



KATHERINE YOUTH ACTION PLAN

2022 – 2025

**A place where every young person
is able to thrive, reach their
potential and actively participate.**



**NORTHERN
TERRITORY**
GOVERNMENT

FOREWORD

KATHERINE YOUTH INTERAGENCY GROUP

The Katherine Youth Interagency Group (KYIG) is proud to present the Katherine Youth Action Plan 2022-2025. This plan is the second Action Plan for the Katherine Region. It builds on the 2019 Katherine Youth Action Plan, developed by KYIG in collaboration with young people, community partners, local businesses, and government partners.

Since the release of the first Action Plan, the KYIG and collaborative partners have implemented successful initiatives, supporting young people aged 10 – 25 years from the Katherine township area and the neighbouring Aboriginal communities of Binjari, Rockhole, Miali Brumby and Geyulkgan/Warlpiri Camp.

Key achievements include establishing a School Holiday Program, ensuring that youth aged 10-17 years, particularly those at risk, have accessible, safe and fun activities. The Northern Territory (NT) Youth Round Table provides an opportunity for young people to have a voice to government on issues which matter to them. The Katherine Industry Forum offers exposure to careers, training, and employment opportunities. These initiatives and many more are working to meet the needs of young people, but we can always do more.

Five priority areas were identified while developing the 2019 Katherine Youth Action Plan. These priorities have been informed directly by young people and represent the five pillars that we must invest in.

1. **COMMUNITY + CULTURE:** Young people have a positive sense of culture and identity and feel connected to their family and broader community.
2. **SECTOR + GROWTH:** Young people have the opportunity to actively participate and contribute to the future of Katherine.
3. **HEALTH + WELLBEING:** Young people are healthy, active, strong, and resilient.

4. **LEARNING + JOBS:** Young people have the knowledge and skills to reach their future aspirations.

5. **SAFETY + SUPPORT:** Young people are engaged in activities to divert them away from risky behaviour.

With these pillars at the forefront, our Action Plan puts tangible projects and programs in place to ensure young people have every opportunity to live, work, and thrive in the Katherine region.

At KYIG we believe that “it takes a village to raise a child,” encouraging a collaborative interagency approach to support youth. Our partners include young people, communities, community groups and organisations, local government, service providers, and non-government organisations.

On behalf of the KYIG, I thank the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet and Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities for their ongoing support in the stakeholder consultation process and implementation of the Action Plan.

I am excited to see where the Action Plan takes us and the possibilities we can create for a brighter future for young people in the Katherine region.



D. Mattiuzzo

DANI MATTIUZZO
CHAIR OF THE KATHERINE YOUTH
INTERAGENCY GROUP



ABBREVIATIONS

CFS	Clyde Fenton Primary School
CF	Clontarf Foundation
CM&C	NT Government, Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
DoE	NT Government, Department of Education
DoH	NT Government, Department of Health
EON	EON Foundation
JAAC	Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation
Kalano	Kalano Community Association Aboriginal Corporation
KFLEC	Katherine Flexible Learning and Engagement centre
KHS	Katherine High School
KTC	Katherine Town Council
NTG	Northern Territory Government
NTYRT	NT Youth Round Table
RISE	Regional Indigenous Sustainable Enterprises
RYPC	Regional Youth Programs Coordinator
SJCC	St Joseph's Catholic College
STARS	STARS Foundation
TFHC	Territory Families, Housing and Communities
KYIG	Katherine Youth Interagency Group
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the ancestral lands of Katherine's Aboriginal people and pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging

INTRODUCTION

In March 2022, young people, community groups and organisations, local government, service providers, and non-government organisations attended a community consultation workshop.

The workshop aimed to bring together a diverse stakeholder group to develop a set of actions that will steer future strategies to support young people and families in the Katherine region.

The group redefined the Actions under the existing Youth Action Plan framework, which consists of five priority areas, including: Community + Culture; Sector + Growth; Health + Wellbeing; and Learning + Jobs. The outcome was a focused plan with actions structured around objectives that contribute to building the resilience of young people and improving their connection to the community.

The Youth Action Plan acknowledges the priorities of the Northern Territory Government in ensuring that young people in Katherine are safe, connected, respected, healthy and well, with opportunities to thrive and have their voices heard in their communities. The Youth Action plan outlines actions for agencies such as the Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities, and Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet.

