



Northern  
Territory  
Government

# **NORTHERN TERRITORY YOUTH PARTICIPATION FRAMEWORK 2014-2017**



**OFFICE OF YOUTH AFFAIRS  
NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT**

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**June 2014**

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## Message from the Minister

As Minister for Young Territorians, I am proud to present the *Northern Territory Youth Participation Framework 2014-2017 (Youth Participation Framework)*.

It is widely recognised that the years between 12 and 24 are a period of rapid growth and change. Many young people face challenges as they seek to navigate new opportunities, decisions and choices about personal relationships, identity, school, community and careers. The NT Government acknowledges a shared responsibility to support young people to grow up in safe and supportive environments, and to provide opportunities that assist them to successfully negotiate this period.

Our population is spread over vast geographical distances with a high number of young people residing in regional and remote localities. With this in mind, it is important to recognise the challenges of supporting participation and delivering programs and services to meet the growing, diverse needs of young people.

The *Youth Participation Framework* delivers a whole of government framework that articulates both the positive contribution and recognition of young people aged 12-24 years, whilst also acknowledging the dedicated services and policy focus required across Government and the non-government sector.

The document is strongly aligned to the NT Government's *Framing the Future* strategic plan which sets out the Government's directions and goals that will underpin service delivery for all Territorians. The plan also takes into account the initiatives also in place with the Australian Government.

Young people play an integral role in the present and future development of the Northern Territory (NT) and will be supported to achieve their aspirations, and to contribute to our community. It is my hope that together we will make meaningful improvements, and build on what is working effectively.

Thank you to the many young people, non-government organisations, Government agencies and community members who participated and contributed to this document's development.

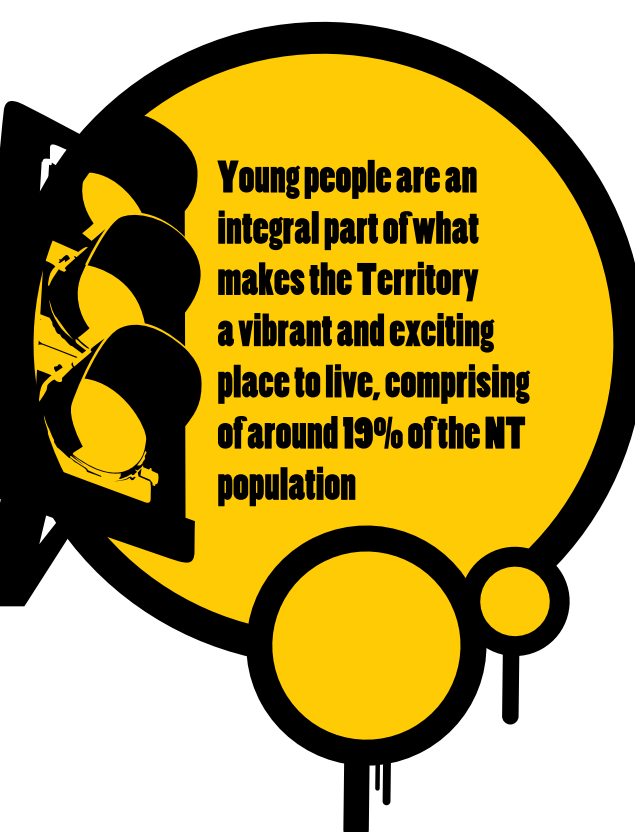
Minister for Young Territorians  
The Hon. Peter Styles MLA

**YOUNG TERRITORIANS MAKING  
POSITIVE CHOICES,  
CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY,  
CELEBRATING  
YOUTH CULTURE**

## Introduction

The *Youth Participation Framework* outlines a whole of government approach to programs and services for young people in the Northern Territory. This framework defines young people between the ages of 12-24 years, to ensure consistency with the *National Youth Strategy*<sup>1</sup> and available data and information.

The years between 12 and 24 are a time of rapid growth as young people experience significant emotional, social, physical, psychological, and cognitive developmental changes. During this period, social and environmental factors may influence an individual's behaviour and choices such as trialling value and belief sets different to those of their family, and risk taking behaviours such as experimentation with alcohol and other drugs. In addition, young men and women experience adolescence differently because of society's understandings and expectations of predefined cultural and gendered roles. Ideas around what it means to be a boy or a girl, or a man or a woman can have a profound impact on a young person's development.



**Young people are an integral part of what makes the Territory a vibrant and exciting place to live, comprising of around 19% of the NT population**

Young people are an integral part of what makes the Territory a vibrant and exciting place to live, comprising around 19 per cent of the Northern Territory population - or approximately 45,184<sup>2</sup> people. According to the 2011 Census, 55 per cent of all young Territorians aged 12-24 live in urban areas, while the remaining 45 per cent live in remote areas.<sup>3</sup> The demography of the NT therefore presents a particular challenge in terms of inclusive policies and ensuring young people have access to the services they need.

The *Youth Participation Framework* has been developed to provide an overarching framework for the design and delivery of a range of NT strategies, services and approaches for improving options and opportunities for young people in the short and long-term. Furthermore, it includes key indicators as a way to monitor progress against each of its goals. These indicators have been selected to provide a high level snapshot of outcomes for young people in the NT.

The framework is not intended to provide a list of all youth issues or Government youth related programs and services. It does however articulate Government's intent to support and frame youth policy and program development and has been crafted to be flexible enough to accommodate emerging needs and better practice models. The *Youth Participation Framework* is also enhanced and complemented by more targeted strategies and frameworks developed to address a broad range of complex issues facing young Territorians, including those at risk, experiencing vulnerability or involved in the criminal justice system.

1. Australian Government, National Youth Strategy for Young Australians, 2010, <http://www.youth.gov.au/sites/youth/ayf/media/pages/nationalstrategyforyoungaustralians>

2. Australian Government, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), *Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia*, Catalogue No. 3101.0, 2012, [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

3. 2011 Census Data – latest available data



Along with our interstate counterparts the NT acknowledges and commits to the United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child,<sup>4</sup> and supports the Australian Government's National Strategy for Young Australians;<sup>5</sup> and the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) National Action Plan for Young Australians.<sup>6</sup> Importantly, young people have played a key role in the development of this framework and have freely shared their ideas, issues, concerns and their hopes for a better future. The *Youth Participation Framework* acknowledges and incorporates their ideas, new strategies, and sets goals, principles and a shared vision for young Territorians for the next three years.

## Office of Youth Affairs

The Office of Youth Affairs is responsible for informing and mentoring better practice in engaging with young people. We support and facilitate opportunities which enable young people to share ideas, voice concerns, celebrate positive achievements and highlight contributions to the community. In addition, the Office supports events and activities that provide drug and alcohol free entertainment and positive developmental opportunities for young Territorians.

The Office of Youth Affairs uses a strengths-based approach to consult and build partnerships with young people in their communities and to support their goals. In this role, the Office works with individuals, community organisations, Australian, Territory and local government partners to achieve defined outcomes. This process fosters empowerment and engagement which is youth-led, with a focus on setting future outcomes which aim to become lifelong strengths and capabilities for young people. The Office of Youth Affairs aims to enhance

the ability of individuals, groups, families, neighbourhoods and communities to deal with their own challenges. Acknowledging the strengths of young people and respecting their ideas for current and future policies and projects, empowers them to create change in their communities.

