

Official Bills, Acts & Petitions

of the 23rd Session of the Northern
Territory Youth Parliament



The Y Northern Territory

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Congratulations, and welcome to the 23rd NT Youth Parliament!

It's an absolute pleasure to have you here, and I can't wait to talk with you all throughout the week! All of your hard work, dedication and passion over the last few months have got you here, and over the next few days you will see all that hard work come to life in the chamber. My 2 years as a participant in NTYP were some of the best moments of my life, and I know you will make lifelong friends and memories here. I am so excited to see that happen for all of you.

the Bill book is exactly that, a book of this year's bills written by you, our fabulous youth members. But it's also so much more than that. It's your vision for the future of the Territory; it's your voice being heard.

Use this book not just during YP, but afterwards. Treat it as a guidebook on how to start your advocacy journey, if you wish to take that path.

Some of you may already know me from my work in youth advocacy. What you might not know is that recently, at the ripe age of 19, I've been told I'm getting a bit old for the job. So, my message to all of you this week is:

MAKE THE MOST OF IT!

This week is going to go by so fast, so make sure you savour every moment and take every opportunity.

But also remember, your journey doesn't stop at the end of this week. Keep that passion, keep that motivation to make a difference. Because it can take you so far, and you never know where you might end up.

Congrats to you, the Class of 2025. Good luck!



Jordy Humphreys
Youth Administrator



Acknowledgements

The YNT Northern Territory Youth Parliament respectfully acknowledges the traditional First Nations custodians as the original inhabitants of Australia, and recognise the uniquely deep spiritual and cultural connection of this land: past, present and future. While accepting the elders, ancestors and descendants, we support and recognise the spirit, knowledge, strengths, skills, and contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are a part of the rich cultural heritage of the society in which the Y works today.

The YNT would like to thank the following volunteers and staff for their roles and continuing hard work in the Youth Parliament program:

Carlee Heise - *Program Development Manager*

Tahlia Biggs - *Communications & Community Engagement Coordinator*

Hamani Tanginoa - *Parliamentary Education & Leadership Coordinator*

Lucy McDonald - *Parliamentary Education & Leadership Officer*

Patrik Ralph - *Parliamentary Education & Leadership Officer*

Jesse Rasheed - *Parliamentary Education & Leadership Officer*

Stella Whippy - *Stars Foundation, Tennant Creek High School*

Jordy Humphreys - *Youth Administrator and Parliamentary Education & Leadership Officer*

Eloise Atterton - *Logistics & Recreation Coordinator*

John Yusuf - *Logistics & Recreation Officer*

Lubna Fatima - *Logistics & Recreation Officer*

Demi Villareal-Schlick - *Logistics & Recreation Officer*

Manoj Thapa - *Logistics & Recreation Officer*

Jonathan McDonald - *Y Staff*

Leesa Bryen - *Operations Manager, Youth Services*

Andrew Teece - *Alpururulam Community School*



Vote Records of the 23rd Session of the Northern Territory Youth Parliament

Debate Item	Ayes	Noes	Result
Youth Scrutiny Committee Bill 2025 (Darwin High School)	19	9	PASSED
Youth Homelessness and Housing Bill 2025 (Charles Darwin University)	29	0	PASSED
Young Carers Identification Bill 2025 (Carers NT)	28	0	PASSED
Criminal Code Amendment (Age of Criminal Responsibility) Bill 2025 (Darwin Schools)	27	1	PASSED
Student Wellbeing (Week 10 Chill) 2025 (St John's Catholic College)	16	11	PASSED
Youth Justice Reform Bill 2025 (Alice Springs)	16	0	PASSED
Petition Submission #1: Access to safe drinking water (Alpurrurulam Community College)	28	0	PASSED
Petition Submission #2: Tennant Creek Youth Hostel (Tennant Creek High School)	28	0	PASSED
National Matter of Public Importance	28	0	PASSED

Teams & Bills/Petitions Pairings

Type	Government Teams	Opposition Teams
Bills	Alice Springs	St John's Catholic College
	Charles Darwin University	Carers NT
	Darwin Schools	Darwin High School

Petitions	Alpurrurulam Community College	Tennant Creek High School
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Members of the Youth Legislative Assembly

GOVERNMENT

Alice Springs

Hon. Preet Kaur Gill MYLA

Hon. Ryan Hayward MYLA

Hon. Ben Chavez MYLA

Darwin Schools

Hon. Peta Gibson MYLA

Hon. Demelza Gikopoulos MYLA

Hon. Amy Nguyen MYLA

Hon. Hannah Baczynski MYLA

Hon. Charlotte Harn MYLA

Hon. Ryan Carpenter MYLA

Hon. Sean Hagan MYLA

Charles Darwin University

Hon. Hajrah Kamran MYLA

Hon. Amina Salha MYLA

Hon. Hriday Nayyar MYLA

Hon. Gilbert Tanoto MYLA

Hon. Schyler Kennedy MYLA

Alpurrurulam Community College

Hon. Malcolm Billy MYLA

Hon. Tarrant Anderson MYLA

OPPOSITION

Darwin High School

Hon. Ash Huynh MYLA

Hon. Indiana Grimes MYLA

Hon. Pak Chan MYLA

Hon. Zach Giles MYLA

Hon. Zoe Francis MYLA

Hon. Supipi Rathnayake MYLA

Hon. Nokthor Tripura MYLA

St John's Catholic College

Hon. Afia Azam MYLA

Hon. Virginia Dias Quintas MYLA

Hon. Patricia Sefu MYLA

Hon. Harnoor Kaur MYLA

Carers NT

Hon. Angus Rosenzweig MYLA

Hon. Blake Franklin-Wellard MYLA

Hon. Chris Sampson MYLA

Tennant Creek High School

Hon. Maleah Presley MYLA

Hon. Shakina Frank MYLA

Daily Program
Tuesday 23rd September 2025
from 9:00AM

THE Y YOUTH
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Northern Territory



9:00 AM - Opening Ceremony

10:00 AM - Maiden Statements

11:00AM - National Motion of Public Importance

Orders of the day: Government and Opposition Business

1:00 PM - (No. 1): A member of the Opposition to move that the *Youth Scrutiny Committee Bill 2025* be read

2:15 PM - (No. 2): A member of the Government to move that the *Youth Homelessness and Housing Bill 2025* be read

3:15 PM - Petitions to be lodged to the Youth Legislative Assembly

4:00 PM - Adjournments

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line.

