

# Youth Policy **SNAPSHOT TERRITORY WIDE**

## NT Government's initiatives and activities for youth

### Health and wellbeing

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*Australian  
Secondary  
Students Alcohol  
and Drug Survey  
(DHF)*

In late 2008, the Australian Secondary Students Alcohol and Drug survey was conducted by the Northern Territory Department of Health and Families (DHF), with the support of the Australian Department of Health and Ageing. It is part of a series of surveys that have been conducted every three years since 1984, with more than 20,000 students from over 300 schools participating nationally in each survey.

The survey provides information about the current prevalence and trends in the use of various substances including tobacco, alcohol and cannabis among secondary students. This information is highly valued by public health and educational authorities for their planning of programs to tackle these problems.

*Supporting the  
Volatile  
Substance  
Abuse  
Prevention Act  
(DHF)*

DHF undertook a review of the *Volatile Substance Abuse Prevention Act* in July 2008, resulting in improved administrative arrangements and an operational focus on:

- increasing numbers of Management Areas and Management Plans
- wider roll-out of Opal fuel across the Top End of the Northern Territory
- training and support to increase the number of authorised persons under the Act
- community education regarding the effects of volatile substance use provided to children, families, community members and service providers.
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*Grant Programs  
(DHF)*

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.

*Education  
Sessions  
(DHF)*

The Alcohol and Other Drugs Program's clinical branch, Alcohol and Other Drugs Services, is currently providing two sessions per week to assist young people to address their alcohol and other drug use behaviour.

Education sessions are also being provided in partnership with the Hepatitis Nurse from the NT Aids and Hepatitis Council, Family Planning Australia (NT) and *headspace*.

*Promotion of  
healthy living  
(DHF)*

The Department of Health and Families provides funding and in-kind support for a broad range of activities, programs and events including World No Tobacco Day, Drug Action Week and Youth Free Tobacco Day.

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*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.
- 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.

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*Disability services (DHF)*

A range of disability services to support the maintenance of family relationships is provided through DHF.

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<p><i>NT Illicit Drug Pre Court Diversion Program</i></p> <p><i>(PFES)</i></p>	<p>The NT Illicit Drug Pre Court Diversion Program enables first time illicit drug offenders (use and possession only) to be referred to drug education, counselling and treatment services rather than face prosecution through the court system.</p> <p>The program helps drug offenders to regain control over their lives and decreases the enormous social cost of illicit drug use on individuals, families and communities.</p> <p>First time youth offenders are eligible for the Drug Pre Court Diversion Program.</p>
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<p><i>Intergenerational participation in school programs</i></p> <p><i>(DET)</i></p>	<p>Through the Drug Education Peer Forums, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles have been encouraged to participate in school-community activities about healthy lifestyles, culture and the importance of schooling and education. Such intergenerational participation sees strong family role models sharing their stories with students and emphasise values related to physical, spiritual and mental health, relationships and communication, education and employment, traditional Indigenous law and modern law, and personal safety.</p>
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<p><i>Health Promotion</i></p> <p><i>(DHF)</i></p>	<p>A major Chlamydia campaign for young people was launched Territory wide in September 2008. The 'Safe Sex No Regrets' Campaign aims to reduce the rates of Chlamydia and other sexually transmitted infections in people aged 15-29 in urban areas by promoting condom use and encouraging regular sexual health checks for people who are sexually active.</p>
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<p>Care and Protection of Children Act</p> <p><i>(DHF)</i></p>	<p>The new Act requires all people to report any sexual activity in children and young people under the age of fourteen, and in specific circumstances under eighteen to the Families &amp; Children Central Intake Team.</p> <p>Resources have been developed to support medical practitioners in reporting sexual activity. A communication strategy is being developed to provide education to staff in the government and non-government sectors, and young people to support them in the reporting process.</p> <p>The Central Intake Team, Police, NT Families and Children (NTFC), Sexual Assault Referral Centre and DHF health professionals will continue to work together to improve coordination between agencies on this issue.</p>
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<p><i>School based sexuality programs</i></p> <p><i>(DET)</i></p>	<p>Sexuality Education is provided to students in Years Transition to 10 as part of the NT Curriculum. DET supports schools/teachers through curriculum, teaching methodology assistance and provides exemplar lessons and sessions for parents and Health Promoting School Nurses.</p>

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<p><i>Child Abuse Task Force</i> (PFES and DHF)</p>	<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>
<p><i>Suicide Prevention Action Plan</i> (DHF)</p>	<p>A three year Action Plan for Suicide Prevention has been developed by the Cross Government Co-ordinating Committee for Suicide Prevention.</p> <p>The Action Plan was launched in Alice Springs in March 2009 and is a whole-of-government response, including commitments to the specific actions and initiatives aimed at reducing suicide and fostering individual and community resilience and capacity.</p> <p>DHF has committed additional funding of \$330,000 over the next 18 months to progress a range of new initiatives under the Action Plan. These include a range of suicide intervention training initiatives that target both Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations and young people over the age of 15.</p> <p>Other initiatives include the provision of training workshops to address non-fatal self-harming behaviour amongst young people, the development of appropriate resources providing information on suicide and self harm prevention and bereavement support for use by a wide range of service providers and members of the community, the facilitation of a range of short term bereavement support groups and a forum focusing on mental health in the workplace.</p>
<p><i>Employee Assistance Program</i> (NTG)</p>	<p>The Employee Assistance Program is a counselling service available for NT Government employees and their families. The service is completely confidential and agencies pay for the first five visits. The Employee Assistance Program assists employees with problems that may affect their work such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ emotional stress</li> <li>▪ interpersonal conflicts</li> <li>▪ alcohol and other drug related problems</li> <li>▪ family and marital problems</li> <li>▪ other work related problems.</li> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<p><i>Mental health programs for students</i> (DET)</p>	<p>Mind Matters is a mental health program delivered in schools for secondary students focused on reducing mental health problems and disorders among young people.</p>

