

Youth Policy SNAPSHOT KATHERINE & REGION

NT Government's initiatives and activities for youth

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

Health and wellbeing

<i>Workforce training</i> (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.
<i>Child Abuse Task Force</i> (PFES and DHF)	<p>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.</p> <p>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>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 the Top End, visiting services to Katherine and Nhulunbuy have now been expanded to include a number of remote communities and staff work collaboratively with local service providers to ensure that appropriate support is provided between visits.</p>

Education

<i>Remote area visits</i> (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.
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<i>The annual Careers Expo (DET)</i>	<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>
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<i>Try'a Trade (DET)</i>	<p>Try'a Trade is a Worldskills Australia initiative. In the NT the program is aimed at encouraging Year 9 students to consider a career in the trades and take on VET subjects in their senior years of school. The event is interactive and provides students with an opportunity to "have-a-go" at various skill and trade occupations.</p> <p>2008 Darwin Try'a Trade was held over four days in September and catered for 14 schools and 430 students from Darwin and the surrounding region. The trades included horticulture, plumbing, electrical, hospitality, carpentry, cookery, hairdressing, automotive, welding, and defence. Australian Apprenticeships NT provided information on careers and how to go about undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship.</p> <p>90% of Darwin attendees surveyed said that the event helped their understanding of how to get a trade skill, with 77% indicating their desire to pursue a traineeship or apprenticeship.</p> <p>2008 Alice Springs Try'a Trade was held over two days in September with 99 students from six high schools in Alice Springs, and 77 students from remote schools attending. Trades included childcare, automotive, cookery, construction, health care, media, horticulture, welding, electrical, and conservation and land management.</p> <p>Try'a Trade was held in Katherine for the first time in 2008 for one day in October. 128 students from Katherine regional and remote schools attended and participated in 19 different trade activities. 56% of students surveyed indicated their consideration of undertaking a traineeship or apprenticeship, with 22% undecided.</p>

Training and employment

<i>Training for remote youth (DET)</i>	<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. Examples of current programs include: basic mechanics, welding, hospitality and automotive training.</p>
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<p><i>Trainee Program Civil Construction (DPI)</i></p>	<p>In late 2008 and early 2009, DPI's Construction Division advertised for various Technical Trainee Positions in Civil Construction Supervision and Civil Construction Design. As a result of the campaign, 12 school leavers and others under the age of 25 were given the opportunity to participate in the program. The trainees are located across all regions in the NT:</p> <p>Darwin-6, Nhulunbuy-1, Katherine-2, Tennant Creek-1, Alice Springs-2.</p> <p>Six of the current intake are Indigenous trainees.</p> <p>It is anticipated all will take up full time employment at the end of their 12 month traineeship. The trainees will participate in formal studies at CDU, for a Certificate IV in Civil Construction Supervision and Certificate IV in Civil Construction Design. In addition, they will rotate to various disciplines within DPI Road Projects to gain valuable work experience.</p>
<h3 style="color: red;">Fun, entertainment and skills development</h3>	
<p><i>Youth Engagement Grants Program (DHF)</i></p>	<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>
<p><i>Sponsorship of regional events (Tourism NT)</i></p>	<p>Tourism NT has a grant program providing marketing support sponsorship for regional events in the NT. Sponsorship of these events benefits young people and others in the community. Events sponsored in 2008-09 included \$10,000 in sponsorship for the Katherine Music Muster.</p>
<p><i>Operation Themis (PFES)</i></p>	<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>
<p><i>Junior Ranger Program (NRETAS)</i></p>	<p>The long running, NRETAS Parks and Wildlife, Junior Ranger Program affords Territory youth with the opportunity to participate in a range of team building, community leadership, volunteer and environmental education activities. The Program is free for Territorians aged 9-14 years and includes members in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs and some remote communities.</p>

Remote Festivals Fund (NRETAS) 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.

Safety and security

Road safety awareness campaigns (DPI)

- The Top End road safety theatre production, *MuttaCar Sorry Business*, commenced touring on 18 May 2009. Twenty two shows were performed over a four week period. In addition to the performances in Darwin and Katherine schools and correction centres, the tour visited 14 communities.
- 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.

Youth Justice Strategy (DHF) On 1 July 2008 the Northern Territory Government's Youth Justice Strategy was introduced. The strategy includes amendments to the *Youth Justice Act* which incorporates the introduction of Family Responsibility Agreements and Orders, and the transfer of the youth clients of Community Corrections from the DoJ to DHF.

The strategy aims to bring all programs and services for young people together under one department so that youth anti-social and criminal behaviour can be addressed more effectively.

Youth Community Corrections is a way to manage, monitor and assess community based young offenders (aged 10 to 18 years) who have been given an order by the Court or Parole Board.

Youth Community Corrections is currently the responsibility of the DoJ, however the function will transfer to DHF from December 2009. As of this date, Youth Justice Officers will be based in the Family Support Centres in Alice Springs and Darwin and one position will be located in Katherine.

DHF is aiming to move towards a more holistic case management approach to young offenders to reflect a more holistic, therapeutic-based approach to youth services which underpins the intent of the Youth Justice Strategy.

DHF is focussed on involving families and improving access to diversionary pathways and other support services for young people and their families.