His Honour the Honourable Jordy Humphreys
Youth Administrator of the Northern Territory

Daily Program
Wednesday 24th September 2025
from 10:00AM

THE Y YOUTH
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Northern Territory



Orders of the day: Government and Opposition Business

9:00 AM - (No. 1): A member of the Government to move that the *Criminal Code Amendment (Age of Criminal Responsibility) Bill 2025* be read

10:15 AM - (No. 2): A member of the Opposition to move that the *Young Carers Identification Bill 2025* be read

11:30 AM - Adjournments

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line.

His Honour the Honourable Jordy Humphreys
Youth Administrator of the Northern Territory

Daily Program
Thursday 25th September 2025
from 9:00AM

THE Y YOUTH
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Northern Territory



Orders of the day: Government and Opposition Business

9:00 AM - (No. 1): A member of the Opposition to move that the *Student Wellbeing (Week 10 Chill) Bill 2025* be read

10:15 AM - (No. 2): A member of the Government to present a petition focused on *access to safe drinking water* to the Youth Legislative Assembly

(No. 3): A member of the Opposition to present a petition focused on *the establishment of the Tennant Creek Youth Hostel* to the Youth Legislative Assembly

12:00 PM - (No. 4): A member of the Government to move that the *Youth Justice Reform Bill 2025* be read

2:00 PM - Adjournments

3:00 PM - Closing Ceremony

His Honour the Honourable Jordy Humphreys
Youth Administrator of the Northern Territory



The Office of the Youth Administrator of Northern Territory **National Matter of Public Importance**

The Youth Administrator, on behalf of the Council of Australian Youth Parliaments,
invites the Youth Leader of the Opposition to move a motion that:

‘This House:

Supports the continued, and increased investment in women’s healthcare, including regarding education, the provision of free period products in public spaces, reducing stigma, and the efficiency of, and access to diagnoses and treatments’

This motion highlights significant inadequacies in the accessibility, awareness, and availability of women’s healthcare in Australia. Women, comprising 51% of the population, often face affordability and accessibility barriers, leading to delayed diagnoses and poorer health outcomes. Systemic issues discriminate against women, particularly in accessing sexual health services, with affordability, service availability, and stigma as key barriers. Women’s out-of-pocket medical costs are disproportionately higher, and discrepancies exist in bulk billing for women-specific scans.

Below is a list of arguments in favour and against the motion. You are encouraged to use arguments that are not on the list, this is just a helpful starting point for debate.

Arguments in support of the motion:

- Women possess bodily functions from which unique health challenges can arise, including menstruation-related disorders to reproductive health related issues, which have historically been underfunded and under-researched. Increased investment helps correct gender-based disparities and promotes fairness.
- Better access to diagnosis and treatment for conditions like endometriosis, PCOS, and maternal health issues leads to earlier interventions, less suffering, and overall reduced healthcare costs in the long term.
- Investing in education and free period products reduces stigma, boosts attendance in schools and workplaces, and fosters a more inclusive and supportive society.
- Healthy women contribute more effectively to the economy. Addressing untreated health issues improves workforce participation, reduces absenteeism, and enhances overall economic performance.

Arguments against the motion:

- Increased funding in this may mean cuts in others, like elderly care or mental health services, which are also critical and underfunded.
- Without proper oversight, increased investment could lead to inefficiencies, bureaucracy, or funding programs that don’t produce measurable outcomes or address root causes.
- Focusing too heavily on gender-specific healthcare might overlook the diversity within women’s experiences (e.g., trans men, non-binary people) or the needs of other vulnerable groups facing different health disparities.
- In some regions, discussions around menstrual health, reproductive rights, or sexual education face cultural resistance, potentially limiting the effectiveness and implementation of such initiatives or creating societal division.



*23rd Session of the
Youth Parliament of the Northern Territory*

Youth Scrutiny Committee Bill 2025

(Darwin High School)

A bill for an Act to establish a youth committee in which oversees, reviews and scrutinises proposed bills introduced to the Legislative Assembly, for the improvement in representing the interest of young people in the Northern Territory, and for related purposes.

Ayes	Noes
19	9

In the name of His Majesty, I assent to this Act.

A stylized signature in black ink.

His Honour the Honourable Jordy Humphreys

Youth Administrator of the Northern Territory

26 September 2025

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
YOUTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACT 2025

Act No. 1 of 2025

Table of provisions

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NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Act No. 1 of 2025

An Act to establish a youth committee in which oversees, reviews and scrutinises proposed bills introduced to the Legislative Assembly, for the improvement in representing the interest of young people in the Northern Territory, and for related purposes.

[Introduced 23 September 2025]

The Youth Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory enacts as follows:

Part 1 Preliminary matters

1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Youth Scrutiny Committee Act 2025*.

2 Commencement

- (1) This Act commences on the day after the date on which it receives the Administrator's assent.
- (2) This Act applies in all areas of the Northern Territory.
- (3) This Act applies to all matters involving youth engagement in the review and scrutiny of legislation introduced into the Legislative Assembly after its commencement.

3 Objects

The objects of this act are:

- (a) to ensure that the views, experiences, and perspectives of young people are systematically taken into account in the legislative process of the Northern Territory;
- (b) to establish a formal, statutory mechanism by which young people can:
 - (i) participate in the creation and development of proposed legislation; and
 - (ii) scrutinise proposed legislation introduced into the Legislative Assembly.
- (c) to require the provision of a youth impact statement on proposed legislation reviewed under this Act;
- (d) to address the disconnect between young people and the institutions of government, and to foster a culture of transparency, accountability, and civic trust;
- (e) to strengthen youth participation in civics, leadership, and active democratic citizenship; and
- (f) to promote long-term policy thinking by considering the likely effects of proposed legislation for a period of at least 85 years from its commencement.