## Education

<p><i>New Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training</i> (DET)</p>	<p>The new Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET) is designed to ensure students gain skills that will be essential to their future as a student, an employee and a citizen. These skills include the ability to communicate well, get on with others and take initiative in life, study and work. The first subject – Stage 1 Personal Learning Plan was implemented in 2009.</p>
<p><i>Scholarship Grants</i> (DET)</p>	<p>Each semester, students can apply for a funding grant to help them achieve in their chosen field of endeavour. It might be funding to travel, work experience, a digital camera to help with subjects, a musical instrument or tuition, among others, as long as it helps to achieve their goals.</p>
<p><i>Water Safety Lesson Plans</i> (DLGH)</p>	<p>In conjunction with DET, the Water Safety Branch of DLGH has developed and delivers water safety education for primary and middle years students. The lessons provide students with the necessary information to stay safe in and around aquatic environments. The Water Safety Branch delivers these lessons to students Territory wide and the plans can be downloaded for free from the web.</p>
<p><i>Community Education Parks and Wildlife</i> (NRETAS)</p>	<p>A variety of interactive Ranger talks/walks were conducted (in the classroom and on park) for schools (including School of the Air) across the Territory during 2008-09. Requested by teachers, each activity was directly linked to the NT curriculum.</p>
<p><i>Artists in Schools Program</i> (NRETAS)</p>	<p>The Artists in Schools Program is a partnership between the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport (NRETAS) and DET. Through this program schools can apply to place artists within their community to promote positive learning experiences and direct exposure to artists' professional practice.</p>
<p><i>VETiS</i> (DET)</p>	<p>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. Seven new qualifications in new industry areas were offered in 2008, including racing, transport and distribution, health support services and aquaculture.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In 2008, 170 students commenced a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship.</p>

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<p><i>Enterprise Grants</i> (DET)</p>	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In 2008, 34 Enterprise projects were funded.</li> <li>▪ In 2009, 29 Enterprise projects are funded.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Scholarships</i> (DET)</p>	<p>In 2008, DET offered three different types of scholarships to Territorians who are enrolled to study at a tertiary institution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Higher education scholarships are available to school leavers to undertake full-time degree level studies (40 available).</li> <li>▪ Vocational education and training scholarships available to Territorians studying a Certificate III to Diploma level course (20 available).</li> <li>▪ Student teacher bursaries are available to people who plan to study or have already started studying for a degree in education (20 available).</li> </ul>
<p><i>Free Bus Travel for Students</i> (DPI)</p>	<p>On 27 January 2009, the Northern Territory Government introduced free bus travel on all scheduled services on the Territory’s school and public bus networks. All students attending an Australian education facility (which includes primary, middle and high school, University, TAFE and VET students nationally), studying part-time or full-time can travel for free.</p>
<p><i>Arts Scholarship Scheme</i> (NRETAS)</p>	<p>The Arts Scholarship Scheme provides a number of scholarships for full time post secondary arts training in an undergraduate Degree, Diploma, or Certificate III or IV. The closing date is 31 January annually.</p>
<p><i>Junior Ranger Program</i> (NRETAS)</p>	<p>This program encourages children to continue their schooling and promotes careers in natural resource/land/protected areas management and other occupations within NRETAS. Structured activities link to school subjects/curriculum and demonstrate the link between learning and employment.</p>
<p><i>Exit Art exhibition</i> (DET and NRETAS)</p>	<p>The annual Exit Art exhibition at Darwin’s MAGNT features contemporary art by Year 12 students from across the Territory.</p> <p>From May to July 2009, the MAGNT presented the fifth Exit Art exhibition in partnership with DET featuring the talents of senior visual art, craft and design students.</p>

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<i>Earth Science/ Mining/Petroleum Scholarship</i>  (DRDPIFR)	<p>The scholarship is awarded annually in October to a young Territorian to undertake university study in the earth sciences, mining or petroleum related professional fields.</p> <p>The objectives of the scholarship are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ encourage young Territorians to study in the earth sciences, mining or petroleum related fields</li> <li>▪ assist a young Territorian studying the first year of the earth sciences, mining or petroleum related degree in the Territory at CDU followed by two further years of study in earth sciences, mining or petroleum related field at a recognised tertiary institute interstate to complete the degree</li> <li>▪ contribute to the retention of earth science, mining or petroleum related professionals in the Territory to assist in the development of the Territory's mineral and energy resource base.</li> </ul> <p>The scholarship provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ an annual stipend of \$12,000 to assist with living and other expenses, paid quarterly in advance, for three years</li> <li>▪ guaranteed employment in the Territory at base casual rates during each of the long university vacations.</li> </ul> <p>The successful applicant is provided with a mentor in the Minerals and Energy Group of the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources (DRDPIFR) to assist him or her with work experience placements and in examining career options.</p> <p>The 2009 recipient was Ms Millicent Crowe who is studying Mining Engineering/Science.</p>
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<i>Northern Territory Literary Awards</i>  (NRETAS)	<p>The Northern Territory Library administers the annual Northern Territory Literary Awards. Young people have the opportunity to showcase their writing skills and respond well to the awards, with good entries received for both the Kath Manzie Youth Literary Award and the Red Earth Poetry Award.</p>
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## Training and employment

