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Foreword

Building a Better Future for Young Territorians, released in April 2003, outlines the Northern Territory Government's approach to the delivery of programs and services to young people. The Office of Youth Affairs in the Department of the Chief Minister is responsible for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of *Building a Better Future*.

This Progress Report outlines progress to date against each of the Directions, as well as any new initiatives which have been developed in response to emerging needs and evidence based best practice.

If you have any questions in relation to this report please contact the Office of Youth Affairs on telephone 8999 3721, Freecall 1800 652 736 or e-mail oya@nt.gov.au



Improve young people's

Key Issues

Addressing young people's substance misuse.

Priority Action

Analyse the recommendations of the Illicit Drugs Taskforce as part of a refocus and realignment of Alcohol and Other Drugs servicing, including implementation of the following:

- Establish and publicise an Alcohol and Other Drugs Information Service to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Review resource issues to ascertain that services are able to respond adequately to the needs of young people.

Explore and implement appropriate evidence-based drug prevention strategies which may include the following initiatives:

- Use of media resources to address issues of drug prevention through education and family support services, including an education campaign directed at schools using cinema and television advertising.
- Youth drug prevention campaigns during school holiday and youth week periods.
- A communication strategy that will enable Alcohol and Other Drugs media campaigns to access youth in remote areas.
- Build capacities of young people, schools and Indigenous communities to address substance abuse issues in their community.

Provide grants for young people for drug and alcohol free entertainment and the promotion of positive health and lifestyle messages.

health and well-being

Progress to Date

The Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS) started operating in the Northern Territory in February 2003.

This line provides a free and confidential alcohol and drug telephone counselling and referral service for anyone concerned about alcohol and other drug related issues. This would typically include drug users of all ages and backgrounds, parents, partners and relatives of drug users as well as other people in the community who may be affected by an alcohol or drug related problem. The key elements of this service include:

- ◊ Immediate 24-hour, 7-day-a-week access to professional telephone counselling, including brief intervention, information and referral;
- ◊ Caller anonymity and confidentiality;
- ◊ ADIS is free to callers (Freecall 1800 131 350);
- ◊ Accessible to rural and remote communities; and
- ◊ Referral and linkages to treatment and support services in the community for further assessment, treatment and ongoing support.

Advertising aimed at reducing the uptake of nicotine use was run in cinemas during the June/July 2003 school holidays.

The Indigenous Drug Education Support Materials, including lesson plans and teaching strategies, was launched on 13 February 2003. A copy has been sent to all schools for implementation.

The Office of Youth Affairs (OYA) in the Department of the Chief Minister (DCM) continues to provide grants, through the Youth Grants Program, for drug and alcohol free activities and events for young people. There are three grant rounds a year: July, December/January and National Youth Week. Since the release of the youth policy framework in April 2003, \$32,812 has been awarded for drug and alcohol free entertainment activities.



Key Issues

Priority Action

Develop the *Rethinking Drinking* project, in consultation with regional and remote communities, to better meet the needs of Indigenous young people.

Promote the *Choose Yourself* Resource Kit. The Kit focuses on youth health issues and is used by schools and youth groups.

Support schools to enable them to create local awareness programs educating young people about the harmful effects of smoking.

Supporting the families of young people.

Develop and implement the Northern Territory Children's and Young People's Health Policy, which will focus on initiatives which support secure and stable family environments for children and young people.

Establish school health programs including a pilot nutrition program.

Establish an Office of Children and Families to ensure an integrated whole-of-government approach to enhancing family well-being.

Establish a Family Services Advisory Council to provide direct advice to the Chief Minister about issues affecting families.

Develop a Freecall Family Helpline and a Family Support Internet Site.

Support Positive Parenting Programs and a range of appropriate parenting skills enhancement programs.

Introduce education for parenthood into the school curriculum.

Progress to Date

The Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (ACHPER), South Australia, is updating the existing Rethinking Drinking alcohol education resource to make it more appropriate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and schools. It is expected that this new resource will be made available by the end of 2003. This resource will then be assessed for appropriateness and usefulness in the Territory.

Ongoing.

The Department of Health and Community Services (DHCS) has continued to support the Health Promoting School Grants. Grants of \$500 are awarded to Territory schools to promote the harmful effects of smoking as well as encouraging young people to stay or become smoke free.

Successful applicants for the 2003 Health Promoting School Grants were: Taminmin High School, Nightcliff High School, Wagaman Primary School, Borroloola CEC, Nemaarluk School, O'Loughlin College, Tennant Creek High School, Centralian College, Anzac Hill High School, Darwin High School, Sanderson High School, Adelaide River School, St John's College, and Sheperdson College.

The Northern Territory Children's and Young People's Health Policy is in the final stages of development.

It is envisaged that the Pilot School Breakfast Program, targeting remote communities, will commence in Term 4, 2003.

The Office of Children and Families has now been established within DHCS.

The initial focus of the Office is on improving access to information and support for families, a review of the *Community Welfare Act* and development of a policy and action framework for early childhood support with the Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET).

A Family Services Advisory Council is to be established in early 2004 to provide advice to Government on matters concerning families and children.

A Freecall Parent Help Line is planned to offer advice and referrals to parents, seven days a week between 8am – 10pm. A Family Support Internet Site is also under development to provide information for families on matters of interest including family support services. These services are expected to commence in March 2004.

Recruitment to the NT Parenting Support Programs co-ordinator's position will commence shortly (late 2003). This position will review existing capacities and enhance and expand access to parenting support.

Ongoing.



Key Issues

Priority Action

Through the Domestic and Aboriginal Violence Strategies, provide support to families to help reduce the incidence of violence in the home.

Reducing mental health problems and disorders among young people.

Implement a Suicide Prevention Strategy for the Northern Territory based on the Commonwealth Living Is For Everyone (LIFE) framework for prevention of suicide and self-harm.

Continue to support services and community networks which help prevent and reduce suicide, such as the Life Promotion Program.

Support the implementation of *MindMatters* in NT secondary schools to strengthen young people's life skills and resilience in a supportive school environment.

Support the Peer Skills program, run by Kid's Help Line, to provide young people with communication skills and the ability to assist their peers with emotional or distressing issues.

Continue financial support for *beyond blue* and its initiatives to reduce the risk for, prevalence of, and the impact of depressive disorders on individuals and families.

Investigate the expansion of the Resourceful Adolescents Program into secondary schools as an early intervention program for young people at risk of developing anxiety and depression related disorders.

Using existing NT research on young women and body image, investigate the development of community education and co-ordination projects.