A key role of the Office of Youth Affairs is to inform and mentor better practice in engaging with young people to enable their ideas and needs to be heard and supported. Programs such as the Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians play an important role in facilitating direct communication between young people and the NT Government. The NT Government supports many diverse services with and for young people. A better practice framework checklist has been developed as a 'how to guide', and may be used as a tool by stakeholders to review and improve young people's access to youth-friendly services, youth targeted initiatives and workplace environments. The checklist is provided at **Appendix A**.

The Office of Youth Affairs will be the custodian of the *Youth Participation Framework*, and will be accountable for facilitating and collating information to report on the indicators listed against the defined goals.

4. United Nations, United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child, <http://www.unicef.org/crc/>

5. Australian Government, National Youth Strategy for Young Australians, 2010, <http://www.youth.gov.au/sites/youth/ayf/media/pages/nationalstrategyforyoungaustralians>

6. Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY), The Nest: A national plan for child and youth wellbeing, <http://www.aracy.org.au/projects/the-nest>

## NORTHERN TERRITORY YOUTH PROFILE

Baseline data is critical to effective strategy and service development. Such data ensures that it is future-orientated and population trends are considered. It also ensures the framework is designed to meet the needs of the target group.

- As at June 2012, there were 45,184 young Territorians aged between 12 and 24 years old. Young Territorians comprise approximately 19.1 per cent of the total population (236,869) in the Territory.<sup>7</sup>
- Males make up 54 per cent (24,284) of the youth population, compared to 46 per cent of females (20,900).<sup>8</sup>
- Young Territorians aged 12-16 years make up 36 per cent (16,095) of the total youth population, with 17-24 year olds making up the remaining 64 per cent (29,089).<sup>9</sup>
- There were approximately 14,101 young Indigenous people in the NT. This number accounts for 31 per cent of the total youth population of the Territory.<sup>10</sup>
- According to the 2011 Census, 55 per cent of all young people aged 12-24 years live in urban areas, while the remaining 45 per cent live in remote areas.<sup>11</sup>
- According to the 2011 Census, 10 per cent of all young people aged 12-24 years, were born outside of Australia, 8.4 per cent had not stated, and the remaining 81.6 per cent were born in Australia.<sup>12</sup>
- The leading countries of birth (apart from Australia) for young people aged 12-24 years, according to the 2011 Census were the Philippines, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and India.<sup>13</sup>

## WHAT LED US HERE

The second phase included the circulation of the *draft NT Government Youth Policy Consultation Paper* to over 2500 contacts of young people and organisations working directly with young people. A list of all organisations who contributed to this process can be found at **Appendix B**.

Young people, their advocates and those working directly with them have played a key role in the development of this framework, sharing their ideas, issues and concerns. The views of young people and the youth sector have shaped the development of the goals and have highlighted the need for future focus on what works.

The Office of Youth Affairs also undertook a review of a cross section of policies and strategies relating to young people. The results are presented at **Appendix C**. A full list of references is also included at **Appendix D**.

A snapshot of the policy context in which this document is framed is provided on the next page. In particular, the Youth Framework goals are mapped against *Framing the Future*, the Northern Territory Government's strategic framework, which sets out Government's directions and goals that will underpin service delivery for all Territorians.

7. Australian Bureau of Statistics, catalogue no. 3101.0

8. Australian Bureau of Statistics, catalogue no. 3101.0

9. Australian Bureau of Statistics, catalogue no. 3101.0

10. Australian Bureau of Statistics, catalogue no. 3101.0

11. 2011 Census Data – latest available data

12. 2011 Census Data – latest available data

13. 2011 Census Data – latest available data





# Youth Participation Framework Policy Context

## Framing the Future strategic goals

**Strong Society  
(SS)**

**Confident Culture  
(CC)**

**Prosperous  
Economy  
(PE)**

**Balanced  
Environment  
(BE)**

### CELEBRATING

- Obj 1, CC > Healthy, well communities
- Obj 2, CC > Focus on Young Territorians, Senior Territorians and advance Territory women
- Obj 2, CC > Community Connections
- Obj 3, CC > Develop and showcase the arts
  - > Build on celebrated Territory events

### LEARNING

- Obj 1, SS > High levels of employment
  - > Continued learning
- Obj 2, SS > Provide disability services that meet an individual's needs
- Obj 2, PE > Increase the capacity and capability of Aboriginal Territorians and businesses
- Obj 4, PE > Support workforce attraction and retention: enhance liveability in the Northern Territory
- Obj 2, CC > Focus on Young Territorians, Senior Territorians and advance Territory women

### TRANSITIONING

- Obj 2, CC > Community Connections
- Obj 2, CC > Focus on Young Territorians, Senior Territorians and advance Territory women
- Obj 2, BE > Strong working relationships

### CONNECTING

- Obj 2, SS > Reduce homelessness
- Obj 3, SS > Enhance community safety
  - > Reduce violence at school, home, work and while travelling
- Obj 2, CC > Focus on Young Territorians, Senior Territorians and advance Territory women

### PARTICIPATING

- Obj 1, SS > Support Territorians to own their own home
  - > Support Territorians in social housing
  - > Support Territorians in remote
- Obj 2, CC > Focus on Young Territorians, Senior Territorians and advance Territory women

### WELLBEING

- Obj 1, SS > Support the most health vulnerable
- Obj 3, SS > Support young people in, or at risk of entering, the justice system
  - > Reduce reoffending
- Obj 1, CC > Healthy, well communities
- Obj 3, CC > Enhance our sporting lifestyle

## A FRAMEWORK for all Young Territorians

**Vision:** *Young Territorians – making positive choices, connecting with community, celebrating youth culture*

The *Youth Participation Framework* 2014-2017 is a whole of government framework for young Territorians 12-24 years old, living in the Northern Territory (NT).

Creation of the framework establishes strategic goals, principles and a shared vision for young Territorians for the next three years.

### GOALS



### PRINCIPLES

#### **RESPECT:**

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO VOICE THEIR VIEWS, TO BE HEARD AND RESPECTED

#### **DIVERSITY:**

DIFFERENCES AND DIVERSITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE IS RECOGNISED AND CELEBRATED

#### **ACCESS:**

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO SERVICES THAT BEST MEET THEIR NEEDS

#### **EMPOWERMENT:**

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE EMPOWERED TO MAKE POSITIVE CHOICES AND HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO INFLUENCE DECISION MAKING

#### **EQUITY:**

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE SOCIALLY INCLUDED THROUGH A COMMITMENT TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

#### **CO-ORDINATION:**

COLLABORATION OF EXPERTISE AND RESOURCES TO STRENGTHEN SERVICE NETWORKS.

The *Youth Participation Framework* provides:

- A commitment from the NT Government to support current and future outcomes for young people
- A framework for organisations with young people as a target group to develop effective strategies for service delivery
- Agreed focus areas for improving the lives of young people experiencing vulnerability
- Strengths based approach for youth service development based on evidence
- A framework for organisations, departments and communities to work together to benefit young people

It is recognised that stakeholders have a multitude of indicators and success measures against their core business. The indicators included within the *Youth Participation Framework* have been selected to provide high level snapshot measures for young people in the NT.



**Note:** please note that the following indicators are subject to change based on the availability of appropriate NT specific data sets.