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<i>Workready Program</i>  (DET)	<p>The Workready Program aims to encourage Year 11 and 12 students to take part in structured vocational education and training that leads to a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship and hopefully, an ongoing apprenticeship or traineeship.</p> <p>Participants in the program also undertake other activities that help prepare them for the world of work, including senior first aid training, driver training and licensing, and employability skills training.</p> <p>In 2008, five high schools participated in the Workready Program, with over 250 of their students enrolling in the program.</p> <p>As a result, 73 students gained a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship or full-time employment through participating in the program.</p> <p>Negotiations with a further four high schools commenced with a view to them participating in the Workready Program in 2009.</p>
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*NTPS  
employment of  
young people*

## **NTPS proportion of staff aged 25 years and under**

**At June 2009**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority	10%
Auditor General	20%
Business & Employment	13%
Chief Minister	7%
Commissioner for Public Employment	3%
Darwin Port Corporation	1%
Education & Training	7%
Health & Families	9%
Justice	9%
Legislative Assembly	4%
Local Government & Housing	10%
Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts & Sport	11%
NT Electoral Commission	8%
Ombudsman	17%
Planning & Infrastructure	13%
Police, Fire & Emergency Services	10%
Power & Water Corporation	5%
Regional Development, Primary Industries, Fisheries & Resources	8%
Tourism NT	17%
Treasury	23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9%</b>

Source: Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment, August 2009

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*Support for  
disadvantaged  
Territorians*

*(DET)*

The 2008 Australians Working Together program provided grants to eight organisations to run a variety of programs for disadvantaged Territorians.

Three of the programs specifically targeted young people and included activities such as providing graduated introduction to the workplace for young people with a disability, appropriate transition practices so that young people with intellectual disabilities are more work ready and a community development project for young people with hearing disabilities.

*Employer  
incentives*

*(DET)*

- Employer incentives are available to employers in the private sector to encourage them to employ apprentices and trainees in areas with identified occupational shortages and apprentices and trainees from disadvantaged groups. In 2008, 340 occupational shortage employer incentives valued at \$4000 each were released and 100 disadvantaged groups employer incentives valued at \$2000 each were released.
- Workwear/Workgear Bonus aims to assist apprentices and trainees with the costs they incur buying workwear, safety gear and other work related necessities during the first year of their apprenticeship or traineeship. In 2008, a total of 1761 bonuses were allocated: 684 valued at \$1000 each to apprentices in skill shortage areas and 1077 valued at \$300 each to other apprentices and trainees.

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<p><i>School-to-Work Transition Strategic Plan 2007-2009</i></p> <p><i>(DET)</i></p>	<p>School-to-work transition programs and activities aim to assist Year 11 and 12 school students in their transition from school to work through school retention to Year 12, completion of the NTCET or an equivalent qualification and ultimately, into further training or full-time employment.</p> <p>All senior schools work with Local Community Partnership providers to work with students who are seeking vocational education and training and liaise with local industry to organise a range of livelihood activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ VET in Schools courses</li> <li>▪ work Experience</li> <li>▪ Structured Workplace Learning</li> <li>▪ industry tours and information sessions</li> <li>▪ school-based apprenticeships and traineeships.</li> </ul> <p>The School-to-Work Transition Strategic Plan 2007-2009 was developed to assist young people who complete secondary school to make a successful transition from school to employment, further education or training.</p> <p>Key action areas in the Plan continued to be implemented throughout 2008-09.</p> <p>Initiatives under Jobs Plan 3 aim to facilitate the transition of school students into employment, further education or training. These initiatives continued to be implemented throughout 2008-09.</p>
<p><i>Alice Springs Youth Employment Strategy</i></p> <p><i>(DET)</i></p>	<p>The Alice Springs Youth Employment Strategy (YES) was launched by Minister Karl Hampton MLA in December 2008. The Strategy was developed in consultation with local Alice Springs stakeholders including youth, businesses and employment support agencies. The Strategy identifies six key projects to be progressed to enhance young people's opportunity to engage and remain in local employment. The Alice Springs YES has now moved into the second phase and implementation of the strategy priorities has commenced. The "Understanding Us" report has been released and youth consultation mechanisms have been established.</p>
<p><i>Disability services</i></p> <p><i>(DHF)</i></p>	<p>During 2008-09, 17 young people with a disability were supported in specialist post school option services which enhanced their ability and skills for transition from school to work. Another 12 young people with a disability received specialised day option services which enhanced their independent living skills.</p>
<p><i>Indigenous apprentices</i></p> <p><i>(DHF)</i></p>	<p>Two Indigenous apprentices are employed in the Alcohol and Other Drugs Program of DHF. The apprentices work across a diverse range of activities and programs to develop skills and knowledge to assist them in developing a career within the alcohol and other drugs sector.</p>

