

Youth Policy SNAPSHOT PALMERSTON & RURAL

NT Government's initiatives and activities for youth

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

Health and wellbeing

School Based Policing Program (PFES) There are currently 11 School Based Police Officers (SBPOs) in the greater Darwin Region and 19 in total across the NT. SBPOs work closely with the school community and police in providing a positive, proactive policing resource to schools. SBPOs in partnership with DET, produced the DaPSAP designed for delivery in conjunction with classroom teachers to students from years transition to nine.

SBPOs were invited by classroom teachers to deliver lessons on personal safety and drug awareness. The lessons are designed to increase students' knowledge, skills and understanding about drugs including medicines, and strategies that can be employed to enhance their safety.

headspace (DHF) *headspace* Top End and *headspace* 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.

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 *headspace* service is being implemented by a consortium of local agencies, working in partnership to facilitate more coordinated, integrated and holistic care for young people.

- *headspace* Top End: Anglicare NT is the lead agency of the local consortium of organisations including DHF, the General Practice Network of the NT (GPNNT) and Danila Dilba Aboriginal Medical Service.

DHF and *headspace* Top End have now established shared intake assessment processes whereby young people in the *headspace* target age group will undergo an initial assessment at *headspace* before a decision is made regarding any need for specialist treatment and care through Top End Mental Health Services (TEMHS).

A consultant psychiatrist from TEMHS is also now attending fortnightly clinical case review meetings to provide consultation liaison advice to staff at *headspace* Top End.

Education

School attendance initiatives

(DET)

- The School Attendance Team provides program support and strategic advice dedicated to improving enrolment and attendance, particularly for children at risk of poor school attendance. In 2009 DET employed five regional school attendance officers, in addition to 43 Aboriginal and Islander Education Workers and 30 Home Liaison Officers providing schools with additional resources to improve student attendance.
- The Palmerston YMCA Youth Diversion program provides a safe and secure setting for identified young people with the aim of transitioning them back into the mainstream education system. The education program is delivered by a teacher from DET's Positive Learning Centre. Young people are jointly identified for the program by Gray and Moulden Park primary schools, Palmerston Police, local youth service providers, FaHCSIA and the YMCA.
- DET's Alternative Education Provision (AEP) initiative operates in Darwin's northern suburbs and Palmerston and works to transition young people disengaged from schooling aged 10–15 back into schooling, or alternatively, training or employment.

Guest Lecturer (Tourism NT)

Two Tourism NT staff have been guest lecturers at Darwin High School and Palmerston High School for *Introduction to Tourism and Tourism Marketing* courses.

Infrastructure development and upgrades

(DPI)

In partnership with the Australian Technical College (ATC) and funding from the Australian Government, upgrading and renovating of Palmerston High School and construction of new facilities at Taminmin High School and Casuarina Senior College have provided facilities to accommodate the ATC's School Based Apprenticeship Scheme.

Training and employment

VETiS

(DET)

In 2008, 119 Vocational Education and Training in Schools (VETiS) programs were funding across a broad range of industry areas, for over 1,150 students. In total, 48 schools including 27 remote schools accessed VETiS funded programs.

Under a pilot program, Taminmin High School received additional funding to deliver Certificate I in Engineering and Certificate I in Hospitality to five remote schools. Seven new qualifications in new industry areas were offered in 2008, including racing, transport and distribution, health support services and aquaculture.

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships enable senior secondary students to commence an apprenticeship or traineeship while they are still at school. Apprenticeships and traineeships combine practical work with structured training, which may be on or off-the-job or a combination of both, and on completion, will result in the apprentice or trainee receiving a nationally recognised qualification.

In 2008, 170 students commenced a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship.

<i>Territory Wildlife Park (NRETAS)</i>	NRETAS offers apprenticeships in zoo-keeping and guiding for young people. Work experience programs for school and tertiary students to learn about working in the industry are also provided to young Territorians.
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Fun, entertainment and skills development

<i>Youth Engagement Grants Program (DHF)</i>	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.
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<i>Water Safety Month/Week (DLGH)</i>	Each year the Water Safety Branch hosts a water safety campaign targeted at young people. In 2008, there were 26 events that young people could get involved in, all of them free. Events included a Splash Fest at Lake Alexander, fun day at the Nightcliff Pool and Disco by the Pool held at Palmerston Recreation Centre. The Water Safety Branch also conducted competitions including colouring in and creative arts, both targeted at young people Territory wide.
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<i>Exit Art Northern Territory year 12 students, 2008 (NRETAS)</i>	In 2008-09, MAGNT presented the fifth Exit Art exhibition in partnership with DET showcasing the talent of senior visual art, craft and design students in the NT. In conjunction with the exhibition, three Senior Art Study Days were undertaken, attracting 60 students from the Darwin region. The Exit Art catalogue was distributed to all schools and published online to improve access to this valuable resource for young Territorians outside the Darwin region and further promote the talent of our youth to a national audience.
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Safety and security

Pipes and Drains
(DLGH)

In conjunction with the City of Palmerston and the Darwin City Council, the Northern Territory Government launched the Frogs Campaign in October 2008. The campaign comprises TV, press and radio advertisements and an education lesson plan encouraging young people to stay out of pipes and drains.

Bullying, behaviour and wellbeing
(DET)

- The DaPSAP provides opportunities to assist young people to deal with bullying behaviour and assertiveness skills.
- DET created an additional Positive Learning Centre (PLC) in Palmerston to support students demonstrating extreme behaviours in the school environment. The PLC partnered with the Palmerston YMCA in the provision of programs for young people. Additional resources were also provided for Alice Springs but staffing difficulties prevented its commencement.
- \$700,000 was allocated to support schools with strategies determined at the local school level that would assist with the management of students demonstrating extreme behaviours.
- An additional two School Counsellor positions were created to support remote schools.

Mandatory reporting of domestic and family violence

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.

(DHF)

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.

Blue Light Disco
(PFES)

NT Police manage a Blue Light Disco Program aimed at providing entertainment for young people in regional branches of Blue Light NT that are environments free of alcohol, drugs and violence. During 2008-09, in excess of 80 discos were held throughout the Darwin Region and many others at remote and rural centres across the NT. Uniformed Police members attend the discos and interact with youth and their families in a positive, proactive way.