Consider the outcomes of the Mental Health Service System Development Strategy as they relate to young people.

Progress to Date

Implementation of the Government's Domestic and Aboriginal Family Violence Strategies commenced in January 2003. The related Advisory Council meets up to four times a year.

The Strategies provide interventions for: victims and survivors; the protection of children; working with young people affected or at risk of being affected by domestic and family violence; and in bringing about a change in the violent and abusive behaviours of offenders.

The *Northern Territory Strategic Framework for Suicide Prevention* was released by the NT Government on 15 October 2003. The framework includes six areas for action. These include:

- ◇ Promoting wellbeing, resilience and community capacity;
- ◇ Supporting initiatives that reduce risk factors and promote protective factors for suicide and self-harm;
- ◇ Services and support within the community for groups at increased risk;
- ◇ Services for individuals at high risk;
- ◇ Partnerships with Indigenous people; and
- ◇ Progressing the evidence base for suicide prevention and good practice.

Ongoing.

During 2003, the *MindMatters* professional development program has been delivered to 30 schools and involved over 520 participants.

There are currently four staff facilitating the Peer Skills Program training modules for students.

Ongoing.

Ongoing.

The Office of Women's Policy (OWP) and OYA in DCM have had preliminary discussions with relevant community organisations to progress this issue.

Additional funding is being provided in 2003/04 for specialist Child and Youth Clinical positions. These positions are consistent with the Mental Health Service System Development Strategy.



Key Issues

Addressing the sexual health issues of young people.

Priority Action

Promote safe sex practice to young people to reaffirm their knowledge of healthy safe sex practice and to reduce the potential risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, such as the young women's program "Put it on, so we can get it on".

Develop an education campaign to address the high rates of chlamydia in young women.

Produce youth-friendly information on sexual health issues for dissemination on the OYA website.

New Initiatives

\$500,000 for child protection.

\$7.2M boost to mental health funding.

Health Issues Affecting Education Strategy.

Develop an education campaign to address the high rates of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's) in young urban Indigenous people, aged 15-19 years.

Provide an outreach clinical service to Indigenous urban youth.

Scoping project to investigate the high and escalating rates of chlamydia and gonorrhoea in Territory youth aged 15 - 24 years.

"Caring for our Children" reform agenda.

Progress to Date

The education campaign was launched 22-23 November 2002. Campaign products including posters, radio advertisements and free condoms were distributed at special events. The campaign is currently being evaluated to determine its effectiveness, and to inform future strategies.

This initiative has been superseded by a number of new initiatives targeting young people. Please refer to the new initiatives section for further information.

OYA, in partnership with the AIDS/STD Unit in DHCS, has developed youth friendly information on young people's sexual health. This information is now available via the OYA website: <http://www.youth.nt.gov.au/html/health/sexual.html>

The NT Government boosted resources for child protection by \$500,000 in the 2003-04 Budget. The additional resources will allow for the expansion of a pilot program for an NT-wide centralised after hours service that will provide a more co-ordinated emergency after hours response to child protection reports and for children in care.

An additional \$7.2 million over the next three years has been provided for mental health services. The extra funding will increase assessment, case management and treatment services in a number of priority areas including:

- ◊ Specialist child and youth mental health care;
- ◊ Mental health care for Indigenous people and residents of remote and rural areas;
- ◊ Non-government funding for consumer and carer initiatives; and
- ◊ Forensic mental health care for individuals with mental illness in the criminal justice system.

First year of funding for 2003-04 has been allocated to priority areas as outlined above.

In order to provide a strategic framework for joint activities between DEET and DHCS, a Health Issues Affecting Education Strategy is being developed.

A joint project, between the AIDS/STD Program, Women's Health Strategy Unit and the Men's Health Policy Unit of DHCS, is underway to develop and implement an education campaign aimed at urban Indigenous youth, aged 15- 19 years, addressing the high rates of STI's. Focus groups are currently being conducted to inform the campaign design.

The Alice Springs Sexual Health Unit (AIDS/STD Program), in a joint project with the Alice Springs Youth Accommodation Support Services (ASYASS), provides a confidential sexual health clinical and education outreach service. The target group is Indigenous urban youth.

The AIDS/STD Program of DHCS is conducting a 12 week scoping project to investigate the high rates of chlamydia and gonorrhoea in Territory youth aged 15 - 24 years. This encompasses urban and remote, Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth.

DHCS is undertaking two important initiatives as part of its reform agenda, "caring for our children".

These initiatives are:

- ◊ a review of the *Community Welfare Act 1983* and development of new legislation for children and families; and
- ◊ looking at our child protection system in the NT to improve outcomes for children and create partnerships to reinforce that child protection is everyone's business.

These are two separate but complementary initiatives. The key outcomes will include a strong framework of law and professional practice. Further, the reform agenda will encourage inter-agency and community partnerships that promote the development, well-being and safety of our children and offer support to families and communities in caring for their children.



Improve access to education people

Key Issues

Improving educational outcomes for all students, including Indigenous students.

Priority Action

Review secondary education in order to improve outcomes in urban, rural, and remote secondary schools throughout the Territory.

Implement the Northern Territory Indigenous Education Strategic Plan to support improvements in educational outcomes for all Indigenous students. This Strategy provides a framework for implementing the key recommendations of the *Learning Lessons* report.

Increase numbers of students who stay in school and attend regularly through the implementation of the Student Enrolment, Attendance and Retention Strategy. Key elements of this Strategy include:

- ◊ The employment of School Attendance Officers in targeted schools over the next three years.
- ◊ The introduction of alternative education provision programs for students who are disengaged from mainstream education.

Improving the access of young Territorians to further education, including Vocational Education and Training (VET) and higher education.

Expand educational pathways for young people and support the transition from school to work through increasing access to VET in schools.

Provide forty higher education and ten VET scholarships each year.

Provide twenty teacher bursaries each year to encourage student teachers to undertake their studies at a local tertiary institution.

Encouraging excellence in education, employment and training outcomes for young people.

Maintain support to a range of Awards including:

- ◊ "Worldskills NT", an international VET competition for young people aged under 25.
- ◊ NT Vocational Training Awards, which highlight the achievements of trainees, students, training providers and employers in VET.
- ◊ Youth Business Awards, which recognise young entrepreneurs.

and employment for young

Progress to Date

A comprehensive report on Future Directions for Secondary Education in the Northern Territory has been commissioned. The report is considering all aspects of secondary education provisions in urban, rural and remote government schools and will provide recommendations on ways it can be improved. The report is due early 2004.