PURPOSE

The Katherine Youth Action Plan seeks to:

- Create a sense of community and shared responsibility for supporting Katherine's young people to grow, develop, navigate through life's challenges and reach their aspirations.
- Improve the co-ordination, connection and planning of local services for young people and their families, addressing key service delivery gaps to encourage greater collaboration and partnerships across the youth sector.
- Improve local capacity to respond to the needs of young people.
- Strengthen the involvement of young people in local decision-making.
- Inform future investment from Government ensuring alignment with local priorities.

MEMBERS OF THE KATHERINE YOUTH INTERAGENCY GROUP

NTG Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities; NTG Department of Education; NTG Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet; Services Australia; YMCA; Katherine Town Council; Northern Territory Primary Health Network; Headspace; Katherine Public Library; Northern Territory Police Force; Jesuit Social Services; The Smith Family; Australian Defence Force; CatholicCare; Katherine Women's Crisis Centre; Wurli Wurlijang Health Service; Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation; Kentish Lifelong Learning & Care; Somerville Community Services; RISE Ventures; Anglicare; Australian Red Cross; Kalano Community Association; Mission Australia; Top End Health Service; Relationships Australia.

SCOPE

The Katherine Youth Action Plan is for people aged 10 – 25 years who live, work, study and play in the Katherine township area and the neighbouring Aboriginal communities of Binjari, Rockhole, Miali Brumby and Geyulkgan/Warlpiri Camp.

The Plan is a community-wide document that reflects the various roles and responsibilities of government agencies, non-government organisations, service providers, young people and any other stakeholders who work across the youth sector.

The Katherine Youth Action Plan will commence in June 2022 and will end in June 2025. It is intended that the Plan will be reviewed and updated annually.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following Guiding Principles underpin the successful implementation of the Katherine Youth Action Plan:

- Ensuring young people, their families and carers are placed at the centre of the Plan.
- Ensuring priorities, needs and decision making processes are community led and include input from young people and operational staff across the youth sector.
- Ensuring a commitment from all levels of government, service providers and community organisations to work collaboratively to implement actions within the Plan.
- Ensuring young people in Katherine are frequently engaged to provide their perspectives and input on the issues they face and have a voice to provide local solutions.
- Ensuring there is a clear process to monitor implementation, evaluate key programs and activities and publicly share outcomes.



WHO ARE KATHERINE'S YOUNG PEOPLE?

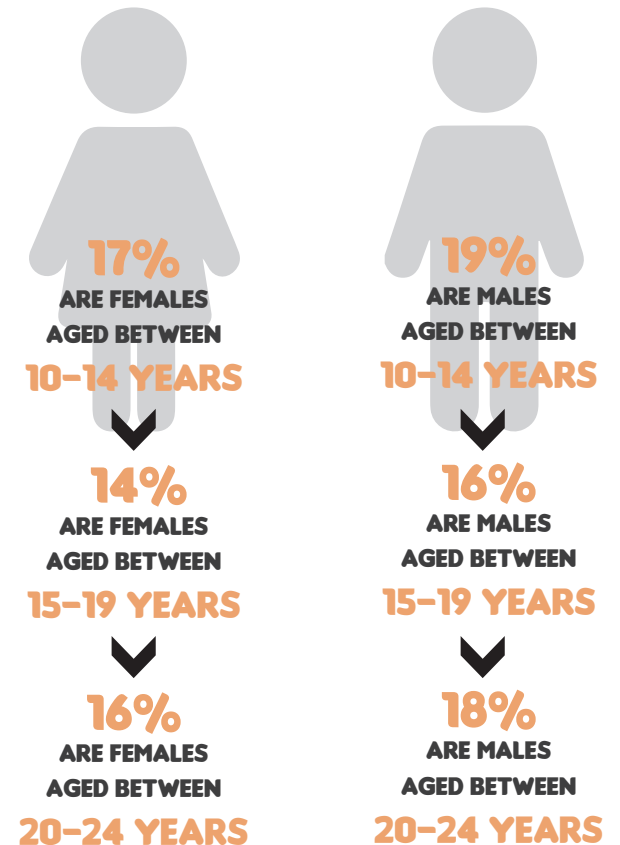
➤ **ESTIMATED POPULATION OF KATHERINE IN 2021 IS 10,559**
APPROXIMATELY **22%** OF RESIDENTS ARE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

➤ **YOUNG PEOPLE (AGED 10 – 24 YEARS) ACCOUNT FOR 20% OF THE TOTAL POPULATION OF KATHERINE**

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2011 and 2016. Compiled and presented in profile.id



FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED
BETWEEN 10 AND 24



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IN 2020 KATHERINE HIGH SCHOOL REPORTED

44% OF STUDENTS ATTENDED
MORE THAN 80% OF THE TIME

24% STUDENTS IN YEAR 12 UNDERTAKING
VOCATIONAL OR TRADE TRAINING

(SOURCE Katherine High School: 2020 Annual Report – Annual
Performance Report to the School Community 2020)

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KEY FOCUS AREAS AND OBJECTIVES

Through the process of developing the Youth Action Plan, five key focus areas were identified.