## Goals of the Youth Participation Framework

### CELEBRATING

Young Territorians embrace their culture, have fun and live in harmony

#### What does it mean?

Celebration is defined by the moments we take to discover and express our culture, identity and our passions. Culture refers to the processes (e.g. common sense, 'usual way of doing things', traditions and rituals, frameworks for understanding experiences, etc.) shared by a group of people, which are maintained and transformed across time. Culture is a dynamic and historical process.

Youth culture refers to a system of interconnected symbolic meanings and processes that make young people distinctive from their parents, and the other adults in their community. Young Territorians are encouraged and supported to express their culture in a fun environment by getting involved in experiences, activities, and events in which our community can celebrate collectively.

#### Why is it important?

Community consultation<sup>15</sup> highlighted the importance of celebrating youth culture in a positive light in order to encourage a balanced image of young people. There is an acknowledgement of the power of technology and social media especially in relation to young people's rights, privacy and identity protection.


*'We need to celebrate young people's successes, promote positive stories in the media and ensure the stories are balanced.'*

15. The quotes featured are derived from participants who attended the face to face Public consultations, conducted from the period October 2010 – February 2011.



Young Territorians live in unique places, and come from many diverse backgrounds. Differences in this context can relate to identities, languages, geography and family. There is great potential to promote living in harmony by sharing a common goal. It is emphasised that young people need their contributions (economic, social and cultural) to be valued more across the wider community.

*'There is significant potential in articulating and emphasising the need for new partnerships, new ways of understanding, new action and results that emanate from opportunities which connect across differences.'*



The NT Government will continue working collaboratively with the NT youth sector from a strengths-based approach to facilitate opportunities for young people to enjoy life, and celebrate the diversity of the Territory.

*‘The sector’s role is to help young people to foster a positive world view and make the most of their opportunities.’*

### How will we get there?

To develop a strong society and achieve a confident culture, young Territorians of all backgrounds are encouraged to participate in activities that enable them to build supportive connections between their

peers and the community by participating in sport, recreation, arts and cultural events. This also encompasses activities which counter racism and discrimination by celebrating different cultural heritages and traditions.

Evidence supports that young Territorians are getting involved in opportunities to have fun and express their culture. National Youth Week (NYW) is an event held around April annually in every Australian state and territory. It has become the NT’s largest celebration of youth, allowing young people to get involved, have fun and participate in events and activities across the Territory.



## Goal

**Celebrating:** Young Territorians embrace their culture, have fun and live in harmony.

### Actions

- Support the Youth Engagement Grant Program (YEGP) to enable young people to participate in recreation activities, particularly those in regional and remote locations
- Improve affordability, access and awareness of youth activities
- Support a range of awards which recognise the outstanding contributions of young people in their community
- 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
- Create opportunities to build supportive connections between young Territorians using sport, recreation, arts and cultural events, facilities and venues, and enhance community value, use and enjoyment of Territory parks
- Encourage use of school facilities for positive community purposes including sports, recreation, arts and cultural activities
- Continue to support young Territorians with youth development and leadership opportunities
- Continue to broker partnerships to build the NYW program, and to maximise youth participation
- Develop effective strategies that engage youth in accessible art activities and projects that provide mentoring across national leaders
- Provide opportunities for young Territorians of all backgrounds to come together to experience different cultural heritages and traditions, participate in healthy outdoor activities and continue to support activities that counter racism and discrimination
- Support and strengthen events within the Territory that energise local communities

## LEARNING

### Young Territorians are engaged with positive education and career experiences

#### What does it mean?

The transition from education to employment is a critical milestone in the lives of most young people. The knowledge gained from formal education provides an important foundation in the development of critical life skills. It is recognised that there are strong links between a good education and economic outcomes, often integrated with positive career experiences. Each element creates a pathway, bringing them closer to realising their potential.

#### Why is it important?

Consultations<sup>16</sup> highlighted the importance of young people having career aspirations in life. There was a strong recognition of how positive school and learning experiences relating to life skills were crucial to young people's development. The need to support local people through local opportunities has been highlighted. It is considered important for young Territorians to expand their horizons which may include re-locating to undertake education and training. Many expressed their desire to return to their community to use their skills, contribute to community, act as role models and help keep local organisations sustainable.

*'Young people need to have aspirations. Many young people self-refer to services, as they want support, for example to get a job.'*

There is acknowledgement that due to prohibitive factors such as geography, the ability to attract appropriate staff as mentors, low levels of literacy and numeracy, and limited viable economies in smaller Territory communities can limit opportunities for young Territorians to successfully transition from learning environments into the open labour market. Services need to be innovative to ensure young Territorians do not 'fall through the gaps'.

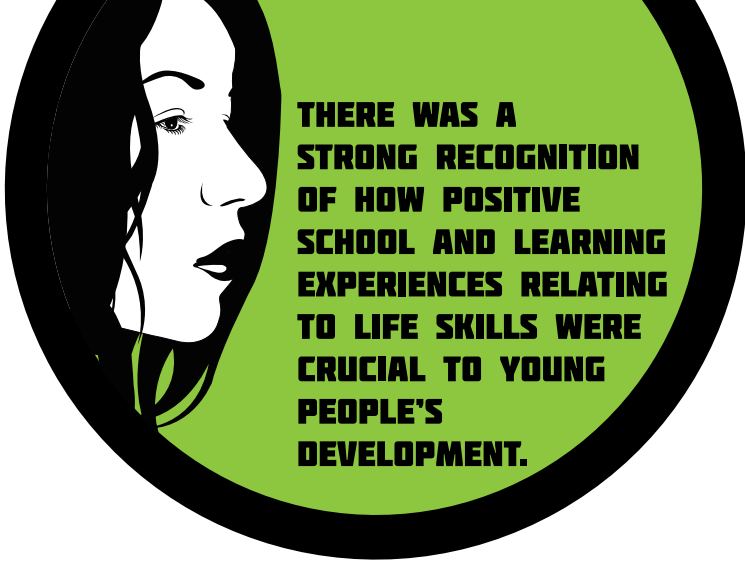
*'Young people are often required to move to where the opportunities exist to pursue what it is they want to do.'*

Generating education and training opportunities in regional and remote locations plays an important role in the development of communities. There needs to be support for initiatives that grow local industry and enterprises, which enable young people to contribute to community sustainability, and the local economy.



16. The quotes featured are derived from participants who attended the face to face Public consultations, conducted from the period October 2010 – February 2011.





*‘Young people need the opportunity to learn trades on community, or trades they can transfer back to the community, e.g. hairdressing and mechanics.’*

Consultations highlighted a need for an increase in the provision of Indigenous cultural awareness education. Opportunities for young people to learn through real experiences which enable them to effectively ‘understand the environment’ that surrounds them, have the potential to develop more meaningful connections and appreciation for difference or diversity in their learning.

*‘Positive reconciliation messages are required to overcome racial tensions, along with cultural safety training, so that all young people are valued.’*

### How will we get there?

Quality education plays a key role in engaging and increasing participation of young Territorians in our community and economy. Government is committed to working with families, communities and other key stakeholders to deliver quality educational services for young people across the Territory. This will ensure services reflect current and future social and economic needs of the Territory and that services and systems are responsive to the needs of our communities and schools.

Reforms to improve outcomes for disadvantaged, Indigenous and remote young people are a major priority for the Northern Territory, and as such related activity is aligned to the national reform agenda being driven through a number of key national agreements with the Australian Government. By committing to providing higher quality education services, young people will be supported to become confident and capable global citizens.

