

Youth Policy SNAPSHOT TOP END

NT Government's initiatives and activities for youth

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

Health and wellbeing

<p><i>Supporting the Volatile Substance Abuse Prevention Act (DHF)</i></p>	<p>DHF undertook a review of the <i>Volatile Substance Abuse Prevention Act</i> in July 2008, resulting in improved administrative arrangements and an operational focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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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<p><i>Red Dust Role Models Program (DHF)</i></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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<p><i>Grant Programs (DHF)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Drug Education Support, a community development small grants program to support activities relating to alcohol and other drugs issues, was also available to support Top End communities. In 2008-09, 20 grants were provided, totalling over \$41,000. ▪ 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.
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<p><i>Events and activities to promote healthy living (DHF)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. ▪ A project has been completed to assess the impacts of changes on the community following changes to the Nguiu community's alcohol license conditions. The aim of the project is to raise awareness of what has happened since the changes and for individuals to be better informed as to the impact of alcohol consumption on their community.

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
- 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.

<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>
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<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 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>
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<p><i>headspace</i> (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> 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. <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>

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.
<i>Infrastructure development and upgrades</i> (DPI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Significant upgrading of the Community Education Centre at Borroloola included replacement of old classroom facilities and construction of a new secondary classroom block.
<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>Fisheries research</i> (DRDPIFR)	<p>In 2008-09 Indigenous youth on Groote Eylandt were able to develop some skills and knowledge about fisheries research through direct involvement in the National Heritage Trust Shark and Stingray Survey Project that was run by DRDPIFR Fisheries group, the Anindilyakwa Sea Rangers and the Anindilyakwa Land Council.</p> <p>The survey was conducted over two school terms and students helped by providing information about what sharks and stingrays they or their family had captured.</p>
Training and employment	
<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>

<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>
<p><i>Indigenous Marine Rangers (DRDPIFR)</i></p>	<p>In 2008-09 the Indigenous Marine Ranger Program provided support for 12 Indigenous youth, in eight separate communities, to train and work as Marine Rangers. The Indigenous Marine Rangers are employed to undertake activities including marine surveillance patrols and fisheries research projects and recreational fishing surveys.</p>
<p><i>Junior Marine Rangers (DRDPIFR)</i></p>	<p>In 2008-09 DRDPIFR supported the development of a Junior Marine Ranger program on Groote Eylandt. This program was initiated following the success of involvement of youth in the National Heritage Trust Shark and Stingray Survey Project. Having a Junior Ranger program will assist in encouraging school students joining the Marine Rangers, once completing school.</p>
<p>Fun, entertainment and skills development</p>	
<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>Arts Grants Program (NRETAS)</i></p>	<p>The Arts Grants Program provides funding to the two major youth arts organisations: Incite Youth Arts in Alice Springs and Corrugated Iron Youth Arts in the Top End. Funding is also provided to key organisations that provide opportunities for youth or have specific programs for youth, such as Red Dust Theatre, Music NT and Artback NT, to name a few.</p>

<i>Themis</i> (PFES)	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.
<i>Recreational Fishing</i> (DRDPIFR)	In 2008, DRDPIFR Fisheries staff supported youth participation in recreational fishing through providing in-kind assistance to the NT Game Fishing Association's junior fishing clinics in Nhulunbuy.
<i>Teen blog</i> (NRETAS)	The teen blog 'Wicked' was established and well-supported by regional youth in 2008-09 from the Nhulunbuy community library.
<i>Remote Festivals Fund</i> (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.
<i>NRETAS 'For Kids' website</i> (NRETAS)	This website provides a link to the 'Top End Environmental Education contacts'. This booklet is a handy resource for young people, schools, community groups and interested individuals who are looking for contacts for work experience in the Northern Territory environmental sector, who want to undertake volunteer environmental work in their community, require a guest speaker or assistance with a teaching program.
<i>Blue Light Disco</i> (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.
Safety and security	
<i>Road safety awareness campaigns</i> (DPI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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.

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.