COMMUNITY + CULTURE

Young people have a positive sense of culture and identity and feel connected to their family and broader community.

Objectives

- Build young people's sense of belonging, inclusion and connection, including positive relationships with their peers, families and extended support network.
- Develop and support opportunities for young people and the broader community to embrace the region's cultural history and identity.

SECTOR + GROWTH

Young people have the opportunity to actively participate and contribute to the future of Katherine.

Objectives

- Provide opportunities that connect young people to safe, youth-friendly spaces in Katherine.
- Ensure that young people and their families know about and are able to connect with the information and support services available to them.
- Support young people to develop leadership skills that assist them to be actively engaged and valued within the community.
- Continue to develop and expand the range of activities and opportunities for young people.

- Identify and support opportunities to profile and celebrate the accomplishments of young people in Katherine.

HEALTH + WELLBEING

Young people are healthy, active, strong and resilient.

Objectives

- Provide young people and their families with an increased awareness, understanding of and access to quality youth-friendly health services.
- Educate and empower young people to make positive choices about their health.
- Develop community capacity to build and support the health and wellbeing of young people.

LEARNING + JOBS

Young people have the knowledge and skills to reach their future aspirations.

Objectives

- Support the development of positive learning environments that are engaging for young people and effectively prepare them for the future.
- Assist young people to be work ready and prepared for the changing landscape of employment.

SAFETY + SUPPORT

Young people are engaged in activities to divert them away from risky behaviour.

Objectives

- Support the development of a range of programs and activities focused at preventing young people from entering into the criminal justice system.
- Review current funding arrangements for existing services for young people within Katherine and the surrounding communities.

PRIORITY ACTIONS

COMMUNITY + CULTURE:

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A POSITIVE SENSE OF CULTURE AND IDENTITY AND FEEL CONNECTED TO THEIR FAMILY AND BROADER COMMUNITY.

ACTION 1:	<p>Encourage organisations to apply for grant funding through existing programs to support increased youth-centred events that enable interaction between young people and diverse stakeholders, maximising calendar events such as Harmony Day and Multi-Cultural Day.</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITY: CM&C / NTYRT / KYIG / KTC</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Mid-Term</p>
ACTION 2:	<p>Encourage organisations to access existing NT Youth Week grant funding to support organisations and groups to host additional events during Youth Week.</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITY: TFHC / NTYRT / CM&C / KYIG</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Short-Term</p>
ACTION 3:	<p>Enable better communication between stakeholders, including increased marketing and communications targeting young people to inform them on 'what's on' and what services are available in the region.</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITY: RYPC / KYIG / NTYRT</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Mid-Term</p>
ACTION 4:	<p>Support the development of an Elders in School program that enables local Elders to share their wisdom, knowledge and experiences, and language and traditional skills.</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITY: Elders from selected communities / DoE</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Mid-Term</p>



PRIORITY ACTIONS

SECTOR + GROWTH: YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUTURE OF KATHERINE.

ACTION 1:	<p>Develop strategies to increase the recruitment and retention of staff.</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITY: ALL TIMEFRAME: Short-term</p>
ACTION 2:	<p>Map current youth services and identify gaps to work with relevant agencies and organisations to expand and grow local support services and programs for young people of all ages.</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITY: NTG / ALL TIMEFRAME: Mid-Term *Regional Youth Program Coordinator to develop a Youth Services Map which will help youth identify what services are available.</p>
ACTION 3:	<p>Ensure young people are included in and attend meetings regarding youth.</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITY: KYIG / KTC / NTYRT / RYPC TIMEFRAME: Short-term</p>



PRIORITY ACTIONS

HEALTH + WELLBEING:

**YOUNG PEOPLE ARE HEALTHY, ACTIVE, STRONG
AND RESILIENT.**

ACTION 1:	<p>Implement an edible gardens project that promotes practical, hands-on gardening, nutrition education, and healthy cooking in high school and primary school.</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITY: Food Ladder / EON / KHS / CFS / DoE</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Mid-term</p>
ACTION 3:	<p>Increase youth participation through structured sporting activities, programs and events such as the School Holiday Program.</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITY: RYPC</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Mid-term</p>



NRL
TOUCH
FOOTBALL
NT

Touch Football NT
touch_footballnt

PRIORITY ACTIONS

LEARNING + JOBS: YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TO REACH THEIR FUTURE ASPIRATIONS.