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<p><i>Staff Opportunities</i> (Tourism NT)</p>	<p>17% of Tourism NT's current workforce are aged 25 years or younger (source: OCPE, August 2009), so whilst core business is not centred around young people, through their employment, supervision and involvement in performance (PEP) and career (CEP) programs, Tourism NT employees are developing skills and have improved access to training and personal development.</p>
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<p><i>Traineeship Program</i> (Tourism NT)</p>	<p>Individuals are employed on a twelve month contract and supported to undertake studies combined with on-the-job training. At the end of the 12 month period the individuals are awarded a Certificate III in Business or Hospitality (depending on the focus of studies undertaken and the area the employee works in). This Certificate is RTO issued and recognised across Australia. In 2008, Tourism NT had four individuals complete traineeships, most of whom have found employment either within Tourism NT or other government agencies.</p>
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<p><i>Indigenous Business Development Program</i> (DRDPIFR)</p>	<p>The Indigenous Business Development Program assists Indigenous people to enter or to expand commercial business arrangements that will create employment and/or wealth creation opportunities.</p> <p>It will contribute to closing the economic gap between non Indigenous and Indigenous Territorians and provide for a flexible funding program that meets Indigenous business need and is based on sound commercial practice.</p> <p>Funding up to \$30,000 per application is made available to assist in business development including consultancy assistance and tangible assets such as equipment, professional or personal development for Indigenous business owners and/or staff, and finding solutions to enable the conduct of business on collectively owned land.</p>
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<p><i>Regional Economic Development Fund</i> (DRDPIFR)</p>	<p>The purpose of the Regional Economic Development Fund (REDF) is to assist with the development of business and industry capability in all regions of the NT. The REDF stimulates and supports regional economic development through locally-based initiatives.</p> <p>Grants to a maximum of \$25,000 may be available.</p>
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<p><i>The NT Youth Business Awards</i> (DET)</p>	<p>This is an annual joint program between DET, DBE and the Small Business Association NT. The awards aim to promote the involvement of secondary school students undertaking small business education, to recognise the students' achievements and to bring together industry and education to participate in the ongoing development of small business education.</p>

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<p><i>Northern Territory Training Awards: celebrating excellence in vocational education and training</i> (DET)</p>	<p>The annual NT Training Awards recognise achievements by Territory businesses, training organisations, apprentices, trainees and students. The Awards consist of two categories, student and organisational, with twelve awards in total.</p> <p>The student categories are: the Austin Asche Apprentice of the Year, Trainee of the Year, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year, Vocational Student of the Year, School-Based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year, and VET in Schools Student of the Year.</p> <p>Winners and runners-up of all categories were announced at the Gala Dinner on 13th September 2008 at the Darwin Convention Centre.</p> <p>Winners of four NT student categories were eligible to represent the NT at the Australian Training Awards, held in Darwin for the first time at the Darwin Convention Centre in November 2008.</p>
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## Fun, entertainment and skills development

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<p><i>Youth Engagement Grants Program</i> (DHF)</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>
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<p><i>National Youth Week</i> (DHF)</p>	<p>National Youth Week is an annual event held around April each year in every Australian state and territory. The event has been part of the Territory's youth calendar since 2000 when it became a national initiative for all young Australians. In the Territory, it's become our biggest youth celebration where young people get involved, have fun, participate in heaps of events and activities and showcase their many talents.</p> <p>It's all about young people! It gives them the opportunity to express ideas, raise concerns and encourages the community to take notice of young people and celebrate the positive contribution they make to society. The theme for National Youth Week is always to celebrate and recognise the value of all young Australians to their communities.</p> <p>National Youth Week 2009 provided an occasion for young Territorians aged between 12-25 to express their ideas and views, raise issues of concern to them, act on issues which affect their lives and create and enjoy entertainment.</p> <p>In 2009, nearly 100 diverse activities were held across the Territory that provided an opportunity for young Territorians to be engaged from the planning through to the roll out of events which ranged from workshops and forums, conferences, dance parties, festivals, sporting activities, competitions and exhibitions. National Youth Week just continues to get bigger and better each year.</p>
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<i>Disability services</i> (DHF)	A total of 131 people with a disability were provided with recreation and holiday programs for the first three quarters of 2008/09 (data for last quarter not available at time of printing).
<i>Animal Awareness Week</i> (DLGH)	In 2009, DLGH's Animal Welfare Branch hosted the first ever Animal Awareness Week. The aim of the week was to promote the care and protection of animals in the Territory. The Branch achieved this by conducting shopping centre displays, reptile demonstrations, a library talk and demonstration, open day and competitions, among other events. The majority of events were free to participants.
<i>Junior Ranger Program</i> (NRETAS)	The Junior Ranger Program encourages youth participants and their families to get out and experience the recreational opportunities provided by the NT's magnificent National Parks.
<i>Junior Ranger Review magazine</i> (NRETAS)	The Junior Ranger Review is an environmental magazine for kids published quarterly. It is packed with fun facts, quiz games and puzzles to teach young people about the Territory's unique plants, animals and habitats. The Review during 2008-09 was distributed to schools, parks, community groups and individuals.
<i>NRETAS 'For Kids' website</i> (NRETAS)	This website provides ideas, activities and information for young people and the community on fun, practical and safe ways to discover the outdoors.
<i>Network of Community Sport and Recreation officers</i> (NRETAS)	A total of 56 Sport and Recreation officers are currently funded and supported across eight Local Government Shires. Funding is available to sport and recreation organisations to support the development of sport and recreation in the Territory. The Northern Territory Government offers financial assistance to sport, recreation and Local Government organisations to assist the delivery of services and programs within the community.  This program applies funding provided under the Closing the Gap initiative.
<i>Community Based Education Organisations</i> (DET)	The DET Community Based Education Organisations program provides grants to non government organisations that recognise the achievements of young people in schools and the community.
<i>InSite</i> (NTT)	Treasury acknowledges and celebrates the efforts and achievements of its staff in and outside of work and does so at every opportunity through InSite, Treasury's intranet site. A number of staff in 2008-09 received special prizes and awards or completed diplomas and certificates, including Treasury's 2008 apprentice who successfully completed a Certificate III in Business Administration.