4 Definitions

In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears:

affiliated with a political party means to be a registered member of, have donated to, or received any financial or in-kind interests from a political party;

bill means a proposed law introduced into the Legislative Assembly;

Chair means the member elected as Chair of the Committee under section 18;

Hansard means the official record of the proceedings of the Assembly;

member means a person elected to the Committee under Part 3, and includes the Chair and the Deputy Chair;

NTEC means the Northern Territory Electoral Commission established under the *Electoral Act 2004* (NT);

political party means a registered entity recognised by the Australian Electoral Commission under the the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1914* or the Northern Territory Electoral Commission under the *Electoral Act 2004* (NT);

public officer means a person employed by a department, statutory authority, or other body established for a public purpose under a law of the Northern Territory;

sitting day means a day on which the Legislative Assembly is scheduled to meet in accordance with its standing orders;

quorum means the minimum number of members required to be present at a meeting of the Committee for it to conduct its business, as provided by section 17;

resolution means—

- (a) a decision of the Committee passed in accordance with its voting procedures under section 17; or
- (b) a passed decision of the Legislative Assembly.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child means the Convention adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 20 November 1989;

youth means a person who is at least 10 years old but not yet 26 years old;

youth electoral roll means a special electoral roll specific to the election of members of the YSC made in accordance to the eligibility requirements in sections 9(2a) and 9(2b), and is separate to the electoral roll used by the NTEC under the *Electoral Act 2004* (NT) or the AEC for other elections under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1914*.

Part 2 Establishment and Purpose

5 Establishment of the Committee

- (1) The Youth Scrutiny Committee (the *Committee*) is established by this Act as an independent statutory body.
- (2) The Committee—
 - (a) may enter into contracts; and
 - (b) may acquire, hold and dispose of real and personal property; and
 - (c) may sue and be sued in its corporate name.
- (3) The Committee is not a department, agency or instrumentality of the Crown, and its members are not, by reason only of their membership, officers or employees of the Crown.
- (4) The Committee is to perform its functions in accordance with the provisions of this Act and any other law of the Northern Territory that applies to statutory bodies.

6 Relationship with the Legislative Assembly

- (1) The committee is established for the purpose of providing independent scrutiny and formal advice on proposed legislation before the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly.
- (2) The Legislative Assembly must—
 - (a) receive and table any report provided by the Committee under this act; and
 - (b) consider the Committee's findings before proceeding to the third reading of a bill under review.
- (3) Where a report from the Committee contains recommendations or suggested amendments, the Assembly must record, in Hansard, whether those recommendations have been adopted or rejected and the reasons for doing so.
- (4) The Speaker of the Assembly must ensure that reports of the Committee are accessible to all Members of the Legislative Assembly and made publicly available at the earliest practical time.

- (5) The Committee operates in addition to, and does not limit, the functions of any other parliamentary committee of the Assembly.

7 Legal Status, Authority, and Scope

- (1) The Committee has the powers, privileges, and immunities necessary for the performance of its functions under this Act, including—
 - (a) the authority to do anything reasonably required to perform its functions;
 - (b) the same legal protections as a parliamentary committee in relation to its proceedings; and
 - (c) protection from legal action for anything said or done in good faith as part of its work under this Act.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Committee may also—
 - (a) call for submissions from any person or body in relation to the review of a specified bill;
 - (b) hold hearings and take evidence on matters within its functions;
 - (c) require the attendance of Ministers, Members of the Assembly or public officers to answer questions and provide information relevant to a bill;
 - (d) request access to relevant Cabinet briefs, explanatory memoranda and departmental reports for the purposes of its scrutiny; and
 - (e) engage persons with specialist knowledge to assist in the performance of its functions.
- (3) This Act applies to all proposed legislation introduced in the Legislative Assembly, regardless of portfolio or subject matter.
- (4) The Committee may decide to review a bill on its own initiative.
- (5) The jurisdiction of the Committee in relation to a bill only ceases when the bill is passed, withdrawn or defeated in the Legislative Assembly.

Part 3 Membership and Elections

8 Composition and Eligibility Criteria

- (1) The Committee consists of one (1) member elected from each electorate of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly.
- (2) A person is eligible for election as a member if the person—
 - (a) is aged at least 10 years and not more than 25 years on the day of nomination;
 - (b) is a resident of the electorate for which they nominate;
 - (c) is enrolled, or entitled to be enrolled, on the youth electoral roll established under this Act; and
 - (d) is not, on the day of nomination, an employee or Member of the Assembly, a Minister, a judicial officer, or affiliated with any political party.
- (3) A person is ineligible for election if they—
 - (a) are serving a term of imprisonment;
 - (b) are an undischarged bankrupt;
 - (c) are disqualified by a court or statutory authority from holding office; or
 - (d) have served for three (3) terms in the committee.

9 Election Process and Oversight

- (1) Elections for the Committee are to be conducted annually in each electorate by the NTEC in accordance with this Act.
- (2) The youth electoral roll for each electorate is to consist of all persons—
 - (a) who meet the eligibility criteria under sections 9(2a) and 9(2b); and
 - (b) who have registered to vote in the Committee elections in accordance with the regulations.
- (3) The election must be conducted by secret ballot.

- (4) The method of voting and counting is to be determined by current regulations, but must also ensure fairness, accessibility and transparency.
- (5) The NTEC must—
 - (a) publish the results of each election in their Gazette and on their official website;
 - (b) retain the ballot papers for a period of at least 6 months after the election date; and
 - (c) provide a written report on the conduct of each election to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

11 Vacancies, Resignations, Disqualifications, and Replacements

- (1) A member's seat becomes vacant if the member—
 - (a) resigns in writing to the Chair; or
 - (b) ceases to meet the eligibility requirements under section 9; or
 - (c) is disqualified under any provision of this Act; or
 - (d) fails, without any reasonable excuse, to attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the Committee.
- (2) A member may resign at any time by written notice delivered to the Chair, stating the date on which the resignation takes effect.
- (3) If a vacancy occurs more than three (3) months before the next scheduled election—
 - (a) a by-election must be held in the relevant electorate in accordance with section 10; and
 - (b) the replacement member serves the remainder of the predecessor's term.
- (4) If a vacancy occurs within four (4) months of the next scheduled election, the seat may remain vacant until the election is held.
- (5) The NTEC must certify the results of any by-election to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and to the Committee within five (5) days of the declaration of the result.