## Goal

**Learning:** Young Territorians are engaged with positive education and career experiences

### Actions

- Review Indigenous education to inform future service delivery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, particularly in remote and very remote locations and implement outcomes of the review
- Rewrite the Education Act to meet the future needs of education services in the Northern Territory, including evolving and advancing models of school governance and education
- Provide flexible and innovative options for service delivery to enable access to quality education and training programs
- Continue to implement the Australian curriculum in all schools in a way that is contextually relevant and meets the needs of all students
- Increase support for apprentices and trainees across the Territory
- Provide programs to target the continued attendance of at risk Indigenous students in senior schooling through engagement activities and mentoring support
- Provide a leadership program to foster the skills of high achieving Indigenous students to become leaders amongst their peers
- Develop 'Local Jobs for Local People' initiatives to expand employment opportunities in regional and remote area
- Continue to develop, attract and retain a skilled workforce that meets the demands of a growing economy
- Assist business to create local Indigenous workforce opportunities
- Develop a workforce planning tool for major remote towns to identify structured pathways to support economic participation in these remote communities
- Support initiatives that link workers in remote areas to jobs created through major resource and infrastructure projects in Darwin
- Initiate the development of a wrap-around services model to support pathways to sustainable employment
- Build productive partnerships and collaborations with industry and education and training providers to create structured pathways to employment for students
- Strengthen skill development in students to meet the needs of industry
- Provide employment pathways in schools that meet skill shortage/community needs
- Expand work immersion practices in partnership with industry to strengthen students understanding of work
- Continue to support Charles Darwin University to provide a broad range of higher education programs to meet the aspirations and expectations of young Territorians.
- Lead Whole of Government action in addressing school attendance with a place-based approach
- Create the opportunity and environment for successful learning for every student in every school
- Drive improved learning outcomes for Territory students through consistent curriculum and analysis of student data to inform whole-of-school action
- Conduct regular school reviews to ensure processes, school support and regulation are best practice
- Foster an inclusive culture and high expectations of students, including students with disabilities, learning in our schools
- Provide services and support to young people with a disability, and meet individual needs through the Office of Disability by maximising future benefits of the National Disability Insurance Scheme

## PARTICIPATING

### Young Territorians express themselves and participate in decisions that affect their lives

#### What does it mean?

Participating means sharing with others, being able to express ideas, build peer relationships and partake in community life. For young Territorians this often includes locating and engaging with services to support their needs and interests. Technology plays a significant role in growing service delivery and ensuring its effectiveness, especially in regional and remote localities.

Participating also interlinks with an important milestone, young people moving out of their parents' or carers' home. Young people move out of home at different times in their lives and may encounter challenging circumstances in purchasing affordable housing or sourcing appropriate accommodation options. For vulnerable or at risk young people accessibility to appropriate housing is particularly important in establishing a strong foundation for the future.

#### Why is it important?

Consultations<sup>17</sup> highlighted a need to better engage young people, in interactive ways, to enhance access to relevant services. Young people need to have equal opportunity to participate in community life, which commonly centres around purpose built infrastructure.

*'Youth centres in communities are typically small, but run varied services, from after-school activities, discos, family interventions and recreation programs. Resources can include kitchenettes, pool tables etc.'*

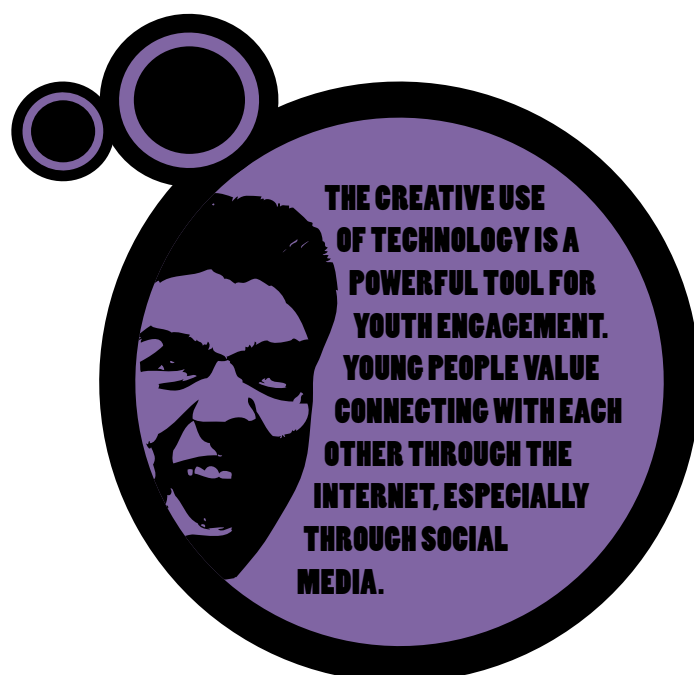
The creative use of technology is a powerful tool for youth engagement. Young people value connecting with each other through the internet, especially through social media.

*'We need to include technology and social media marketing in our service design, and provide training for organisations to ensure we are youth-friendly.'*

Services that target young people play a crucial role in supporting them to address and overcome prohibitive factors such as substance misuse, violence and bullying, body image concerns, mental health issues and racism.

Consultations highlighted the need for all stakeholders to work cohesively, and collaboratively, to engage with young people to continually improve practice.

*'Complaints processes need to be seen as an opportunity to improve practice.'*



17. The quotes featured are derived from participants who attended the face to face Public consultations, conducted from the period October 2010 – February 2011.



## How will we get there?

Encouraging young people to actively get involved in democratic processes including enrolling to vote, taking part in voluntary work and providing direct feedback to all levels of government expands opportunities for greater participation in decision making. Across Australia there is an ageing volunteer population and as such, there is a national directive to encourage young people between the ages of 18-24 to contribute to the community. It creates opportunities for personal development, strengthens links to the community, and helps to build and reinforce social networks and cohesion.

The NT Government is committed to providing incentives to encourage and support first home owners. Housing affordability is particularly critical for many young Territorians looking to purchase their first home. Home ownership provides security of tenure, a secure base for raising a family, and a means for creating financial security. Rising house prices means that home ownership presents a challenge for many young families, with rising rents putting pressure on low and moderate income households. This in turn is having a social impact with young people renting for longer and making life decisions like family formation later, while renting.

### Goal

**Participating:** Young Territorians express themselves and participate in decisions that affect their lives

### Actions

- Consistent and effective care for children and young people in out-of-home care. This includes development of a range of available out-of-home care services and ensure that placements are made in accordance with the best interests of the young person
- Develop and implement a Real Housing for Growth plan to increase affordable housing supply and ease housing costs pressures by facilitating the construction of 2000 new affordable homes across the Territory over the next four years to 2016/17
- Delivery of both rental and home ownership initiatives to provide affordable tenure choices
- Support strategies covered under the scope of Real Housing for Growth including a head-leasing initiative delivered through the Venture Housing Company, HomeBuild Access/ HomeBuyer Initiative and redevelopment of urban public housing sites
- Continue to identify and secure suitable sites for affordable housing to achieve outcomes detailed in the Real Housing for Growth plan
- Provide post-school options for young people with disabilities to support their transition to adulthood, including employment, training, further education and the development of independent living skills
- Work with families and relevant agencies to monitor and support the learning needs of vulnerable students

## CONNECTING

Young Territorians are strongly connected to their families, communities and culture

### What does it mean?

Family and peer relationship connections are important factors in wellbeing for young people. Connectedness is further enhanced by the role of culture and how it influences connections to physical environments. The global nature of current issues, and concerns relating to the environment, are also influencing decisions young Territorians are making about their present, and their future.