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*Physical activity,  
sport and safe  
partying*

(DET)

- DET policy provides students with the opportunity to participate in at least two hours per week of physical activity or sport as part of the Northern Territory Curriculum.
- Drug Education Peer Forums provide young people with the opportunity to be involved in musical performances e.g. bands, plays/skits, be involved in healthy sport activities and games e.g. 'mini olympics' and humorous video productions e.g. Papunya School produced a DVD called Drug Busters (music taken from Ghost Busters theme) and involved the students playing out roles to 'bust' drugs in the community and to help keep people safe!
- Safe Partying Program for middle years and senior secondary schools – the Drug Education unit delivered a series of lessons to middle years and senior secondary schools focussed entirely on safe partying, in relation to having fun whilst keeping safe. The program involved young people discussing and role-playing common party scenarios and they were tasked with providing solutions and strategies to keep themselves safe before, during and after each party scenario. This also involved interactive activities like mixing non-alcoholic drink alternatives, drink spiking exercises, drink mixing demonstrations, guest speakers, team games and humorous videos depicting poor choices made by people after drinking or taking drugs e.g. vomiting, dancing strangely or speaking unintelligibly.

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*Young Achiever  
Awards*

(DHF)

The Northern Territory Young Achiever Awards recognise those young Territorians who have contributed positively to their communities through their achievements. Each Award winner receives \$2000 and a magnificent trophy.

The 2009 Young Achiever Awards recognised young Territorians in the following categories:

- The Minister for Young Territorians Excellence in Youth Leadership Award – Nathan Frick
  - The Perkins Shipping Sports Award – Jack Benson
  - The ConocoPhillips Environment Award – Katie Chatto
  - The Somerville Community Services Award – Kat Byron
  - The Power and Water Science and Engineering Award – Simone Liddy
  - The McArthur River Mining Regional and Rural Initiative Award – Bronte James
  - The Northern Territory Government Career Achievement Award – Kia Naylor
  - The Charles Darwin University Arts Award – Tashka Urban
  - The Northern Territory Government Young Carers Award – Brilee Jaques
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<i>NT Board of Studies Awards</i> (DET)	NT Board of Studies holds student award presentation ceremonies each year in Alice Springs and Darwin to publicly recognise the achievements of the year's outstanding students. The events are held in the first two weeks in February hosted by the Chief Minister and the Minister for Education and Training. The ceremonies recognised academic excellence among 2008 school leavers. Also awarded at these ceremonies are the Administrator's Medals for primary students.
<i>Competitions</i> (DLGH)	The Water Safety and Animal Welfare Branch conduct a number of competitions throughout the year, including colouring in and creative arts competitions for Water Safety Week, Animal Awareness Week and National Youth Week. Winners and runners up of these competitions are awarded their prizes in a public celebration either at their school assembly, special event or public display or through a newspaper and/or website article.
<i>Quick Response Scheme</i> (NRETAS)	<p>The Quick Response Scheme is a responsive small grants mechanism and offers assistance for promoting youth arts achievements. Relevant examples where young artists have been assisted include the Aviators band supported to participate in Long Way to the Top End and the Fuse Festival.</p> <p>Project Round funding is available to young artists and has previously supported the artistic career development of artists such as Mei lei Swan and Tashka Urban as well as designer Elliot Rich.</p>
<i>Leadership through sport</i> (DET)	School sporting and recreational activities facilitate the development of leadership skills through activities that involve cooperation, problem solving and communication skills.
<i>Indigenous Student Leadership and Mentorship program</i> (DET)	<p>The Indigenous Student Leadership and Mentorship Program (ISLMP) was developed to meet the needs of Indigenous secondary school students from a number of schools around the Territory particularly remote communities. The project aims to develop student capacity and leadership opportunities through essential learnings such as identity, thinking, communication, interdependence and futures, and community capacity by recognising character strengths such as respect, trust, courage, resilience, confidence, responsibility, leadership skills, self esteem and self worth.</p> <p>This ISLMP aims to keep Indigenous youth connected to learning opportunities and their broader community, empowering them to have greater connection and control over their worlds and to expand educational and career experience with improved community engagement. The Project Coordinator and Mentors on site will ensure student attendance and participation.</p>
<i>DET Indigenous Leaders Network</i> (DET)	Ten young Indigenous leaders working as Tutors or Assistant Teachers in their local schools have been provided with the opportunity, during a five month program, to focus on managing their leadership and personal development around building and maintaining strong relationships.