The Learning Lessons Implementation Steering Committee has been established and recommendations from that committee endorsed. Major initiatives include the Community Controlled Schools Program and the Accelerated Literacy Program.

- ♦ Attendance officers have been appointed and operating, during the 2003 academic year, in Alice Springs and Palmerston. Attendance officers will soon be placed in Sanderson/Karama, Katherine and Wadeye. A further three attendance officers will be based in Nhulunbuy, Tennant Creek and a place yet to be determined.
- ♦ The report, *Progress Report of the Alternative Provision Planning Project* has been completed. Pilot programs will be established for the 2004 academic year at Palmerston and Sanderson.

It is anticipated that 67 VET programs will be delivered in Darwin and Alice Springs covering 17 industry areas in 2004.

These have been provided in 2003.

These have been provided in 2003.

- ♦ The 2003 Worldskills NT competition was conducted during October 2003.
- ♦ The NT Vocational Training Awards were held in September 2003.
- ♦ The Youth Business Awards are a partnership between the Small Business Association, DEET and Department of Business Industry Resource and Development (DBIRD). Darwin High School Youth Business Award finalist, Henna Tattoo Me, was the winner of the 2003 Awards.



Key Issues

Maximising employment and training opportunities for young people.

Priority Action

Provide support to regional and remote training programs such as the Training for Remote Youth program, which focus on vocational employment and training in remote areas.

Develop and implement an Employment and Training Strategy to provide clear direction for employment and training in the Territory.

Develop and implement a strategy to increase the completion rate for apprentices and trainees across the Territory.

Improve employment opportunities for school leavers through the Apprenticeship School Leaver Program.

Expand the Northern Territory Public Sector (NTPS) Graduate Development Program to include:

- ◇ Offering innovative graduate and undergraduate programs to address employment minorities in the Public Sector.
- ◇ Increasing the graduate and undergraduate intake to attract people in the target employment areas of health and education.
- ◇ Establishing contract undergraduate research positions in agencies to offer part time work to students who have successfully completed part of their qualification.
- ◇ Expanding the programs to all NTPS agencies.

Support the Indigenous Cadet Program which assists young Indigenous people to gain qualifications to enable them to take up employment in the NTPS.

Support the Finance Officer in Training (FOIT) Scheme which employs graduates in accounting, finance, economics, business and public administration in the NT Treasury.

Progress to Date

A new \$1m program to extend training opportunities to remote youth under the Training for Remote Area Youth (TRY) program has been funded. The program is an innovative, vocational training program aimed at 14-year-olds to 19-year-olds living in regional and remote areas. The program enables regional Territorians to establish pathways, which may lead to apprenticeships and traineeships. This year, approximately 500 young people will have the opportunity to commence training across the Territory, in areas such as automotive, engineering, community maintenance, business, finance, retail, information technology, aquaculture, clothing production, tourism, agriculture, textile art, horticulture, hairdressing, hospitality, sport and recreation, and music.

Jobs Plan: Building a Northern Territory Workforce was released on 24 November 2003. The Plan provides Government with the tools to develop and report on what it is doing to maximise the opportunity for all Territorians to participate in the economy and in a stable skilled workforce.

DEET has funded Training Advisory Councils to undertake projects, across a range of areas, to further enhance the take up of apprentices and trainees.

The New Apprenticeship program is now being offered to all interested people, not just limited to school leavers. However, this program will still benefit school leavers as they tend to be the main applicants.

The NTPS Graduate Development Policy (GDP) has now been developed and is about to be issued. It is the result of extensive research and consultation and is based on the following assumptions:

- ◊ The GDP is a critical recruitment, retention and capacity building strategy for developing a new generation of employees whose potential will help shape the future of the NTPS.
- ◊ The NTPS must provide a program which can effectively compete with programs in both the private and the public sectors in other jurisdictions.
- ◊ The GDP should be a key workforce planning intervention for the NTPS in the light of:
 - the aging population;
 - difficulty with recruiting and retaining skilled staff especially in areas of health and education;
 - skills shortages; and
 - the need for the NTPS to develop a workforce profile that reflects that of the diversity of the community it serves.

A separate policy will be developed for Vocational Graduates which will capture the intent of the previously proposed Undergraduate program. In addition to this there is a plan to develop a mainstream Cadetship program.

This program has been advertised and the Department of Corporate and Information Services (DCIS) Entry Level Programs received 16 applications from interested applicants. Successful applicants will commence in February 2004. Disciplines include: Applied Science, Architecture, Arts, Nursing, Business Management, Communications (Journalism), Education, Health Sciences, Indigenous Health, International Business, Law, Resource Management, Science, Teaching.

The Northern Territory Treasury (NTT) employed 14 graduates in the Financial Officer in Training Scheme (FOITS) for the 2003 intake. NTT is currently recruiting for the 2004 intake.



Key Issues

Priority Action

Offer a range of programs encouraging young people who are either in business, or wish to start a business. These include:

- ◊ "Youth Desk" business consultation service.
- ◊ "Getting Started" seminars for those starting out in business.
- ◊ Youth Business Network Group.
- ◊ "Shell Livewire", a joint mentoring project between Shell, Rotary, and the NT Government.

Investigate the establishment of the Young Achievement Australia (YAA) enterprise education program in high schools, where students develop and operate a business.

Develop information resources on economic and financial issues to assist young people to plan for their financial future.

New Initiatives

Indigenous School to Work Apprenticeship Trial

Footprints Forward Incorporated

Progress to Date

Youth Desk: The Youth Desk participated in the Futures Expos held in Tennant Creek, Darwin, Nhulunbuy, Katherine and Jabiru during August and September 2003. The Youth Desk engaged students through an interactive sports car display. The display highlighted to students if they have the right stuff to start and successfully operate a business then dreams can be achieved, such as owning a dream sports car.

Around 780 students from across the Territory entered a competition at the display to promote 'Think Youth in Business'.

The display and competition was designed to help students gain an awareness of the programs, support and assistance provided by the Youth Desk for people aged between 14 – 30, who may be studying business, managing a business, intending to start a business, or currently in business.

Getting Started Seminars: as part of October Business Month, free seminars were held in Darwin, Palmerston and Girraween.

Youth Business Network Group : there are currently 13 members of the network.

Shell Livewire: There are 10 teams (15 people) actively participating. The presentation evening to announce the winners will be held in late November 2003.

Presentations: Since 1 July 2003 six Getting Started in Business presentations were delivered to over 90 students in Darwin and Nhulunbuy.