Part 4 Powers and Legislative Functions

12 Criteria & Authority to Select Proposed Legislation

- (1) The Committee may review any bill introduced to the Legislative Assembly.
- (2) In determining whether to review a bill, the Committee may consider—
 - (a) the potential direct or indirect impact of the bill on young people;
 - (b) the long-term social, economic or environmental effects of the bill; and
 - (c) any other matter the Committee considers relevant with reason.
- (3) The Committee may decide to review a bill—
 - (a) on its own initiative; or
 - (b) following a request in writing by not fewer than two members of the Committee; or
 - (c) in accordance with a resolution of the Legislative Assembly.
- (4) The decision to review a bill must be recorded in the official minutes of the Committee.

13 Summoning Powers and Access to Government

- (1) For the purpose of a review, the Committee may summon any of the following persons to attend a meeting and give evidence—
 - (a) a Minister;
 - (b) a Member of the Legislative Assembly;
 - (c) a public officer employed in a government department or agency;
 - (d) any other person the Committee reasonably believes has relevant information.
- (2) A person summoned under subsection (1) must comply with the summons unless excused by the Committee under a valid justification.

- (3) The Committee may require any person appearing before it to answer questions and produce documents relevant to the bill under review.
- (4) The Committee is entitled to request access to—
 - (a) cabinet briefs relating to the bill;
 - (b) departmental reports and background papers; and
 - (c) explanatory memoranda or similar documents prepared for the bill.
- (5) The Committee must handle any confidential or classified material in accordance with applicable laws and security protocols.

14 Consultation and Analysis Processes

- (1) The Committee may conduct public consultations in relation to a bill under review, including by—
 - (a) calling for written submissions;
 - (b) holding public hearings; and
 - (c) conducting surveys, forums, or roundtables.
- (2) The Committee may engage persons with specialist knowledge or expertise to assist in analysing a bill.
- (3) The Committee may request and receive data, statistics or other information from government agencies or external organisations for the purpose of its analysis.
- (4) The Committee's analysis of a bill must take into account its likely impact for a period of not less than 85 years, or six (6) generations from the date of commencement.

15 Obligation to Respond

- (1) The Legislative Assembly must not proceed to the third reading of a bill under review until the Committee's report on the Bill has been tabled in the Assembly.
- (2) Where the Committee's report contains recommendations or proposed amendments—

- (a) the Government must provide a written, published response stating whether each recommendation has been accepted or rejected: and
 - (b) if a recommendation is rejected, the response must set out the reasons for that decision.
- (3) The written response must be tabled in the Legislative Assembly and recorded in the Hansard.
- (4) The Government's response under this section must be provided within the sitting week's end or three (3) sitting days, after the report is tabled.

Part 5 Internal Operations

16 Meeting Scheduling and Frequency

- (1) The Committee must meet at least once in each calendar month, except in December and January, unless otherwise resolved by the Committee.
- (2) The Chair must schedule and give notice of meetings at least seven (7) days in advance, unless an urgent meeting is required.
- (3) An urgent meeting may be convened—
 - (a) by the Chair;
 - (b) upon a written request signed by at least two (2) members of the Committee; or
 - (c) in synchronisation with any emergency sittings in the Legislative assembly.
- (4) All meetings must be conducted in a manner that ensures accessibility for all members, including the use of remote participation technology if necessary.

17 Quorum, Voting, Oath and Procedural Rules

- (1) A meeting of the Committee has a quorum if sixty percent of the members holding office are present.
- (2) Each member present has one (1) vote, and decisions are made by a simple majority of those voting.

- (3) In the event of vote resulting in an equality of votes being tallied, the Chair may cast an additional deciding vote.
- (4) Before taking office, each member must take an oath or affirmation in a form approved by the Legislative Assembly, that they will—
 - (a) act honestly, impartially and in the best interests of the Northern Territory's youth;
 - (b) uphold the laws of the Northern Territory; and
 - (c) comply with this Act and the Standing Orders of the Committee.
- (5) The Committee may adopt procedural rules, consistent with this Act, to regulate the conduct of its meetings and business.
- (6) The procedural rules must include provisions for—
 - (a) the preparation and circulation of agendas;
 - (b) the recording and confirmation of minutes; and
 - (c) the orderly conduct of debate.

18 Special Duties

- (1) The Chair is responsible for—
 - (a) convening and presiding over meetings;
 - (b) ensuring the timely preparation and presentation of reports;
 - (c) representing the Committee in its dealings with the Legislative Assembly, the Government, and the public;
 - (d) authorising the release of reports, minutes, and other official documents; and
 - (e) overseeing the preparation of the Committee's work program.
- (2) The Deputy Chair must perform the duties of the Chair when the Chair is unavailable, and assist the Chair in carrying out their functions.
- (3) The Chair and Deputy Chair are to be elected annually by members of the Committee from among their number, without self-nomination, at the first meeting of each term.

- (4) The Chair may be removed from that position by a resolution supported by at least two-thirds of the members of the Committee.
- (5) The Committee may assign additional duties to individual members, including leadership of subcommittees, research responsibilities, or community or sector liaison.

19 Member Rights

- (1) Each member must:
 - (a) receive no less than seven (7) days' notice of any scheduled meeting, along with an agenda and relevant documents;
 - (b) propose agenda items and submit motions for consideration;
 - (c) have access to all documents and other material relevant to the Committee;
 - (d) speak freely during meetings, subject to the Chair's rulings and the Committee's procedural rules; and
 - (e) record a dissenting opinion in any report or resolution, and have that opinion published alongside the report if requested.
- (2) No member may be excluded from participating in the Committee's work except in accordance with:
 - (a) a declared conflict of interest under this Act; or
 - (b) a suspension or removal imposed under section 25 in this Act.
- (3) Members are entitled to receive reimbursement of reasonable travel and accommodation expenses necessarily incurred in performing their duties, in accordance with the regulations.
- (4) Members are entitled to, if enrolled in an educational program, request reasonable academic accommodations if their participation in Committee business conflicts with educational obligations.