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<p><i>Junior Police Rangers Program</i> (PFES)</p>	<p>The Junior Police Rangers Program is a Police run program offered to school students from Years 7 to 9. Students are selected for the program through an application and interview process where youth displaying leadership and role model abilities are selected to participate in the three year program.</p> <p>In 2009, the program offers team building, leadership and personal development opportunities for a group of 80 students, through camping and educational experiences with the aim of building self esteem and skills and encouraging the passing on of these skills to their peers. It is hoped that after school the participants will return to provide service to the community and put their skills and enthusiasm into practice.</p>
<p><i>Competitions</i> (DLGH)</p>	<p>When conducting public relations campaigns Territory wide, the Water Safety and Animal Welfare Branch takes into consideration the needs of people living in remote areas. All competitions that are conducted are marketed to those young people in remote areas who may not be able to travel to attend events.</p>
<p><i>Promoting opportunities to participate in sport and recreation</i> (NRETAS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sport Linkup continues to engage young Territorians in sport. The one-stop-shop interactive website (<a href="http://www.sportlinkup.nt.gov">www.sportlinkup.nt.gov</a>) enables young people to share ideas about junior sport in the Territory and enables sporting groups to post information on holiday programs and junior sports competitions. The website also promotes healthy lifestyle choices for sporting fans.</li> <li>▪ The Indigenous Sport Unit launched a Territory/Shire wide women's softball competition in April 2009. Coaching and officiating training was provided to over 700 participants who took part in the competition.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Awareness raising</i> (DET)</p>	<p>DET provides students with information in relation to recreational activities available to young people in the school and community.</p> <p>Schools liaise with youth service providers including sport and recreation officers to assist information dissemination in regard to after-school-hours entertainment activities and programs for young people.</p>
<p><i>Youth Round Table</i> (DHF)</p>	<p>Engaging with young Territorians is important to ensure that issues of importance to them are heard and acted on by government. The Youth Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians (Youth Round Table) links young Territorians to the Northern Territory Government and enables them to have input to decision-making. The 2008 Youth Round Table met formally four times during 2008 and had direct input into government policy and programs with a youth focus. Members consulted directly with over 1500 young Territorians throughout their term. Copies of the project reports and Annual Report are available at <a href="http://www.youth.nt.gov.au">www.youth.nt.gov.au</a>.</p> <p>A new group of 16 young people were appointed at the beginning of 2009. They have commenced work on a number of community based projects and have participated in numerous community consultations and events.</p>

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<p><i>Territory 2030</i> (DCM)</p>	<p>In October 2008, the Chief Minister announced the development of Territory 2030, a vision for the future of the Northern Territory. A steering committee was established of key leaders in our community, chosen for their expertise and experience across a range of sectors, including business, not-for-profit, research, community and local government.</p> <p>The Chief Minister and the Territory 2030 Steering Committee recognised the importance of engaging with young Territorians throughout the development of the twenty year strategy and subsequently the Youth Round Table was appointed as a reference group to the steering committee. Two formal meetings with the 2009 Youth Round Table have occurred and they have submitted written advice and feedback to the steering committee following the meetings.</p> <p>The draft Territory 2030 Strategy contains a number of targets that support the five key directions of the Youth Policy Framework.</p>
<p><i>Environment Grants Program</i> (NRETAS)</p>	<p>The 2008-09 Environment Grants program provided \$26,600 to 14 schools to implement projects that provide educational and environmental outcomes. A range of projects were supported that promote ecological sustainability and build awareness of the impacts of personal behaviour and lifestyle choices. Students have been engaged in identifying issues and actions to address them.</p>
<p><i>Decision making and democratic processes</i> (DET)</p>	<p>Drug Education Peer Forums provide young people with opportunities to make decisions in regards to classroom content, behaviour management (including rules/consequences/rewards), program delivery and personal choices. For example, students have been using the POOCH (problem, options, outcomes, choices, how did it go) decision making model as a tool to assist decision making processes both in the collective classroom and in their own personal decision making contexts.</p>
<p><i>Chief Executive Student Forum</i> (DET)</p>	<p>The Chief Executive Student Forum consists of a group of 16 senior secondary government school students from across the Territory from Years 10 to 12.</p> <p>The students discuss issues directly with the Chief Executive and other senior departmental decision-makers, ask questions, and make recommendations.</p> <p>Through this forum, students have the opportunity to develop a range of communication, interpersonal, team participation and leadership skills.</p>
<p><i>Youth Services Directory</i> (DHF)</p>	<p>The Office of Youth Affairs has produced and maintains a Youth Services Directory that provides a comprehensive list of specific programs and services – including youth groups and networks – that are available to young Territorians via the youth portal <a href="http://www.youth.nt.gov.au">www.youth.nt.gov.au</a>.</p>

