serious harm needs to be actual, suspected or an imminent threat between people in a domestic relationship.

A Domestic and Family Violence Policy Team has been established within DHF to lead the implementation of this legislation. The Team have delivered information sessions about the new provisions across the NT's five main regional centres, which has included over 100 information sessions involving over 1000 people. Some key youth-focused organisations that have participated include *headspace*, YWCA, Bushmob Inc, Clinic 34 and Anglicare NT.

An internet site will be live from August 2009 for service providers and the general public and aims to be a resource for best practice response to domestic and family violence.

A successful tenderer to design, develop and implement a social marketing campaign to address domestic and family violence has been appointed. This campaign will inform the Territory community about the mandatory reporting legislation and most importantly challenge underlying beliefs that serve to normalise domestic and family violence. Young people aged 15 to 25 years of age have been identified as a key target group and will be consulted in the design of campaign material.