Part 6 Government Accountability

20 Report Requirements and Delivery

- (1) For each bill reviewed under this Act, the Committee must prepare and adopt a written report containing:
 - (a) a plain-language summary of the bill and its intended purpose;
 - (b) an analysis of the bill's potential impact on young people and the broader community;
 - (c) any findings and conclusions reached by the Committee;
 - (d) recommendations for amendments, if any;
 - (e) a statement of any dissenting or minority views, if requested by a member; and
 - (f) a record of consultation activities undertaken in preparing the report.
- (2) The report must be approved by a majority of members present and voting before it is finalised.
- (3) The final report must be signed by the Chair and provided to:
 - (a) the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly; and
 - (b) the Minister or Member sponsoring the bill.
- (4) The Committee must table the report in the Legislative Assembly no later than five (5) sitting days before the scheduled third reading of the bill.

21 Legislative Assembly Response Obligation and Publication

- (1) The Legislative Assembly must not proceed to the third reading of a bill under review until the Committee's report has been tabled in accordance with section 20(4).
- (2) The Government must provide a written response to the Committee's report stating—
 - (a) whether each recommendation has been accepted, accepted in part, or rejected; and

- (b) the reasons for any recommendation that is not accepted in full.
- (3) The written response must be—
 - (a) tabled in the Legislative Assembly; and
 - (b) published on their official website within five (5) working days after tabling.
- (4) The Speaker must ensure that both the Committee's report and the Government's response are recorded in the official proceedings (Hansard).
- (5) If the Government fails to provide a response within five (5) sitting days after the report is tabled, the Speaker must announce that failure at the next sitting of the Assembly, cause the failure to be noted in Hansard, and the Assembly will have to issue a public statement of their failure.

22 Annual Summary of Committee Activity

- (1) The Committee must prepare an annual summary of its activities for each financial year.
- (2) The annual summary must include—
 - (a) a list of all bills reviewed during the year;
 - (b) a summary of the key recommendations made and the extent to which they were adopted;
 - (c) statistics on public consultations, submissions received, and hearings conducted;
 - (d) attendance records for members; and
 - (e) a summary of significant outcomes or issues arising from the Committee's work.
- (3) The annual summary must be—
 - (a) provided to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly;
 - (b) tabled in the Legislative Assembly; and
 - (c) made publicly available online.

- (4) The annual summary is to be presented no later than four (4) months after the end of the financial year to which it relates.

Part 7 Conduct

23 Code of Conduct and Member Expectations

- (1) Members of the Committee must, at all times and under all circumstances, conduct themselves in a manner that upholds the dignity and integrity of the Committee.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), members must—
 - (a) treat all other members, witnesses, and attendees with courtesy and respect;
 - (b) debate issues respectfully, using language that is appropriate for parliamentary proceedings;
 - (c) respect and comply with rulings and directions made by the Chair;
 - (d) refrain from making personal attacks or using offensive, discriminatory, or obscene language;
 - (e) attend meetings punctually and remain for their full duration unless excused; and
 - (f) participate actively and in good faith in the Committee's work.
- (3) Failure to comply with this section constitutes misconduct for the purposes of section 25.

24 Conflict of Interest and Declarations

- (1) At the start of each meeting, members must declare any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest/s in relation to any matter on the agenda.
- (2) The Chair must cause all declarations to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting, and is wholly responsible.
- (3) Where a declared conflict of interest is deemed by the Chair to be of enough significance, the Chair may—

- (a) suspend the member's voting rights in relation to the matter;
 - (b) direct the member to abstain from participating in the discussion of the matter; and/or
 - (c) require the member to withdraw from the meeting chamber during consideration of the matter.
- (4) A member subject to a direction under subsection (3) may request that the Chair's decision be put to a vote of the members present.
- (5) If a majority of members vote in favour of the Chair's decision, the member must comply with the restrictions imposed.
- (6) For the purposes of this section—
 - (a) a conflict of interest includes any situation where a reasonable person may perceive that a member's ability to consider a matter impartially is compromised; and
 - (b) conflicts may be financial, personal, familial, political, or otherwise.

25 Disciplinary Procedures

- (1) If a member breaches the Code of Conduct under section 23, the Chair may issue a formal warning.
- (2) A warning must—
 - (a) state the specific behaviour that is considered to be in breach; and
 - (b) be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- (3) If a member receives three (3) warnings during a single meeting, the Chair may order the member's suspension from the chamber for the remainder of that day.
- (4) If the conduct of a member is of such seriousness that it disrupts the proceedings or undermines the authority of the Chair, the Chair may—
 - (a) suspend the member immediately for a specified period not exceeding three (3) meetings; and
 - (b) refer the matter to the Committee for further consideration under the complaints mechanism in section 26.

- (5) All disciplinary decisions of the Chair regarding section 23 are final unless overturned by a resolution supported by at least two-thirds of the members present.

26 Ethical Guidelines and Complaints Mechanism

- (1) All members must observe the highest ethical standards and act honestly, transparently, and in the public interest when carrying out their duties.
- (2) A member may lodge a complaint about the conduct of another member by submitting a written statement to the Chair outlining—
 - (a) the alleged misconduct;
 - (b) the time, date, and circumstances of the incident; and
 - (c) any supporting evidence or witnesses.
- (3) The Chair must—
 - (a) acknowledge receipt of the complaint within 5 working days; and
 - (b) determine whether the matter should be—:
 - (i) resolved informally;
 - (ii) investigated by the Committee; or
 - (iii) referred to an independent mediator or other appropriate authority.
- (4) Where the complaint concerns the Chair, it must be submitted to the Deputy Chair, who will perform the functions of the Chair under this section.
- (5) All complaints and their outcomes must be recorded in a register.
- (6) The outcome of a complaint must be communicated to both the complainant and the responded separately, along with reasons for the decision.



*23rd Session of the
Youth Parliament of the Northern Territory*

Youth Homelessness and Housing Bill 2025

(Charles Darwin University)

A bill for an Act to mandate a coordinated effort to prevent and reduce youth homelessness by expanding crisis accommodation, by embedding homelessness education in schools, and equipping young Territorians with the skills and support needed for safe, independent living, and for related purposes.