### Why is it important?

Consultations<sup>18</sup> highlighted that young people want to live in safe and vibrant communities where they feel connected to their peers, family and the wider community in a positive way.

*'It is 'normal' for young people to hang out and use public space; smarter design and management of space is crucial.'*

Consultations revealed when people feel a strong positive connection it is less likely they will do harm, or be subject to harm.

*'We want no more breaking into people's property; we want to keep our community clean and tidy, stop littering, graffiti and swearing.'*

Young Territorians are keen to connect with people where they live and beyond through learning, sport, travel and discovering new ways to communicate.


*'Inter-township relationships need to be built; there is opportunity to start regular sport competitions between Elliott and Mataranka, as there are good relationships in place.'*

There is a strong emphasis on the role of young mothers and the need for targeted support, to ensure they continue to be engaged with family and community.

*'Family involvement is essential, especially around youth making decisions.'*

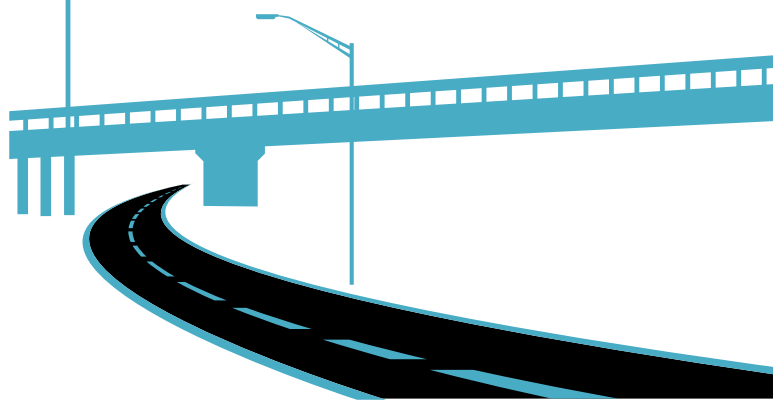
Geographical boundaries and vast distances in the Territory can present a challenge for service delivery. Partnerships between services are critical in regional areas to ensure services cater for remote localities, client mobility and the transient nature of Territory populations.

*'People in remote areas, such as the Barkly Region are highly mobile with cultural reasons for movement between communities.'*



**YOUNG TERRITORIANS  
ARE KEEN TO CONNECT  
WITH PEOPLE WHERE  
THEY LIVE AND BEYOND  
THROUGH LEARNING,  
SPORT, TRAVEL  
AND DISCOVERING  
NEW WAYS TO  
COMMUNICATE.**

18. The quotes featured are derived from participants who attended the face to face Public consultations, conducted from the period October 2010 – February 2011.



## How will we get there?

As identified by the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth, when young people feel connected to their families, communities and culture they have a positive sense of belonging of self-identity. Individuals who feel loved and safe are confident and have high self-esteem. They form secure attachments, have pro-social peer connections, and positive adult role models or mentors are present in their life. This results in developing resilience to withstand life's challenges, and respond constructively to setbacks and unanticipated events.<sup>19</sup>

Young Territorians are able to connect by participating in programs that enable them to choose different and exciting ways of engaging with their community, develop skills, make positive choices and encourage a better life path. The programs may also provide an alternative diversionary pathway; offer mentorship, positive life reinforcement and employment options.

### Goal

**Connecting:** Young Territorians are strongly connected to their families, communities and culture

### Actions

- Produce an Integrated Transport Planning and Investment Roadmap, which outlines a long term transport service and infrastructure delivery plan for the Territory
- Review and evaluate NT Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) system to ensure cost-effective and contemporary SHS services
- Implement the Pillars of Justice Framework, reform targeted justice legislation and administration procedures that protect the rights of the most vulnerable
- Provide support to families to help reduce the incidence of violence in the home by progressing actions in the NT under the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children 2010-2022
- Safe Streets Audit to inform crime prevention strategies
- Improve public transport safety
- Improve opportunities for young people and youth organisations to become involved in regional development planning processes
- Support community involvement in the development of crime prevention strategies, with young people involved in developing solutions
- Support NT Education in utilising NT Parks for delivering curriculum, and helping ensure that the next generation of NT residents grows up with a strong sense of pride and ownership of the NT Environment, its Parks and Reserves and its way of life
- Build young people's capacity to develop personal and social capabilities by extending access to healthy relationships programs
- Support and facilitate innovative programs that enable young Territorians to choose different and exciting ways of engaging with their community, develop skills, make positive choices and encourage a better life path. The programs may also provide an alternative diversionary pathway; offer mentorship, positive life reinforcement and employment options.
- Review anti-bullying policy guidelines and incorporate a policy regarding cyberbullying and the use of mobile phones during school hours.

19. ARACY, The Nest: A national plan for child and youth wellbeing, <http://www.aracy.org.au/projects/the-nest>



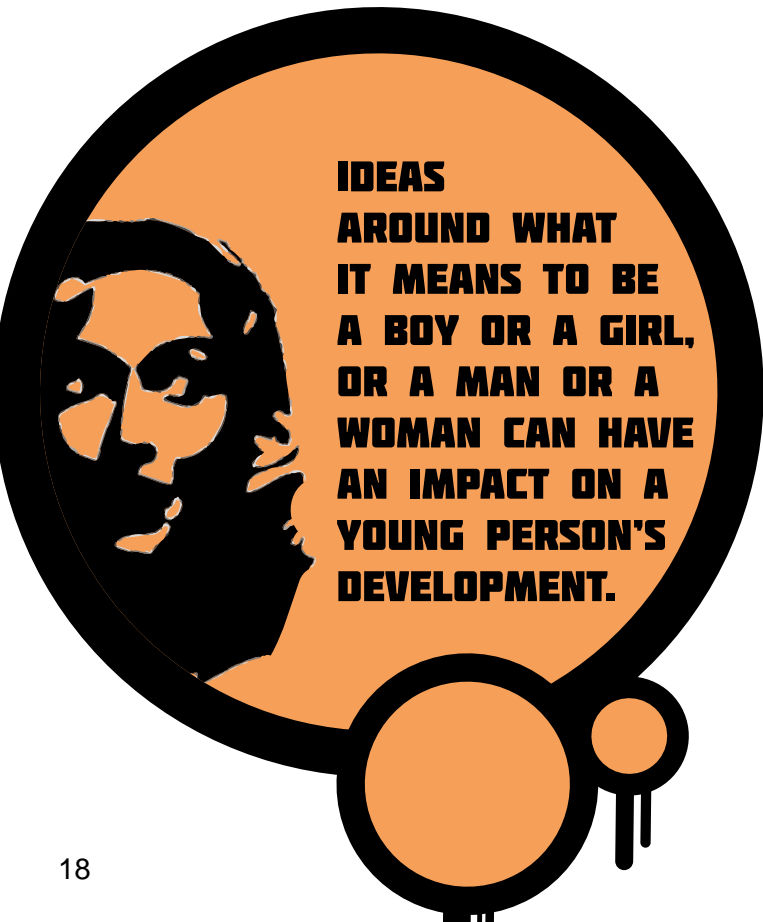
## TRANSITIONING

Young Territorians are supported by strong youth development and support networks, assisting them to achieve

### What does it mean?

The ages of 12-24 years mark the passage from adolescence to adulthood. During this transitional period, social, economic, physiological and environmental factors may influence an individual's behaviour which has the ability to heighten vulnerability.