Schools participating in the Business Skills programs for 2003 are St John's College, Alice Springs High School, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Darwin High School, St Philip's College, Palmerston High School, Kormilda College, Dripstone High School (2 teams) and Ngukurr School. Over 130 students are actively participating. Young Achievement Australia (YAA), in partnership with DBIRD and local businesses, run the program in the NT.

The presentation to announce the winners will be held in late November 2003.

OWP, in consultations with OYA, has identified school leavers entering employment, as a group in particular need of information about managing their finances.

In partnership with the DEET, OWP is developing *Money Matters: An Information Kit and Teaching Resource on Young Women and Financial Issues*. This project is designed to promote awareness amongst young people, especially young women, about financial matters including finance and credit arrangements. A *Money Matters* information kit and a teaching resource on financial matters are being developed by the young women who are participating in Future Directions, a post-compulsory program delivered through Alice Springs High School.

The information kit will be available to interested young people, and the teaching resource will be used by educators and those working with young women to raise awareness about potential pitfalls. The two resources will be published by OWP during 2003-04.

DCIS is currently trialing this program. The program provides Indigenous high school students with an opportunity to obtain a Certificate II in Business Administration while still at school.

The Territory Government has contributed \$100,000 towards Footprints Forward Incorporated, an initiative which aims to increase employment opportunities for young Indigenous people in Alice Springs.



Key Issues

Priority Action

2003 October Business Month

- ◇ Promote October Business Month events to young Territorians aged between 18 and 30 years and already established in business or seriously considering it, to encourage membership to the Youth Business Network.

Chief Minister's ICT Training and Study Award for Young Indigenous People

Progress to Date

DBIRD has offered free places to attend:

- ◊ Marketing 'Cheap, Easy and Effective Marketing Strategies to Skyrocket your Business (Darwin and Alice Springs).
- ◊ Customer Service 'The New Consumer: How to Profit from this Market' (Katherine and Darwin).
- ◊ eBusiness (Darwin, Tennant Creek, Palmerston and Girraween).
- ◊ Finance 'Finance Tips to Enhance your Business' (Nhulunbuy, Darwin and Tennant Creek).
- ◊ Home Based Business 'The Secrets of My Success' (Alice Springs, Katherine and Darwin).

The Chief Minister's ICT Training and Study Award for Young Indigenous People is sponsored by Optus, and supported by the NT Government. The Award has been introduced to assist in improving education and employment prospects for young Indigenous people, particularly in remote areas, in the Information Technology and Communication industries.

Each year, two awards of up to \$5,000 will be presented (one each in the Top End and Central Australia) to Indigenous young people to assist them in undertaking accredited ICT training or study.



Provide more opportunities for develop new skills

Key Issues

Providing young people with recreational and entertainment opportunities.

Priority Action

Strengthen the Youth Grants Program to enable more young people to participate in recreational activities, particularly those on remote communities.

Fund a Contemporary Music Concert for young people, and consider ways in which similar events can be held in smaller regional centres as appropriate.

Improve affordability, access and awareness of youth activities through the Arts Sponsorship Program.

Implement youth activity programs in Nightcliff and Borroloola and consider their implementation in other regions as appropriate.

Provide grant funding to peak sporting organisations and local government councils to develop quality programs that service junior and youth participants.

Launch the Northern Territory Junior Sport Plan which will outline key strategies for the implementation of junior sport initiatives.

Stage, in conjunction with the Australian Sports Commission, the 1800 Street Active Skate Program during 2003.

young people to have fun and

Progress to Date

After feedback from grant recipients, a review of the Youth Grants Program was undertaken in June 2003. The review resulted in the application form, guidelines, agreement form, evaluation and acquittal processes being streamlined and made more user-friendly for young people and youth organisations.

The Territory's first Bass in the Grass concerts were held in Alice Springs at the Convention Centre on Friday 11 July and in Darwin at the Amphitheatre on Saturday 12 July 2003. Alice Springs attracted an audience of 930 while Darwin had 5,300 people in attendance.

The national performers included The Living End, Machine Gun Fellatio, 28 Days, Selwyn, Endorphin, Sophie Monk, Mercury 4, Thirty Odd Foot of Grunt. Local performers included Nocturnal, Three on Tree, Leon Spurling, NEO, Culture Connect, Cinco Loco, Shelly Morris, and Public Holdup.

The Chief Minister announced at the Darwin concert that this will be an annual event. The next Bass in the Grass concert will be held in Darwin 10 July 2004.

An Arts Grants Board vacancy was advertised encouraging applications for a youth representative. An appointment to the Board is due by December 2003.

The aim of the initiative is to provide a range of activities for youth in areas in which there is a lack of places for young people to gather in a supervised environment.

E-Cruz, operated by Red Cross, commenced in January 2003, offering a range of activities across various sites in the Nightcliff area.

In Borroloola, DHCS and the Juvenile Diversion Division of the NT Police have signed a tripartite agreement with Borroloola Town Council, and are in the process of fully establishing the Community Youth Development Unit. NT Police is the lead agency in this partnership.

Grant funding has been provided under the following outputs of the grants program to service youth and junior participants:

- ♦ Building your capacity;
- ♦ Planning your pathway; and
- ♦ Developing your community.

The Junior Sport Plan was launched on 13 October 2003. An Action Plan for implementation of key initiatives is to be developed by the Junior Sport Reference Group. Copies of the Plan are available via the Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs (DCDSCA) Website: www.dcdsca.nt.gov.au

The 1800 Street Active Skate Program was successfully conducted in Nhulunbuy 26-27 July 2003 with 294 participants.



Key Issues

Priority Action

Commit \$2 million in funding to expand facilities at the Lake Leanyer Recreation Park. The upgrade will increase its appeal and usage by young people and will include a basketball court, an extended skate park, a graffiti wall, a sound shell to encourage music events, and a rollerblading track.

Maintain funding and support for the employment of Sport and Recreation officers in remote communities throughout the Territory.

Promoting the achievements of young people.

Support a range of awards which recognise the outstanding contributions of young people to their community.

Encourage positive reporting of young people through the establishment of a Youth Media Award.

Legitimising young people's use of public spaces.

Evaluate the effectiveness of the public space protocols developed for Darwin and Palmerston and consider the extension of this initiative to other regions.

Providing young people with access to leadership and developmental opportunities.

Provide a further two year's funding for the STS Leeuwin II Top End Explorer youth development initiative.

Provide targeted grants to remote Indigenous communities to support the establishment of Indigenous Youth Leadership Groups.