ACTION 1:	<p>Support a range of programs to develop living skills such as personal care, healthy eating, and budgeting to prepare young people for independent living.</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITY: Kalano / STARS / CF / KHS / KFLEC TIMEFRAME: Long-term</p>
ACTION 2:	<p>Support a range of programs to develop soft-skills such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving and leadership for young people to enable their work readiness.</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITY: Kalano / STARS / CF / KHS / KFLEC TIMEFRAME: Long-term</p>
ACTION 3:	<p>Support the continued delivery of an annual career expo for local students, including high school and primary school aged students.</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITY: NTG / KHS / SJCC / KFLEC / DoE TIMEFRAME: Short-term</p>
ACTION 4:	<p>Implement a whole community approach to education, ensuring a diverse range of stakeholders, including elders, parents, carers, organisations, businesses, and government, play an active role within the school environment.</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITY: DoE TIMEFRAME: Long-term</p>



PRIORITY ACTIONS

SAFETY AND SUPPORT: YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES TO DIVERT THEM AWAY FROM RISKY BEHAVIOUR.

ACTION 1:	<p>Explore options for continuation of current after hours culturally safe youth transport service, with the aim to operate 7 days a week.</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITY: CM&C / TFHC</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Mid-Term</p>
ACTION 2:	<p>Utilising existing facilities, establish a Youth Drop-In Centre Service that is a safe place for children of all ages.</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITY: ALL / YMCA / Kalano / TFHC</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Long-Term</p>
ACTION 3:	<p>Explore options to enable organisations to develop programs and support services targeting young people under 12 years of age. E.g., Mental health services for primary school-aged youth.</p> <p>RESPONSIBILITY: ALL / NTG</p> <p>TIMEFRAME: Mid-Term</p>



OUR MEASURES OF SUCCESS

KEY FOCUS AREA	MEASURE OF SUCCESS
COMMUNITY + CULTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased youth centered events established through resourced funding for events such as Harmony Day and Multi-Cultural Day • Funding sourced through Grant Portals to deliver additional events during Youth Week • Youth Services Mapping established to provide youth of what services are available in Katherine • Increased engagement with Elders in Katherine schools
SECTOR + GROWTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify Youth Committees/groups within Katherine, allow opportunities to be involved in meetings and advocate as a voice for the youth of Katherine
HEALTH + WELLBEING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sporting activities delivered through after hours activities and School Holiday Program • Edible gardens established at high schools and primary schools
LEARNING + JOBS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth increased knowledge and skills in areas such as personal care, healthy eating, and budgeting • Youth increased knowledge and skill in areas such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and leadership • Careers expo continued to be delivered for secondary students. Establish a careers expo for primary students
SAFETY + SUPPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased school councilors in schools • Youth Drop-in center established

YOUTH ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Plan will be reviewed annually to track progress on the implementation of specific actions, evaluation of programs and initiatives and to identify new emerging opportunities.

The Youth Programs Coordinator role funded by NT Government (TFHC) will continue to collaborate with KYIG Members and relevant community stakeholders and service providers to support the development and implementation of the Plan and prepare annual summary reports to provide status progress of actions.

Key actions to support the implementation of the Katherine Youth Action Plan include the following:

ACTION 1

Review and update KYIG membership to ensure all relevant stakeholders are represented to support effective implementation of the Katherine Youth Action Plan.

Responsibility: KYIG

Timeframe: 2022

ACTION 2

Regional Youth Program Coordinator to work collaboratively with KYIG to monitor and support the implementation of the Katherine Youth Action Plan.

Responsibility: RYPC/KYIG

Timeframe: Quarterly

ACTION 3

Resource grants to target actions that require funding to increase activities and programs.

Responsibility: KYIG/RYPC

Timeframe: Annually

ACTION 4

Formally review the progress against the key actions annually and communicate a summary of outcomes to the broader community.

Responsibility: KYIG/RYPC

Timeframe: Annually

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For more information contact:

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