In addition, young men and women experience adolescence differently because of society's understandings and expectations of predefined cultural and gendered roles. Ideas around what it means to be a boy or a girl, or a man or a woman can have an impact on a young person's development. Positive and supportive networks are crucial in supporting young Territorians to pursue their aspirations to achieve and grow. Diverse networks allow a broader range of developmental opportunities to successfully navigate this often difficult transition.



**IDEAS  
AROUND WHAT  
IT MEANS TO BE  
A BOY OR A GIRL,  
OR A MAN OR A  
WOMAN CAN HAVE  
AN IMPACT ON A  
YOUNG PERSON'S  
DEVELOPMENT.**

### Why is it important?

Consultations<sup>20</sup> highlighted that strong support networks and economic security play an important role in young people feeling a sense of satisfaction with life.

***'Financial security and strong support networks including friends and family have helped me develop a sense of fulfilment in my life.'***

There was a strong emphasis on improving accessibility to targeted support. Services highlighted included health and education with a focus on mental health, reproductive and sexual health, safety, maternity services and support for young parents, substance abuse issues and alternative education options.

***'Young people are increasingly utilising online services to gain information – at a younger age.'***

Although a successful transition to adulthood involves more than financial independence, home ownership was highlighted as an important phase which marks the development of a strong economic foundation.

***'Despite the difficulties and expenses associated with buying my first home, the outcome has been rewarding. I feel proud that I can financially support myself, and I have made an investment into my future.'***

20. The quotes featured are derived from participants who attended the face to face Public consultations, conducted from the period October 2010 – February 2011.

## How will we get there?

Many young people face challenges as they seek to navigate new opportunities, decisions and choices about personal relationships, identity, school, community and careers.

Each transition requires young people to take on new roles. These roles involve both independence and interdependence, the ability to give and take in relationships with mutual respect and understanding.

### Goal

**Transitioning:** Young Territorians are supported by strong youth development and support networks, assisting them to achieve

### Actions

- Continue to support opportunities that provide a direct avenue for young people to provide advice to the NT Government through programs such as the Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians
- Maintain delivery of educational programs that promote an understanding of the Northern Territory parliamentary, electoral and justice systems
- Increase opportunities for young people to participate and volunteer in the community
- Improve employment opportunities for school leavers
- Support Northern Territory Public Sector (NTPS) Graduate Development program
- Support Indigenous Cadet Program which assists young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to obtain qualifications and enable them to take up employment with the NTPS
- Offer a range of programs encouraging young people who are establishing in business or wish to start a business
- Develop information resources on economic and financial issues to assist young people to plan for their financial future
- In consultation with relevant stakeholders, development of tools aimed at attracting and retaining volunteers through continued improvements to training, resourcing and support
- Support young Territorians, and youth community organisations in their efforts to secure grant funding from all sources (government, private or philanthropic)
- Investigate ways to support young social entrepreneurs through the use of the YEGP and other government programs that support social enterprise as they may be developed
- Increased community involvement in environmental awareness and mitigation programs
- Establish new intensive therapeutic support services for vulnerable, high risk, young people in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs. These services will be targeted at young people aged 10-18 years who have previously experienced hurt or trauma, abuse and/or neglect, and as a result engage in behaviours that place them at significant risk of further serious emotional or physical harm.
- Programs to support NT lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people and other sexuality and gender diverse (LGBTI) youth are explored and promoted

## WELLBEING

Young Territorians lead safe, healthy and happy lives by making positive lifestyle choices

### What does it mean?

Wellbeing is shaped by genetics, upbringing, personal circumstances and choices and the social conditions in which we live. Our wellbeing is improved if we live in a peaceful, flourishing, supportive society, where we develop as a person and feel that our lives are fulfilling and worthwhile.

Young people today face a complex range of challenges to their health and wellbeing. Wellbeing also recognises the range of socio-economic factors which impact on their lives and how healthy environments (physical, social, emotional) support positive youth development.

Wellbeing comes from having a network of relationships and interests. Family and friends, work, leisure activities and spiritual beliefs can all increase our wellbeing.



### Why is it important?

Consultations<sup>21</sup> highlighted that young people's health and wellbeing is a major focus for individuals, communities and organisations. Community infrastructure and resources are required to cater to growing youth populations and focus on early intervention activities that promote wellbeing and prevent harm.

***“Recreational services and community infrastructure needs to be built according to future population requirements; this means youth friendly environments and communities, where young people can access public spaces.”***

Health indicators for young Territorians further highlight the diverse issues that can impact on young people's sense of wellbeing and safety. The emphasis on improving nutrition and the importance of families connecting during meal times were raised during consultations.

***‘Need to ensure young people have access to a stable diet and parenting skills that focus on validating roles in family environment, nutrition, wellbeing etc’***



21. The quotes featured are derived from participants who attended the face to face Public consultations, conducted from the period October 2010 – February 2011.

Consultations highlighted that incentive and reward based programs may be more effective in changing behaviours. Additionally, programs that engage young people in interactive activities and improve their sense of wellbeing, can also achieve improved health and learning outcomes.

***‘Things we do (in Nhulunbuy) for fun; St John cadet volunteers, skate park every Thursday, pool, parks, Arafura dance, friends, houses, camping, touch football, rugby, AFL, soccer, BMX, karate, tennis, nippers surf lifesaving. We have good athletes in town and lots get selected to represent NT. New things we could do; theatre, scouts, Dukes, library, fishing trips and getting a new mall.’***

## How will we get there?

When young people are in good health they are more likely to achieve better educational outcomes, make a successful transition to fulltime work and develop healthy adult lifestyles. Current national health and wellbeing research indicates that Indigenous young people are far more likely to be disadvantaged across a broad range of health, community and socioeconomic indicators compared with non-Indigenous young people. In the NT a similar picture is painted with a high proportion of young Indigenous people facing significant challenges, including involvement in the criminal justice system, which are complicated by remoteness and limited services.

## Goal

**Wellbeing:** Young Territorians lead safe, healthy, and happy lives making positive lifestyle choices.

## Actions

- Continue to provide grants for young people to participate in drug and alcohol free entertainment and promotion of positive health and lifestyle messages
- Develop and implement the Northern Territory Youth Health Policy, which will focus on initiatives which aim to improve the health and wellbeing of young Territorians
- Support positive learning programs for parents
- Promote safe sex practices to young people to reaffirm their knowledge of healthy safe sex practices and to reduce the potential risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections
- Delivery of sexual health education in schools
- Develop and implement a Suicide Prevention Action Plan
- Investigate the development of resources and support services to reduce the impact of negative body image on young men and women
- Provide secure care facilities for assessment care and stabilisation of young people presenting with mental health issues
- Support the implementation of core Youth Health programs, across the Northern Territory
- Work in partnership with the NGO sector to:
  - Develop and implement a Youth Justice Framework;
  - Implement Youth Boot Camps
  - Conduct a review of youth detention centre operations; and
  - Develop and implement a community-based youth supervision model.
- Delivery of road safety education and awareness in schools and the community
- Conduct water safety education and awareness programs and initiatives throughout the Territory

## IMPLEMENTATION, REPORTING AND REVIEW

The Office of Youth Affairs in the Department of the Chief Minister is responsible for the *Youth Participation Framework*. As the custodian of the *Youth Participation Framework*, the Office will be accountable for facilitating and collating information to report on the indicators listed against the defined goals. Each respective indicator has been selected on the basis that there is data collection underway or a commitment on a National and Territory level to capture and produce relevant data sets. Data will be obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) and the Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing.