Facilitate and co-ordinate the delivery of leadership programs to school students through the Active Australia Schools Network.

Support the Australian Sports Commission's LYNXAUS (Local Youth Network Across Australia Using Sport) initiative. This is a leadership and mentoring program that offers young people living in rural and regional Australia the opportunity to develop a range of personal professional skills using sport as a medium.

Progress to Date

The Lake Leanyer Recreation Park was officially opened to the public on 15 December 2003. Upgraded facilities include a swimming area up to 1200mm in depth; extension to the skatepark; full-sized basketball court; jogging and rollerblade paths and an elevated stage and amphitheatre.

Thirty Five Sport and Recreation officers are currently funded and supported in remote communities through the Territory.

The NT Government supports a range of awards which include: Young Territorian of the Year Award and the Regional Young Territorians of the Year Awards, Minister for Young Territorians Excellence in Youth Leadership Award, Rural Young Achiever Award, the Student Citizen Awards, Junior Sports Person of the Year Award, and the NT Vocational Training Awards.

OYA is investigating linkages with the National Youth Media Award, through its role on the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) National Youth Taskforce.

DHCS supported the initial establishment of the Darwin public space protocols. Darwin City Council has now sourced funding from the Office of Crime Prevention to evaluate the effectiveness of the Darwin Protocols.

The NT Government has confirmed it will continue funding the STS Leeuwin II Top End Explorer youth development program until at least 2005. Funding has been increased from \$24,000 to \$29,000 per annum to cover increased costs.

The program provides sponsorship for 40 young Territorians to board the training ship each year for an 11-day voyage across the Top End. The trip provides young people with the opportunity to develop leadership and teambuilding skills as well as participate in a series of land-based environmental activities.

Forty young Territorians have already benefited from the funding extension on the 2003 Top End Explorer Voyage which was held 4 to 15 August.

This year successful applicants came from Alice Springs, Borroloola, Darwin, Darwin Rural Area, Jabiru, Katherine, Mandorah, Timber Creek, Nhulunbuy, Nudjaburra, Palmerston, Tennant Creek and Wugularr.

DCDSCA is currently developing the NT Indigenous Youth Leadership Program to be trialled in Wadeye. The program includes six major components that are designed to improve young people's health and well-being. The components include:

- ◊ Youth Leadership;
- ◊ Future Leaders Performance;
- ◊ Student focused learning activities at school initiated by the community;
- ◊ Adventure Challenge activities; and
- ◊ Student Portfolios.

Eight leadership programs under this network have been facilitated and co-ordinated throughout the NT since July 2003.

LYNXAUS is to be implemented in conjunction with the Junior Sport Youth Advisory Network and Junior Sport Plan initiatives.



Key Issues

Priority Action

Consider the implementation of "Kigaruk", a leadership and development program for Indigenous men in the NTPS, including young males.

Provide grants through the Youth Grants Program so that young people have access to opportunities for participation in youth development/leadership activities.

Investigate expanding the Parks and Wildlife Junior Ranger and Volunteer Programs to involve more young people in these activities.

Support environmental education and work experience programs for young people in Territory parks and gardens.

Provide leadership and development opportunities for young people through the Junior Police Rangers Program.

Provide post-school options for young people with disabilities to support their transition to adulthood, including employment and training, further education, and the development of independent living skills.

Establish Knowledge Centres in Indigenous communities to provide cultural and information technology opportunities for Indigenous youth.

Improving access to and awareness of recreation and entertainment activities.

Undertake a major review of the public transport system in Darwin, Palmerston and the rural areas which will involve a high level of consultation with users, including young people.

Explore the feasibility of providing free or low-cost bus transport for young people during youth-specific events to enable more young people to participate.

Develop marketing strategies to better promote activities to young people, including information to grant recipients on how to effectively promote their activities on a limited budget.

Progress to Date

The Kigaruk pilot program is currently running from June to December 2003 for two days per month in Darwin.

Twenty-five Indigenous men are undertaking the leadership development program which aims to redress the very low number of Indigenous males employed in senior positions in the NT Public Sector. On graduating, participants will receive a Diploma in Frontline Management.

Following an independent evaluation of the program, similar programs may be developed targeting Indigenous women and Indigenous employees in rural and remote areas.

The Youth Grants Program managed by OYA provides funding to young people and youth organisations for youth development/leadership activities. Since the release of the youth policy framework in April 2003, \$21,596 has been awarded for youth development/leadership activities.

Currently being investigated.

Ongoing.

The Junior Police Rangers (JPRs) program is currently in the 18th year and are in the process of going to all schools in the Darwin, Palmerston and the rural area to recruit for group 19. The program is a three year commitment and each year JPRs take approximately 25 to 27 applicants.

This year JPRs have done a variety of activities including navigation, map reading, night navigation, survival skills such as bush tucker, how to find water and how to make shelters, survival camp, search and rescue, vertical rescue, bronze star, bronze medallion, public speaking, radio procedures, youth and law, anti discrimination, self defence, drill, basic first aid to advanced first aid, leadership skills and numerous hikes.

JPRs also do community service activities and their involvement this year has included helping the Red Cross and the Salvation Army Door Knock Appeal.

\$0.2m in recurrent funding has been provided for the post school options program in Darwin and Palmerston which commenced in January 2003. This program is to be evaluated before the end of the 2003 calendar year.

Three Knowledge Centres are in operation at Galiwin'ku, Wadeye and Anmatjere.

The review of the public transport system is well underway. Surveys, including young people, have been undertaken. It is also now planned to include a review of the school bus service in the rural area as there are clearly advantages in looking at the public and school services together.

Free buses were made available for this year's 'Bass in the Grass' youth concert. Extra buses were also provided for other popular events in Darwin that young people attend.

An information kit has been produced by OYA to promote National Youth Week (NYW) to young people and encourage them to participate. The kit also encourages grant applicants to utilise the NYW promotional material to market their activities.



Key Issues

New Initiatives

Priority Action

Katherine Regional Development Plan.

Palmerston Recreation Centre.

Support to the Emergency Services school cadet unit at St Philip's College.

Athletes as Role Models ARMtour program

Progress to Date

The Katherine Regional Development Plan was launched on 19 September 2003. One of the major initiatives in the Plan is the development of a youth drop in centre. \$200,000 in funding has been committed to this initiative.

The NT Government has confirmed its commitment to the construction of a multi-function recreation centre. Construction will begin in the 2004/05 financial year.

St Philip's College has established the Territory's first Emergency Service school cadet unit. The NT Emergency Services has provided students with caps, overalls, training manuals and communications equipment.