Ayes	Noes
29	9

In the name of His Majesty, I assent to this Act.

A stylized signature in black ink.

His Honour the Honourable Jordy Humphreys

Youth Administrator of the Northern Territory

26 September 2025

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
YOUTH HOMELESSESS AND HOUSING ACT 2025

Act No. 2 of 2025

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NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Act No. 2 of 2025

An Act to mandate a coordinated effort to prevent and reduce youth homelessness by expanding crisis accommodation, by embedding homelessness education in schools, and equipping young Territorians with the skills and support needed for safe, independent living, and for related purposes.

[Introduced 23 September 2025]

The Youth Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory enacts as follows:

Part 1 Preliminary matters

1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Youth Homelessness and Housing Act 2025*.

2 Commencement

This Act commences on the day after the date on which it receives the Administrator's assent.

3 Objects

The objects of this act are:

- (a) to expand culturally appropriate crisis accommodation for youth, supporting independent living, early intervention and sustainable housing; and
- (b) to raise awareness through community, schools and collaboration with government, non-government organisations, Indigenous leaders and youth with regular monitoring.

Part 2 Expansion and Establishment of Youth Crisis Accommodation

4 Expansion of Existing Facilities and Implementation of New Facilities

- (1) The capacity of Casy House in Darwin must be increased.
- (2) Everyone must have adequate accessibility to a crisis shelter.
- (3) The number beds in crisis centres must be increased by eight (8) in the following regions:
 - (a) Darwin;
 - (b) Katherine;
 - (c) Alice Springs;
 - (d) Tennant Creek; and
 - (e) Nhulunbuy.
- (4) In regions where no suitable crisis accommodation exists, the responsible authority must—
 - (a) establish each facility within five (5) years that is culturally appropriate and accessible; and
 - (b) ensure services are staffed and operational within 18 months of this establishment.

- (5) Principles of independent living must be followed in all facilities established in line with subsection (4), such that—
 - (a) case managers assist residents in their upward mobility and reaching independent means to gain income;
 - (b) personal budgeting for residents is to be regulated largely by the facilities' staff;
 - (c) adequate support for residents to independently purchase goods and services is to be provided;
 - (d) a curfew will be mandated for all facilities at 10pm every night; and
 - (e) a reasonable degree of meal preparation support must be provided for all residents.
- (6) No alcohol or prohibited and unprescribed drugs are to be allowed at any facility, either newly established or already in existence.
- (7) All facilities must adhere to the following financial obligations for those living within facilities:
 - (a) if participants are earning an income, they must pay a set charge of 125 dollars as a rent expense, which will be utilised in their support; and
 - (b) case managers must assist participants with accessing Centrelink payments to adhere to such requirements.
- (8) Each facility must develop a “check-in” procedure for every resident, which entails a conversation with a staff member that covers—
 - (a) the progress they have made after three (3) months of participation within the program;
 - (b) a discussion covering an option to move towards a sustainable housing pathway after six (6) months of participation within the program; and
 - (c) potential referral options to the Department of Children and Families if required.

Part 3

Developing Youth Homelessness Awareness

5 Development of a Youth Homelessness Awareness Council

- (1) The Department of Children and Families must provide ongoing funding support to establish a new *Youth Homelessness Awareness Council (YHAC)*.
- (2) The council should consist of six members, including—
 - (a) two (2) youth representatives with lived experience of homelessness;
 - (b) two (2) NGO representatives from organisations such as YWCA or Mission Australia;
 - (c) one (1) representative each from—
 - (i) Housing NT;
 - (ii) Education NT; and
 - (iii) NT Health; and
 - (d) one (1) indigenous community leader from a remote area within the Northern Territory.
- (3) The YHAC must—
 - (a) oversee the development and promotion of educational campaigns;
 - (b) monitor the effectiveness of youth hubs on different grounds
 - (c) produce a quarterly report regarding the council's progress to the Minister for Housing and Community Development;
 - (d) coordinate annual Youth Homelessness Week events; and
 - (e) publish an annual Youth Homelessness Report (YHR) with statistics, case studies and recommendations for improvement directly relating to their responsibilities.
- (4) The YHAC must meet twice each month to define its strategies and goals.

- (5) The YHAC must provide online communication access to remove members through either—
 - (a) Microsoft Teams;
 - (b) Google Meet;
 - (c) Zoom; or
 - (d) Cisco.
- (6) The council must conduct community forums for residents across the regions of—
 - (a) Darwin;
 - (b) Katherine;
 - (c) Tennant Creek; and
 - (d) Nhulunbuy.

6 Increasing Awareness in Schooling via Curriculum-based Changes

- (1) The Department of Education must advocate for the following ongoing curriculum changes across years seven (7) to twelve (12):
 - (a) the year seven (7) to eight (8) curriculum will be required to focus on students understanding homelessness and its causes in a specifically Northern Territory-based context, including family breakdown, domestic violence, unemployment and mental health factors;
 - (b) the year nine (9) to ten (10) curriculum will be required to focus on students understanding life skills such as budgeting, tenancy rights, accessing housing support, entering into safe relationships and conflict resolution; and
 - (c) the year eleven (11) to twelve (12) curriculum will be required to focus on students building potential pathways for careers in social services, as well as advancing community advocacy projects and volunteering opportunities.

- (2) The Department of Education must develop a teaching strategy documents for all schools to follow, including—
 - (a) role-play scenarios on finding housing, resolving disputes and accessing Centrelink support;
 - (b) guest speakers from youth shelters, former homeless young people, and housing officers; and
 - (c) cross-curricular integration with the subject areas of Civics and Citizenship, Health and Work Studies.
- (3) Professionals with qualifications in community-based disciplines must deliver lessons relating to the subject areas of—
 - (a) Community Services;
 - (b) Social Work;
 - (c) Humanitarian Aid; and
 - (d) Psychology.
- (4) Schools must mandate ongoing participation, over the course of at least three (3) months in one (1) homeless-related community event.
- (5) Teachers in schools must incorporate project-based assessments for young people, comprising of—
 - (a) a mock homelessness campaign;
 - (b) a brainstorming opportunity focused on strategies of prevention; and
 - (c) a clear understanding of the impacts of homelessness.