During the reporting phase, the Office of Youth Affairs will work closely with other NT Government agencies to develop and monitor outcomes in addition to providing case studies and information on youth targeted initiatives. This information will be used to prepare a Report Card against the framework indicators and once completed will be published on the NT Government *Youth NT* website [www.youth.nt.gov.au](http://www.youth.nt.gov.au).

The focus on monitoring outcomes will provide an opportunity to establish benchmarks and share successes in outcomes achieved for young people across the Territory. In addition, it will highlight areas which require further focus from government and relevant stakeholders, to improve the lives of young Territorians. Reporting will provide data breakdowns based on gender and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status as they become available, which will contribute towards developing a more detailed profile of our Territory population aged 12-24 years and assist in more targeted evidence based policy development in the future.

A formal comprehensive review of the framework will be conducted three years after commencement and will involve a wide range of stakeholders.

### NT Youth Participation Framework Milestones



# APPENDIX A: YOUTH ENGAGEMENT BETTER PRACTICE FRAMEWORK CHECKLIST



The Youth Engagement Better Practice Framework Checklist is an evaluation tool. It may be used by stakeholders to review their current practices relating to youth targeted service delivery or developing youth friendly work environments. The resource aims to improve young people's access to youth-friendly services, youth targeted initiatives and workplace environments.

1.

## Accessibility

How accessible is your service?	YES	PART	NO
Does your service have a promotion strategy for targeting young people?			
Does your service actively seek to understand young people's concerns and needs, and have the capacity to respond to their needs?			
Does your service use creative, innovative activity-based strategies to improve young people's access to, and engagement with, youth services?			
Are services provided free, or at a cost affordable to young people?			
Can young people reach the service easily (for example, by public transport)?			
Is the service open after hours when young people can get there?			
Is it possible for young people to drop in and use the service without having to make an appointment?			
Are staff provided with training, supervision and support to maintain the knowledge and skills required for working with young people?			

2.

## Evidence-based approach

Which types of evidence does your service use?	YES	PART	NO
When undertaking a systematic needs assessment, does your service utilise:			
1. Existing policies and background documents?			
2. Comparative studies of similar populations or issues – but from a different area?			
3. Surveys and direct consultation with key stakeholders and target populations?			
When reviewing programming priorities, does your service systematically monitor changes to the target population or issues (for example, emerging needs) through regularly reviewing the above and accessing demographic data?			



When starting a new program, does your service:

1. Use current evidence on the issue, including existing models, standards and practice guidelines?
2. Locate and review reports, articles and publications (for example, tools and guidelines) from similar programs?
3. Develop expected outcomes based on existing performance indicators (where possible)?


### 3.

#### Youth Participation

**How does your service involve and promote youth participation?**

YES

PART

NO

Does your service have policies and procedures in place that outline how young people's participation and decision-making can be used in program development, implementation, review and evaluation?

Does your service regularly review and revise its youth participation mechanism in consulting with young people?

Does your service provide opportunities for increasing young people's confidence, knowledge and skills in using participation mechanisms?

Does your service have specific ways in which it acknowledges and values people's input and contributions?

Does your service ensure that its youth representatives reflect the diversity of young people's views and needs?


### 4.

#### Collaboration and partnerships

**How does your service work collaboratively with others?**

YES

PART

NO

Does your service propose collaboration and partnerships within its strategic or business plan?

Does your service identify potential for collaboration and have protocols for working out roles, responsibilities and agreements between agencies or services?

Does your service regularly review and evaluate its collaborative strategies, to ensure effective processes and outcomes?

Does your service treat young people as equal partners where possible and appropriate?


## 5. Professional development

How does your organisation support professional development?	YES	PART	NO
Is professional development identified as a service objective, and are planned activities costed into service budgets and proposals?			
Are there formalised induction processes for staff taking up new positions – including handover, orientation and probation?			
Does your organisation provide regular opportunities for staff members to review and discuss their professional development needs? Does it assist workers to plan and undertake activities to improve knowledge, skills and performance?			
Does your service collaborate with other agencies/organisations around staff development events, in order to maximise resources, share expertise and ensure a healthy flow of ideas?			
Are there working mechanisms within the service (for example team meetings, team forums, internal newsletters where staff share newly acquired knowledge and information with co-workers?			
Do young people inform staff training around youth issues – and are they directly involved in its delivery?			
Do staff training / development programs have clearly identified outcomes (such as identified competencies) and are they regularly evaluated?			

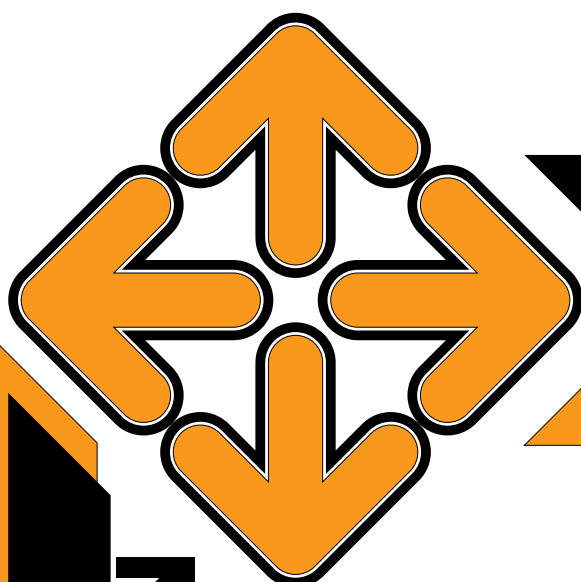
## 6. Sustainability

How sustainable are your organisation's programs and activities?	YES	PART	NO
Where possible, does your service develop sustainability strategies within its strategic and business plans, for example:			
1. Putting income generation strategies into place			
2. Developing partnerships and collaboration			
3. Building community capacity and planning transition strategies with the ultimate goal of handing over project ownership within an identified timeframe?			
Does your service actively integrate its activities into existing mainstream programs where possible?			
Does your service develop programs which can be replicated elsewhere?			
Does your service invest in advocacy and utilisation of Board and other key stakeholder influence, in order to promote programs?			

## 7. Evaluation

How does your organisation evaluate its service?	YES	PART	NO
Does your service have clearly articulated aims and objectives which it can evaluate?			
Does your service incorporate evaluation into its strategic plan, designation of resources as required (e.g. time, costs, fees if external evaluator support is required)?			
During the initial stages of project design, does your service include evaluation as an essential activity in all project work plans?			
Does your service take a baseline assessment of the issue or target audience prior to project implementation?			
Does your service evaluate both the qualitative and quantitative aspects of its work, including consumer feedback and identifying unexpected outcomes?			