The ARMtour program has received \$50,000 from the NT Government to expand into more remote communities over the next three years. The ARMtour program uses high profile athletes as role models. The role modelling centres on education; reducing substance abuse, crime and dangerous behaviour; and increasing participation in sporting activities.



Make sure that young people decisions that affect their

Key Issues

Providing more opportunities for young people to participate in decision-making.

Priority Action

Strengthen partnerships with community based youth organisations to utilise their expertise in youth issues, and to build linkages with young people who may not otherwise have their voices heard.

Improve participation avenues for young people in rural and remote communities by expanding Regional Youth Forums, and ensuring that consultation venues and styles are appropriate to the client group.

Expand Community Cabinets into high schools to ensure that young people are included.

Develop an On-Line Chat room on the OYA website so young people can "chat" with Government Ministers on topical issues.

Establish a Youth Participation Register that will enable young people to be included on Government boards and committees.

Consider the establishment of a Youth Participation Grants Program to enhance opportunities for young people to participate in community life.

Maintain support for the Youth Parliament Program to provide a forum for young people to express their views on matters of concern to them.

Seek input from young people into the design and delivery of Museum and Art Gallery activities.

are able to participate in lives

Progress to Date

The recent evaluation of the Youth Affairs Interdepartmental Committee (IDC) recommended that a representative from the NT Youth Affairs Network (NTYAN) be invited to become a member of the IDC. It was considered that the addition of this member would improve the cross flow of information among Government, the youth sector and young people and better enable the IDC to develop and implement collaborative initiatives in partnership with the youth sector and young people.

Mr Ian O'Reilly, Convenor of NTYAN, has accepted the invitation to become a member of the IDC.

Since August 2003, consultations have been held in Nhulunbuy, Gapuwiyak and Wadeye. Forthcoming consultations are planned for Katherine and Alice Springs.

Casuarina Senior College was the first high school to host a Community Cabinet meeting. The Casuarina Senior College Community Cabinet was held on 25 March this year and involved both Year 11 and 12 students. Ministers met individually with small groups of students for an informal chat, followed by a more formal session where students asked questions of Ministers.

Students raised lots of topical issues including – the LNG Plant for Wickham Point, crime, access to library services at NTU, NT Government's position on East Timorese Asylum Seekers and marijuana usage among young people.

OYA website has been re-developed to ensure that it reflects the key principles and directions outlined in the Youth Policy Framework. As part of the re-development process, OYA has also expanded the information available on its website, including regionally specific information, and introduced new search and interactive features to increase its appeal and functionality, particularly amongst young people. The new youth website was launched on 1st December 2003.

The introduction of a chat room has been delayed pending an upgrade of the Government's "back end" server technology.

Research has commenced and a draft framework is expected by January 2004.

Opportunities for expanding the Youth Grants Program are being investigated.

Youth Parliament 2003 was held in Alice Springs on 2 May 2003 to coincide with the inaugural Alice Springs Legislative Assembly. The Northern Territory Legislative Assembly will continue to support this program during 2004.

Special educational events such as the Senior Student Art Study Days have been conducted since 2001. Senior Science Student Study Days held in 2003 all contain an evaluation component where students are asked for their comments and suggestions for future Study Days.

Attendance figures in 2003 for Senior Students Art Study Days were 80 students and Senior Science Student Study Days were 175 students.



Key Issues

Priority Action

Provide support to the Junior Sport Youth Advisory Group to provide ongoing input and feedback regarding junior sport issues.

Improve interaction with the Police Ethnic Youth Advisory and Action Group as a source of advice on youth issues.

Improve opportunities for young people and youth organisations to become involved in regional development planning processes.

Providing young people with better access to information about programs and services.

Develop programs to promote library and information programs to young people.

Provide education campaigns, displays and information to inform young people of their rights as consumers.

Improve young people's access to information on employment and career opportunities within the NTPS.

Strengthen the OYA website to expand information provided on Government and non-government youth programs and services.

Increase access to information about the Museum and Art Gallery programs to young people in remote areas, through the use of information technology.

Progress to Date

Regional representatives have been identified to assist with the Junior Sport Plan launch and the Junior Sport Reference Group meetings.

OYA receives regular feedback from this group on youth issues raised through this forum.

An example of where this has happened is in the development of the Katherine Regional Development Strategy. A youth sub-committee has been formed to progress the youth issues outlined in the Strategy.

Yet to commence.

The Office of Consumer Affairs continues to provide information and advice on young people's rights as consumers.

Ongoing.

OYA has re-designed the website to expand the information on Government and non-government programs and services.

OYA is planning to develop pages on scholarships and grant funding for young people.

Educational material is currently being reworked to post on an updated Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) website during the early part of 2004. The material is currently available in CDROM format which can be sent out to Community Education Centres and updated on the World Wide Web.



Create communities where and secure

Key Issues

Addressing issues of personal safety and crime prevention and reduction.

Priority Action

Establish and support regional and Indigenous crime prevention councils to stimulate community involvement in crime prevention, with young people involved in developing local solutions.

Ensure that grants provided to community organisations and regional crime prevention councils to develop crime prevention programs include those with a youth focus.

Improve across-Government and community collaboration to implement youth initiatives and strategies with a crime prevention focus. These include strategies to reduce juvenile crime in Darwin, Palmerston and Alice Springs.

young people can feel safe

Progress to Date

Regional crime prevention councils have been established for Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Central Australia and most recently, Nhulunbuy. Negotiations are in progress for the establishment of a regional crime prevention council for the Palmerston region. Representatives from the Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians (CMRTYT) have been invited to sit on the Darwin, Tennant Creek and Central Australia councils. Representatives from the Katherine Youth Group sit on a youth specific sub-committee of that regional council. Invitations will be issued to appropriate CMRTYT members from other regions when the councils are better established.

Thirteen out of 33 applications (40%) approved in the 2002/2003 round of the NT Crime Prevention Grant Scheme were awarded to projects with a youth focus.

Youth At Risk Task Force

In February this year, the Ministerial Standing Committee on Crime Prevention convened a Youth at Risk Task Force to provide recommendations to Government, and to develop short and long terms plans that aim to reduce the number of youth 'at risk' across the Territory. The task force will present this strategy to the Ministerial Standing Committee later this year.

Safe Families

Alice Springs Juvenile Crime Prevention Initiative - Following public concern about a perceived increase in criminal and anti social behaviour, mainly by young people in Alice Springs in early 2003, consultations were held with Government and non government agencies to work out how to assist some young people in Alice Springs who were identified as being "at risk". Youth organisations in Alice Springs have developed the *Safe Families* model, which comprises a collaborative case management approach to working with young people who come into contact with the services, and a 'crisis accommodation for young people' proposal. A site for this facility has now been decided upon and it is anticipated that it will be available for use early in 2004.