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<p><i>Physical Education, Health and Sexuality Education and Drug Education Peer Forums</i> (DET)</p>	<p>Schools across the NT have conducted health promotion events, peer forums and community exhibitions to provide young people with meet-and-greet access to information and services provided by youth and health agencies in the community. At these events, youth service and health providers present information and provide pamphlets, wallet-sized cards, and contact phone numbers in relation to their support service details.</p> <p>Classroom programs explicitly teach help-seeking skills and attitudes to enable young people to seek appropriate help when needed in relation to sexuality and relationships, alcohol and other drugs, health, nutrition and physical exercise.</p>
<p><i>Qualified Career Advisors</i> (DET)</p>	<p>The Certificate IV in Career Development has been identified as the minimum qualification for teachers providing career advice to high school students including VET teachers, career advisors, teachers supporting Personal Learning Plans and senior school teachers.</p> <p>A total of 28 teachers successfully completed this qualification in 2008 and have provided positive feedback regarding relevance of the training to their work with students at the school level. Fifty school practitioners and allied professionals have enrolled in 2009.</p>
<p><i>Online information</i> (DLGH)</p>	<p>All Water Safety and Animal Welfare events, competitions and program information are available on line. This includes the “Be water safety wise” jingle, “Pipes and drains” TV and radio advertisements, competition forms, Water Safe Australia Programme registration and upcoming events.</p>
<p><b>Safety and security</b></p>	
<p><i>Alcohol and water</i> (DLGH)</p>	<p>In late 2008, the Water Safety Branch placed an article in the Street Smart handbook promoting the danger of drinking and aquatic activities. The handbook is targeted at school leavers.</p>
<p><i>Water Safety Lesson Plans</i> (DLGH and DET)</p>	<p>In conjunction with DET, the Water Safety Branch developed and delivers water safety education for middle year’s students. The lessons provide students with the necessary information to stay safe in and around aquatic environments.</p>
<p><i>Road safety reforms</i> (DPI)</p>	<p>The implementation of road safety reforms in 2008-09 specifically addressed the driving safety of young Territorians. New initiatives included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a detailed review into the driver training and licensing environment in the NT which will guide the development of a refocused and renewed subsidised driver education and training program</li> <li>▪ the transfer of the Driver Training and Licensing (DTAL) program from DET to DPI. Transferring DTAL to DPI will better align the program’s focus towards road safety and licensing</li> <li>▪ amending legislation to address drug driving and hooning behaviour.</li> </ul>

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<p><i>Transit Officers (DPI)</i></p>	<p>Transit Officers regularly patrol the school bus network, bus stops and interchanges to assist passengers in having a safe and trouble free journey.</p> <p>Transit Officers are uniformed Northern Territory Government law enforcement officers and have the authority to deal with unlawful activity in and around public transport facilities.</p> <p>Transit Officers address issues with young people in the same way that Northern Territory Police do under the <i>Youth Justice Act</i>.</p> <p>Before a Transit Officer exercises any of their powers, they are required (wherever practical) to produce their “Transit Officer” Identity Card for inspection.</p>
<p><i>Code of Conducts for School Travel (DPI and DET)</i></p>	<p>Each year students going to and from schools in the Northern Territory undertake over one million bus trips. Most students behave appropriately most of the time. However, misbehaviour by some students can make travel unpleasant for their colleagues, distract the driver, result in damage to vehicles or, in extreme cases, put bus occupants and other road users at serious risk.</p> <p>To help ensure that school students behave sensibly and safely on the buses, DPI together with DET, bus operators, schools and police, reviewed and developed four separate Codes of Conduct for students, parents/carers, school bus drivers and operators, being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Code of Conduct for School Bus Travel</li> <li>▪ Code of Conduct for School Student Ferry Travel</li> <li>▪ Code of Good Practice for Transport of Students with Special Needs</li> <li>▪ Code of Good Practice for Transport of Students to Intensive English Units.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Safe schools (DET and PFES)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The National Safe Schools Framework and the ensuing NT Safe Schools Framework assists school communities to build safe, supportive schools to minimise bullying, harassment and violence and to help support teachers, staff and parents/caregivers on issues related to child abuse and neglect.</li> <li>▪ In conjunction with Police, DET has developed DaPSAP to support SBPOs deliver drug and personal safety messages in conjunction with classroom teachers. This resource contains relevant information for young people about the law, consequences, rights and responsibilities in regards to drugs, bullying, personal safety and community building activities.</li> <li>▪ Students are offered opportunities to be involved in healthy alternatives to drug and illegal risk taking behaviour including sports such as football, soccer, softball, netball and swimming, activities including music performances and recording, community development activities e.g. school/community art murals and recreational activities such as traditional hunting and fishing.</li> </ul>