*23rd Session of the
Youth Parliament of the Northern Territory*

Young Carers Identification Bill 2025

(Carers NT)

A bill for an Act to mandate the identification of young carers across educational, health, and community services, to ensure timely support and recognition of their role, and to promote their well-being and opportunities, and for related purposes

Ayes	Noes
28	0

In the name of His Majesty, I assent to this Act.

A stylized signature in black ink.

His Honour the Honourable Jordy Humphreys

Youth Administrator of the Northern Territory

26 September 2025

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
YOUNG CARERS IDENTIFICATION ACT 2025

Act No. 4 of 2025

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NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Act No. 4 of 2025

An Act to mandate the identification of young carers across educational, health, and community services, to ensure timely support and recognition of their role, and to promote their well-being and opportunities, and for related purposes.

[Introduced 24 September 2025]

The Youth Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory enacts as follows:

Part 1 **Preliminary matters**

1 **Short title**

This Act may be cited as the *Young Carers Identification Act 2025*.

2 **Commencement**

This Act commences on the day after the date on which it receives the Youth Administrator's assent.

3 **Definitions**

In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears:

family member means, pursuant to section 3 of the *Advance Personal Planning Act 2013*, a spouse, de facto partner, parent, guardian or decision maker of the person to whom care or assistance is being provided; or someone who provides care to a child who is in the person's care under the *Care and Protection of Children Act 2007*;

identification means the formal process of recognising and recording a person as a young carer through schools, health providers or community organisations, as prescribed in this Act; and

young carer means anyone aged 25 years and under who provides unpaid care and support to family members or friends who—

- (a) have a disability as defined in the *Disability Services Act 1993*;
- (b) have a mental illness as defined in the *Mental Health and Related Services Act 1998*;
- (c) are frail aged because of frailty;
- (d) require assistance with the carrying out of everyday tasks;
- (e) have chronic conditions; or
- (f) alcohol and/or drug issues of a class prescribed by regulation.

Part 2 Personal and Organisational Responsibilities

4 Mandatory Identification

- (1) All educational institutions, health care providers, and community service organisations must implement processes to identify young carers.
- (2) Upon identification, a referral must be made to an authorised Carer Gateway service provider within 14 days.

5 Responsibilities of Agencies

- (1) Educational institutions must—
 - (a) maintain a confidential register of identified young carers;
 - (b) assign a Young Carer Liaison Officer; and
 - (c) offer academic flexibility and pastoral care.

- (2) Health care providers, including mental health services, must—
 - (a) screen for young carers when treating patients with ongoing care needs; and
 - (b) provide information and referral pathways to support services.
- (3) Community service organisations must integrate young carer identification in intake and assessment processes.

Part 3 Support and Rights

6 Mandatory Identification

Identified young carers are entitled to—

- (a) access to young carer support services;
- (b) adjustments to educational requirements; and
- (c) information on financial assistance, respite, peer support and wellbeing programs.

Part 4 Review of this Act

7 Review of this Act

The Minister for Education, the Minister for Territory Family and the Minister for Health will review the Act within two (2) years of commencement.



*23rd Session of the
Youth Parliament of the Northern Territory*

Criminal Code Amendment (Age of Criminal Responsibility) Bill 2025

(Darwin Schools)

A bill for an Act to amend the *Criminal Code*, and for related purposes.

Ayes	Noes
27	1

In the name of His Majesty, I assent to this Act.

A stylized signature in black ink.

His Honour the Honourable Jordy Humphreys

Youth Administrator of the Northern Territory

26 September 2025

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT (AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY) ACT
2025

Act No. 3 of 2025

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NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Act No. 3 of 2025

An Act to amend the *Criminal Code*, and for related purposes

[Introduced 24 September 2025]

The Youth Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory enacts as follows:

Part 1 Preliminary matters

1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Criminal Code Amendment (Age of Criminal Responsibility) Bill 2025*.

2 Commencement

- (1) This Act commences on the day after the date on which it receives the Administrator's assent.

Part 2 Amendment of the *Criminal Code*

3 Amending section 38 of the *Criminal Code*

Repeal section 38 and

insert

38 Age of criminal responsibility

A child under 13 years of age is not criminally responsible for an offence.

4 Amending section 38A of the *Criminal Code*

(1) In section 38A,

omit

10; and

insert

12.

(2) In section 38A(1),

omit

10 years; and

insert

12 or 13 years.

5 Amending section 43AP and 43AQ of the *Criminal Code*

(1) In section 43AP,

omit

10; and

insert

12.

(2) In section 43AQ,

omit

10; and

insert

12.

(3) In section 43AQ(1),

omit

10; and

insert

12.

6 Amending part XI, section 465 of the *Criminal Code*

In section 465,

omit

end date means the commencement of section 3 of the *Criminal Code Amendment Act 2024*.

7 Amending section 466 of the *Criminal Code*

In section 466(1), after "commencement" (*second reference*),

omit

but before the end date.

8 Amending section 467 of the *Criminal Code*

In section 466(1),

omit

before the end date; and

insert

Including differences committed before the commencement.

9 Amending section 469 of the *Criminal Code*

In section 469(1), after “committed” (*all references*),

omit

before the end date.

After section 469(6),

insert

- (7) The archives service established under the *Information Act 2002* must not disclose to the public a record of a charge or conviction expunged under this section unless it first—
 - (a) takes all reasonable steps to change the record to show that the charge or conviction is expunged; and
 - (b) includes a warning in the record that it is an offence to disclose a charge or conviction that is expunged.
- (8) Any holder of a record of a charge or conviction expunged under this section, other than the archives service, must within a reasonable period of time—
 - (a) take all reasonable steps to change the record to show that the charge or conviction is expunged; and
 - (b) includes a warning in the record that it is an offence to disclose a charge or conviction that is expunged.
- (9) The expungement of a charge or conviction from records under subsections (7) and (8) does not authorise the destruction of any information or document.

10 Amending section 470 of the *Criminal Code*

In section 470(a), (b) and (c) after “committed”,

omit

before the end date.