Child and Youth Safety Strategy

The Alice Springs Regional Crime Prevention Council, known as the Central Australian Crime Prevention Committee, has been funded through the Office of Crime Prevention to develop a draft *Child and Youth Safety Strategy* for the region. Youth service providers and organisations, young people, and the wider community are being consulted in the development of the strategy, which is now in draft form.

Tennant Creek Youth Initiatives and Safe Communities Strategy Committee

This committee, with members from a number of Government and non-government agencies, was established in January 2002 in response to community concerns about escalation in crime and anti social behaviour in Tennant Creek. The committee is a Regional Crime Prevention Council and ensures that Government remains in touch with crime prevention issues of concern to Barkly residents, including crime prevention issues connected with youth.



Key Issues

Priority Action

Develop and implement a whole-of-government crime prevention strategy which will involve consultations with young people as key stakeholders.

Encourage youth involvement in regional crime prevention forums.

Provide funding for "youth beat" patrols in Darwin's northern suburbs and Palmerston to engage with young people congregating in public places, intervene where appropriate and provide a referral point for services.

Use multi-media technology to design and deliver crime prevention information to a range of audiences. Young people will be specifically targeted.

Investigate community education and prevention resources for young people at risk or affected by sexual assault.

Introduce an education campaign to improve behaviour and safety on school buses.

Address issues of road safety for young people by considering the expansion of a curriculum-based approach to road safety education into secondary schools.

Progress to Date

Development of the strategy has commenced. At this stage it is likely the discussion paper will be widely distributed to stakeholders, including young people, for comment in early 2004.

One regional crime prevention forum has been held to date. Youth participation has been invited in regional crime prevention councils. A variety of forums have been planned over the coming year and youth participation will be invited where appropriate.

The NT Government has funded Mission Australia to provide the Youth Beat service in Darwin and Palmerston.

The Darwin Youth Beat is a mobile program which commenced on the 16 December 2002. It is staffed by youth workers and operates on the streets at night, and provides for follow up support with young people and families where relevant.

Palmerston Youth Beat received funding from the Public Behaviour Program and is implemented by Palmerston City Council and Mission Australia. Two workers are employed to patrol the Palmerston CBD area on Friday and Saturday nights. Additional funding has meant that a worker can provide referrals to existing youth services during the day.

Grant funding has been awarded to two projects in the 2002/2003 year that deliver crime prevention information for youth using multi-media technology for youth. These are:

- ◊ *The Top Ten. Choice and Consequence.* – Galiwin'ku Community

Development of community education about the impact on individuals of offending behaviour and their respective rights under both common and customary laws. The project focuses on the ten most common offences that Yolngu are convicted, and targets the 14-25 year old age group. Material produced is to be made available through the Galiwin'ku Knowledge Centre network, the local BRACS system and posters. Elements deemed appropriate by the community will be available via the internet.

- ◊ *What is this White Fella Law About?* – Aboriginal Resources and Development Services Inc (ARDS)

Development of educational material on topics relating to the Australia Legal System. The material will be broadcast over the Aboriginal Resources and Development Services Inc. (ARDS) Community Development Radio Service.

Young people at risk of domestic and family violence are of particular concern, and research undertaken in the Territory has shown that while young people may discuss such issues with their friends, they are reluctant to seek information and advice, should they themselves be experiencing such violence.

OWP has contracted with the Charles Darwin University to research and develop models and strategies for working with those young people who are at risk. The project involves in-depth interviews with young people who have experienced domestic or family violence or sexual assault. Information drawn from these interviews will be used to develop a model of intervention and information provision, which will be implemented and tested in later phases of the project.

A television campaign on behaviour and safety on school buses was produced using Darwin school students. The campaign started in February 2003 to coincide with the start of the school year.

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment (DIPE) is currently developing a resource list on road safety education.



Key Issues

Dealing with young offenders.

Priority Action

Provide a range of programs to divert young offenders from the formal justice system, to encourage positive behaviour change and the development of life skills. These include family conferences, victim/offender conferencing, and community programs.

Establish Community Youth Development Units (CYDUs) in targeted regions and remote communities to co-ordinate programs and services for all young people in the community, including young offenders.

Provide a range of rehabilitation and education programs for young offenders in custody.

Reduce the incidence of bullying and anti-social behaviour in schools.

Implement School Behaviour Management Plans to address bullying and violent behaviours.

Develop an Extreme Behaviours Initiative as part of the Student Enrolment, Attendance and Retention Strategy to provide safe learning and working environments.

Develop an Aggression Management Policy that will encompass a system wide approach in all public education workplaces to cover aggressive behaviour.

Pilot the Real Justice early intervention behaviour management program in three Northern Territory

Progress to Date

The Juvenile Diversion Pre-Court Scheme is funded under the four year \$20 million agreement with the Commonwealth Government with the aim to divert juvenile offenders away from the formal justice system and the Courts. The Scheme encourages parental responsibility, fosters partnerships between police, community and other Government agency programs and supports and involves victims. The Juvenile Diversion Division currently has 149 programs registered in 42 communities across the Territory. Since the Scheme commenced, almost 1,000 juveniles have been referred to family or victim/offender conferences with 360 of these juveniles being referred to programs.

CYDUs have been established in partnership with remote communities and other government agency programs to deliver juvenile pre-court diversion programs, support and services for those at risk. Services are established or proposed at Tennant Creek, Wadeye, Tiwi Islands, Groote Eylandt, Galiwin'ku, Borroloola and Papunya/Ikuntji which will service 14 communities. The Borroloola initiative is a major joint funded partnership arrangement with DHCS Trial Youth Centres Program. Discussions are continuing for the establishment of another unit in Central Australia.

The Senior Case Worker at the Don Dale Centre is currently running the Adolescents Coping with Emotions (ACE) program, a CBT program that looks at improving a range of coping mechanisms. This program runs for 8 x 90 minute sessions each week.

The Wildman River Wilderness camp is involved in a range of community work programs with the rangers and other community projects in the area.

Education programs are provided through DEET and a range of treatment programs are accessed from external providers, including Danila Dilba.

Other programs that occur as detainees reach the required classification level are concerned with re-integration and case management goals. These include community work programs, vocational leave and driver education.