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<p><i>Information Commissioner</i> (DoJ)</p>	<p>In the first week of May 2009 the Office of the Information Commissioner participated in International Privacy Awareness Week (PAW). This is an annual event organised with the Privacy Commissioners from the Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities group. The Territory Office of the Information Commissioner, which has responsibility for privacy in the Northern Territory, is also responsible for the creation of awareness of privacy issues generally in the community.</p> <p>The issue of the interaction between privacy and technology amongst young people is a major concern of Privacy Commissions around the world and raising awareness amongst that demographic has been the focus of PAW for the last two years. The Northern Territory contributed to this awareness raising amongst young people in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ privacy tips addressing issues relevant to young people such as the responsible use of email and portable storage devices; and</li> <li>▪ a video and posters addressing the uploading of material onto the Internet were launched and forwarded to DET for dissemination to young people in Territory schools.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Safe Pool Grant</i> (DLGH)</p>	<p>DLGH's Water Safety Branch closed the Safe Pool Grant in December 2008. The Grant provided owners of pools installed prior to 2004 with financial assistance to upgrade their pools to make them safer, particularly for young people.</p>
<p><i>Youth Diversion Unit</i> (PFES)</p>	<p>The NT Police Youth Diversion Program works with youth who have entered the Justice system. The purpose of the scheme is to work with young offenders through formal assessment, youth justice conferences and referrals to diversion programs. NT Police manage and deliver the scheme and administer and support the Youth Diversion Scheme community grants program.</p>
<p><i>School Based Policing Program</i> (PFES)</p>	<p>SBPOs work closely with school welfare personnel in identifying and addressing incidences of bullying and anti-social behaviour at schools. SBPOs offer support to victims of bullying by providing options relating to prosecution and or strategies to reduce the impact of bullying.</p> <p>SBPOs have developed lessons focussed on cyber bullying and protecting oneself while online. They work closely with schools to spread the personal safety message.</p> <p>SBPOs work closely with school welfare personnel to provide support to youth involved in DV situations. This support includes providing options regarding police action regarding assaults or violence and initiating DV orders, if appropriate. Lessons are delivered by SBPOs encompassing personal safety, which can provide youth with coping skills in the event of encountering DV in their home environment.</p>

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*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.

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*SCRAM (Schools Conflict Resolution and Mediation) program*

(DoJ)

On 3 April 2009 at the NT Supreme Court, the Community Justice Centre launched the SCRAM program as part of National Youth Week.

SCRAM is an interactive role play competition for Year 9 and 10 high school students. The students are taught mediation principles, skills and process to develop peaceful dispute resolution awareness and skills. SCRAM aims to influence the school and the community through the skills the students learn. It provides an enjoyable and dynamic way of introducing students to the mediation process.

A very enthusiastic congregation including School Principals, Directors from DoJ, Acting NT Anti-Discrimination Commissioner and members of the NT Youth Ministers Round Table of Young Territorians welcomed the SCRAM initiative into the NT. In 2009, five Territory schools have embarked on the wonderful journey of exploring conflict by understanding difference through the use of mediation.

SCRAM is a not-for-profit organisation that relies on the generosity of organisations, service providers, educational institutions and individual professional mediators.

The SCRAM program serves a double purpose. While it is focused on creating a pleasant experience in which students can learn about conflict and mediation, it also offers mediators opportunities to practise and enhance their own mediation skills. Participation in SCRAM is a recognised Professional Development activity under the National Mediator Accreditation System.

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<p><i>Bullying, behaviour and wellbeing</i> (DET)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The DaPSAP provides opportunities to assist young people to deal with bullying behaviour and assertiveness skills.</li> <li>▪ \$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.</li> <li>▪ An additional two School Counsellor positions were created to support remote schools.</li> </ul>
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<p><i>Domestic Violence Unit</i> (PFES)</p>	<p>Young people involved as participants in domestic violence (DV) incidents are flagged on the police system as DV participants and notifications are sent through to NTFC. In dealing with families affected by DV police make referrals to appropriate agencies for support, should it be required.</p>
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<p><i>Mandatory reporting of domestic and family violence</i> (DHF)</p>	<p>Changes to the <i>Domestic and Family Violence Act</i> 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.</p> <p>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 <i>headspace</i>, YWCA, Bushmob Inc, Clinic 34 and Anglicare NT.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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<p><i>Police as positive role models</i> (PFES)</p>	<p>School and community collaborative events as part of the drug education curriculum include exhibitions, Battle of the Bands and Blue Light Discos that help to improve young peoples' perceptions and relationships with the Police.</p>
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<p><i>Junior Police Ranger</i> (PFES)</p>	<p>Over 2008 and 2009, 110 Junior Police Rangers were and continue to interact with police through a range of activities. Junior Police Rangers are guided by police on camps and survival courses and have the opportunity to see police in a non-authoritarian supportive role.</p> <p>Note: The Junior Police Ranger program runs on a calendar year cycle so the numbers of young participants are inclusive of the full year of 2008 and 2009.</p>

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<i>Safety House</i> (PFES)	Safety House NT is managed by the NT Police Crime Prevention Section. Youth are made aware of the safety house program through promotion at community events and through SBPOs.
<i>Youth Crime Unit</i> (PFES)	Members of the Youth Crime Unit positively engage youth involved in anti-social behaviour in the community. Police regularly attend areas where youth congregate, such as skate parks and shopping centres, and attempt to develop a rapport to help youth understand the role of police in tackling youth crime. This engagement is an important tool in information gathering and reducing crime within the community.
<i>Ongoing review of legislation and policies</i> (DLGH)	The <i>Housing Act</i> , housing policy and procedures are under ongoing review to better meet the needs of young people accessing public housing.

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