Adapted from: New South Wales Centre for Advancement of Adolescent Health, *ACCESS study: Youth Health Better Practice Framework Fact Sheets*, NSW, 2005, [www.caah.chw.edu.au](http://www.caah.chw.edu.au)



## APPENDIX B: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Office of Youth Affairs acknowledges representatives from the following stakeholders who participated in the development of this document:

Alice Springs Town Council	Group Training NT
Alice Springs Youth Centre	Headspace
Anglicare NT	Health Advisory Council for the NT
Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs - FaHCSIA	InCite Youth Arts
Barkly Shire Council	Kormilda College
Barkly Youth Service Providers Network	Laynhapuy Homelands Association
Batchelor Area School	Melaleuca Refugee Centre
Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	Mission Australia
Borroloola Youth Development Unit	Miwatj Health
Catholic Care NT	Ngukurr Women's Group
Central Australia Remote Health Services	Nhulunbuy High School
Centralian Senior College	NT Council of Social Services
Chamber of Commerce	NT Early Intervention Pilot Program
Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians	NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services
City of Palmerston Council	NT Scouts
CONGRESS Youth Team	Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College
Coomalie Community Government Council	Relationships Australia
CREATE Foundation	Riding for the Disabled
City of Darwin Council	Rio Tinto
City of Darwin Council Youth Advisory Group	Roper Gulf Shire Council
Department of Business	Somerville Community Services
DCF – Family Support Centre	St Josephs College
DCF – Homelands Team	St Philips College
DCF – Parental Education Engagement Team	St Vincent de Paul Society
DCF – Office of Women's Policy	STEPS - Youth Connections
DCF – Peace at Home Project	Tangentyere Council
Department of Education and Training	The Australian Red Cross
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations - DEEWR	The Rural Medical Practitioners in the Top End of the NT
Department of Health (DoH) – Alcohol and other Drugs	The Smith Family
DoH – Child and Youth Health	Top End Women's Legal Service
DoH – Health Promoting School Nurses	Woolanang Homeland Christian College
Department of Justice	Xavier College - Wurrumiyanga
Department of the Chief Minister	Yarrenyty Arltene Learning Centre
Duke of Edinburgh Award	Yirara College
East Arnhem Shire Council	Young Men's Christian Association
Entrepreneurs NT	Youth Desert Leadership Group
Gove District Hospital	

## APPENDIX C: THE FRAMEWORK CONTEXT

This framework has been developed with the intent to align with National and International youth policies and strategies where appropriate and relevant. The NT acknowledges and commits to the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*.<sup>22</sup> The NT Government also supports the vision<sup>23</sup> 'for all young people to grow up safe, healthy, happy and resilient and to have the opportunities and skills they need to learn, work, engage in community life and influence decisions that affect them'; and the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) *National Action Plan for Young Australians*.<sup>24</sup>

The major initiatives that align with on the *Youth Participation Framework* goal areas have been listed below. A full list of references is provided at **Appendix D**.

### FRAMEWORK CONTEXT

#### **ARACY - The Nest, A National Plan for Child and Youth Wellbeing**

The Nest action agenda details key evidence-based, preventive-focused priorities to improve child and youth wellbeing across Australia, and includes six operational principles and six priority directions to mobilise collective efforts to achieve this.<sup>25</sup>

**Australian Government Indigenous Economic Development Strategy 2011-2018** is a framework for Indigenous economic development. It focuses on five key areas for improving the prosperity of Indigenous Australians: education and building individual capacity; creating sustainable job opportunities; supporting business and enterprise development; financial security and independence; and strengthening the foundations to provide an environment that supports Indigenous economic development.<sup>26</sup>

#### **Australian Youth Affairs Coalition Strategic Plan**

**2011-2015** is based on five strategic areas:

1. Build youth participation
2. Support the youth sector
3. Advocate for change
4. Drive research for better practice
5. Do things well.<sup>27</sup>

**Council of Australian Government (COAG) - National Indigenous Reform Agreement** known as the 'Closing the Gap' strategy (effective 2 July 2009). The foundation of the Strategy is the identification of and commitment to targets to reduce Indigenous disadvantage, and associated building blocks or areas for action. This Strategy acknowledges the importance of Indigenous culture, and engagement and positive relationships with Indigenous Australians.<sup>28</sup>

**COAG Local Implementation Plans (LIPs)** are plans developed with community consultation – commitments made through Regional Partnership Agreements (on Remote Service Delivery).<sup>29</sup>

22. United Nations, United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child, <http://www.unicef.org/crc/>

23. <http://www.unicef.org/crc/>

24. ARACY, The Nest: A national plan for child and youth wellbeing, <http://www.aracy.org.au/projects/the-nest>

25. <http://www.aracy.org.au/projects/the-nest>

26. <http://www.indigenous.gov.au/ieds/>

27. <http://ayac.org.au/news/19/67/AYAC-Strategic-Directions-Report.html>

28. <http://www.coag.gov.au/node/145>

29. [http://www.cgris.gov.au/site/2011\\_local\\_implementation\\_plans.asp](http://www.cgris.gov.au/site/2011_local_implementation_plans.asp)

30. <http://www.childrenandfamilies.nt.gov.au/>

### **Department of Children and Families Strategic Plan 2014-2016/7**

The plan outlines the department's strategic intent to grow its capacity to deliver key child protection, out-of-home care and family support services across the Territory, for children and families living in challenging and complex circumstances.<sup>30</sup>

### **Department of Education Strategic Plan: Creating Success Together, 2013-2015**

The plan provides the strategic direction for education and children's services in the Northern Territory for the next three years, and supports the Government's Framing the Future agenda for the Territory's social and economic advancement. It captures the education journey of the young person from birth to adulthood and the critical role of education in creating success for young Territorians.<sup>31</sup>

### **Department of Transport Strategic Plan 2014-2018**

The plan supports the Northern Territory Government's priorities for delivering and improving transport systems and the Framing the Future Blueprint and its objectives and goals for the Territory to have a Prosperous Economy, Strong Society, Confident Culture and Balanced Environment.<sup>32</sup>

### **Framing the Future**

The Northern Territory Government's strategic plan for the next three years.<sup>33</sup>

**National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness 2009-2013** focuses on three key strategies to reduce homelessness:

1. Prevention and early intervention to stop people becoming homeless
2. Breaking the cycle of homelessness
3. Improving and expanding the service response to homelessness.<sup>34</sup>

### **National Youth Strategy**

The Australian Government's vision is for all young people (12-24 years) to grow up safe, healthy, happy and resilient and to have the opportunities and skills they need to learn, work, engage in community life and influence decisions that affect them.<sup>35</sup>

**The National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children National Plan 2010-2022** provides the framework for action by the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to reduce violence against women and their children.

The central goals of the National Plan are to reduce violence against women and their children and to improve how governments work together, increase support for women and their children, and create innovative and targeted ways to bring about change.<sup>36</sup>

### **The Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC).**

The Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC) was launched on 18 January 2012 and is one of 12 Standing Councils established under COAG arrangements. SCSEEC provides a forum through which strategic policy on school education and early childhood development can be coordinated at the national level, and through which, information can be shared and resources used collaboratively towards the achievement of agreed objectives and priorities.<sup>37</sup>

31. <http://www.education.nt.gov.au/about-us/strategic-plan>

32. <http://www.transport.nt.gov.au/publications>

33. [http://www.dcm.nt.gov.au/framing\\_the\\_future](http://www.dcm.nt.gov.au/framing_the_future)

34. <http://www.coag.gov.au/node/330>

35. <http://www.youth.gov.au/sites/youth/ayf/media/pages/nationalstrategyforyoungaustralians>

36. <http://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/women/programs-services/reducing-violence/the-national-plan-to-reduce-violence-against-women-and-their-children>

37. <http://www.scseec.edu.au>



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