A criminogenic risk and needs assessment instrument is currently being trialled within the Don Dale Centre to assist in targeting appropriate interventions to suit individual needs.

Seven advisory teachers are currently working with schools to develop a school Behaviour Management Policy that can be implemented across all schools.

See above.

The Aggression Management Policy is in the final stages with implementation expected in early 2004.

Training for teachers in the Real Justice Program has been held at Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Palmerston High Schools.



Key Issues

Improving relations between young people and the Police.

Priority Action

Implement recommendations from the review of the School Based Policing Scheme. The review acknowledges the valuable work undertaken by police officers in the school community and seeks to strengthen the role of the Scheme in providing education to young people on a range of legal and social issues.

Addressing domestic and family violence.

Make sure that the views of Territory youth are considered in implementing the Domestic and Aboriginal Family Violence Strategies.

Release a new workshop manual to assist young people to avoid abusive relationships.

Test and implement models of community education for young people at risk or who have experienced domestic or family violence.

Work in partnership with the Charles Darwin University to establish more effective ways of providing information on domestic and Aboriginal family violence to young people.

Progress to Date

The report of the review of the NT School Based Policing Scheme was tabled in October 2002 and accepted by Government. The review recommended that school based police re-focus their roles and responsibilities in line with seven core themes:

- ◊ The role of police in society;
- ◊ The legal system – rights, rules and responsibilities;
- ◊ Consequences of our actions;
- ◊ Keeping ourselves and others safe;
- ◊ Drug and alcohol education; and
- ◊ Personal development.

The review also recommended that the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE NT) program, currently delivered by school based police in most urban primary schools, be discontinued once a new program is identified by DEET. This would see drug education delivered by teachers, through the NT Curriculum Framework, with support from school based police on a needs basis. Options for the DEET program are currently being identified.

The Domestic Violence and Aboriginal Family Violence Advisory Council was established in 2002 and commenced meeting early in 2003. The Advisory Council is charged with providing high level and independent advice to Government on the implementation of the Domestic Violence and Aboriginal Family Violence Strategies, particularly in relation to regional and community issues.

The Advisory Council comprises 16 members plus the Chair. Members are drawn from the community across the Territory. Membership comprises special interest groups, service providers, academics and those involved in program delivery.

Ms Maxine Campbell represents interests of the youth sector and is a youth outreach worker with experience working with Indigenous youth as victims and as offenders of family violence. She is a member of the National Indigenous Youth Movement of the Australia Advisory Council.

The manual is currently being prepared and is due for completion by late 2003.

Young people at risk of domestic and family violence are of particular concern, and research undertaken in the Territory has shown that while young people may discuss such issues with their friends, they are reluctant to seek information and advice, should they themselves be experiencing such violence.

OWP has contracted with the Charles Darwin University to research and develop models and strategies for working with those young people who are at risk. The project involves in-depth interviews with young people who have experienced domestic or family violence or sexual assault. Information drawn from these interviews will be used to develop a model of intervention and information provision, which will be implemented and tested in later phases of the project.

See above.



Key Issues

Ensuring young people have access to safe and affordable accommodation.

Priority Action

Trial a youth housing model for homeless youth in the Palmerston and rural areas.

Support the Community Headleasing Project, a pilot program designed for youth to gain skills and experience prior to the transition to public tenancy.

Undertake a major review of the *Housing Act* and housing policies to improve accessibility of accommodation to target groups, including young people.

New Initiatives

Support the Lead Tenant Model project, a pilot program that provides crisis / transitional accommodation for homeless young people between the ages of 15 - 19 in the Palmerston area.

Provide funding for the purchase of accommodation to support a transitional housing program for young single mothers and their babies in Alice Springs.

Provide funding for a pilot project for the development and establishment of locally based crisis/transitional accommodation for homeless young people.

Youth at Risk Taskforce.

Provide additional treatment services to young offenders in custody.

Progress to Date

Approval was granted for YWCA, Anglicare and Centacare to trial the Youth Head Leasing project. Each organisation was approved the issue of 2 x 1 bedroom units. All three organisations have been allocated 1 x 1 bedroom units and are awaiting the second unit. Delays are being experienced due to the availability of 1 bedroom units in suitable locations.

See above.

The review of the *Housing Act* commenced in September 2002. The review is being worked in tandem with the development of Home Territory 2010.

Approval was granted for Anglicare to commence trialling the Lead Tenant Model project in June 2002. A three-bedroom duplex was allocated to Anglicare but the implementation of this pilot program was delayed until December 2002. Since allocation, nine youths have stayed in the dwelling for periods varying between two and 12 weeks. The role of lead tenant has changed three times since commencement of the project.

Funding was granted for the purchase of a six bedroom house to provide accommodation and support for young girls who are pregnant or single parents with their first baby who do not access services for ante natal or post natal care.

Funding was granted to Anglicare for the leasing of a caravan in the Palmerston area for a 45 week period to enable young homeless people access to crisis/short term accommodation and support services.

On February 2003, the Ministerial Standing Committee on Crime Prevention (MSCCP) resolved to establish the Youth At Risk Taskforce (YARTF) – a whole of government/community task force chaired by Graham Waite of NT Police.

The primary focus of the Taskforce is to develop a long-term strategy for youth at risk across the Territory and to develop some short-term solutions for Darwin and Palmerston. This development will include early intervention strategies for families and children identified "at risk" of becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour.

In May 2003 the Ministerial Standing Committee endorsed the development of a whole of Territory strategy targeting youth at risk by October 2003. This date has since been extended to early December 2003. The Committee further resolved to request that:

- ♦ the Commonwealth's Enterprise and Career Education Foundation consultants assist the YARTF with the development of the strategy;
- ♦ the Taskforce operate with full time members drawn from NT Police, DHCS and DEET; and part time members from DCDSCA and the Department of Justice;
- ♦ the proposed strategy is to include the whole of the Territory and take account of regional projects already under way; and
- ♦ recommendations on changes that might be needed to legislation and other specific measures be provided to Government.

The YARTF has since been researching best practice nationally and internationally and consulting with agencies, NGO's, committees and individuals across the Territory. A strategy is due to be presented to the MSCCP by the end of 2003.

Offender Program Management Branch's, Prisoner Rehabilitation Team (PRT) and Don Dale Centre (DDC) are in the process of collaborating to provide some additional offence focused treatment programs to detainees. A particular emphasis will be placed on targeting young offender's behaviours that contribute to criminal activity and cause management issues within DDC. These interventions will be co-delivered by the Senior Case Worker at DDC and a Treatment Intervention Worker from PRT.