11 Inserting section 473 to the *Criminal Code*

After section 472,

insert

473 Unlawful disclosure

- (1) A person commits an offence if—
- (a) the person has access to a record of a charge or conviction;
 - (b) the person intentionally engages in conduct; and
 - (c) the conduct results in the disclosure of information about a charge or conviction expunged under section 468 and the person is reckless in relation to that result.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units or imprisonment for six (6) months.

- (2) Strict liability applies to subsection (1)(a).
- (3) It is a defense to a prosecution for an offence against subsection (1) if—
- (a) the disclosure is authorised or required under this Division; or
 - (b) the disclosure is necessary for the performance of a function or the exercise of a power under this Division; or
 - (c) the disclosure is made with the written consent of the person whose charge or conviction was expunged; or
 - (d) the information was made available by an archive or library, or an authorised officer of an archive or library, in a form normally available for public use and in accordance with the normal procedures of the archive or library; or
 - (e) the disclosure is for statistical or research purposes in a form that cannot identify the person whose charge or conviction was expunged.

474 Immunity from civil and criminal liability

A person is not civilly or criminally liable for an act done or omitted to be done by the person in good faith when acting, or purportedly acting, in the exercise of a power or performance of a function by the person under this Division.

Part 3 Repeal of this Act

12 Repeal of this Act

This Act is to be repealed on the day after it commences.



*23rd Session of the
Youth Parliament of the Northern Territory*

Senior Student Wellbeing Bill

(St John's Catholic College)

A bill for an Act to mandate a consistent non-academic week in all secondary schools for students in years 10 to 12, designed to support student wellbeing through activities, mental health workshops, and for related purposes.

Ayes	Noes
16	11

In the name of His Majesty, I assent to this Act.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

His Honour the Honourable Jordy Humphreys

Youth Administrator of the Northern Territory

26 September 2025

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
SENIOR STUDENT WELLBEING ACT 2025

Act No. 5 of 2025

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NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Act No. 5 of 2025

An Act to mandate a consistent non-academic week in all secondary schools for students in years 10 to 12, designed to support student wellbeing through activities, mental health workshops, and for related purposes.

[Introduced 25 September 2025]

The Youth Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory enacts as follows:

Part 1 Preliminary matters

1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Senior Student Wellbeing Act 2025*.

2 Commencement

(1) This Act commences four (4) months after the date on which it receives the Administrator's assent.

3 Objects

The objects of this act are:

- (a) to promote student wellbeing;
- (b) to ease academic pressure and;
- (c) to foster a healthier learning environment.

3 Purposes

The purposes of this act are:

- (a) to promote and safeguard the mental health and overall well-being of students in senior school; and
- (b) to mandate a dedicated period for rest, reflection, and stress reduction before the commencement of examination periods or end-of-semester assessments.

4 Definitions

In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears:

academic activities means lectures, tutorials, practicals, seminars, compulsory workshops, assessments, and any other curriculum-mandated educational engagement;

educational institution means any public high school in the Northern Territory;

free week means the designated period during which the provisions of this Act are in effect, as described in part 2;

semester means a standard academic teaching period, typically encompassing 20 weeks of instruction;

student means to any individual enrolled in an educational institution; and

wellbeing activities means optional, non-compulsory activities designed to promote mental and physical health, relaxation, and personal development.

Part 2 Establishment and Implementation

5 Implementation of Free Week

Notwithstanding any other academic calendar arrangements, every Educational Institution shall implement a free Week during the last week of each standard academic Semester.

6 Prohibition of Academic Activities

During the free week, educational institutions shall —

- (a) suspend all scheduled lectures, tutorials, practicals, seminars, and compulsory workshops;
- (b) prohibit the scheduling or administration of any summative assessments, including —
 - (i) quizzes;
 - (ii) mid-term examinations;
 - (iii) presentations; and
 - (iv) assignment submissions; and
- (c) refrain from introducing new course content or material that would require compulsory student engagement.

7 Optional Engagement and Support

- (1) During the free week, educational institutions are encouraged to—
 - (a) offer optional, non-compulsory revision sessions or drop-in clinics for student support;
 - (b) organise and promote a range of voluntary wellbeing activities, which may include, but are not limited to—
 - (i) mindfulness sessions;
 - (ii) recreational sports;
 - (iii) creative workshops;
 - (iv) career development seminars; and
 - (v) mental health support services; and
 - (c) ensure that library and study facilities remain accessible to students.

8 Academic Staff Engagement

- (1) Academic staff will be required to provide supervision of voluntary wellbeing activities during free week.
- (2) To ensure support for academic inquiries, academic staff shall:
 - (a) be available during the free week for:
 - (i) consultation;
 - (ii) academic advising; and
 - (iii) to provide feedback on previously submitted work.
- (3) All academic staff must ensure that any academic inquiries are optional for students and do not involve the introduction of new compulsory academic content or assessments.

Part 3 Scope and Exceptions

9 Applicability

This Act applies to all full-time and part-time students enrolled in year 10, 11 and 12 coursework programs at educational institutions.

10 Exceptions

- (1) This Act may not apply to programs or courses that are specifically governed by professional accreditation bodies requiring continuous engagement or placement activities such as work experience.
- (2) Any exceptions are required to be clearly communicated to students at the point of enrolment in each class and reasonable efforts are made to minimise stress where possible.
- (3) Intensive teaching blocks, short courses, or trimesters that do not align with a standard semester structure may implement an equivalent "free period" proportional to their duration, as approved by the relevant governing body.

Part 4 Compliance and Review

11 Institutional Responsibility

Each educational institution shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Act and for communicating its implementation clearly to all students and staff.

12 Review

A review of the effectiveness and impact of this Act shall be conducted by the relevant educational governing body three years after its commencement, and every five (5) years thereafter, to assess its continued relevance and efficacy.



*23rd Session of the
Youth Parliament of the Northern Territory*

Youth Justice Reform Bill 2025

(Alice Springs)

A bill for an Act to amend youth justice related Acts, to strengthen access and funding to youth services, strengthen accountability for service providers, reform bail conditions, and for related purposes.

Ayes	Noes
16	0

In the name of His Majesty, I assent to this Act.

A stylized signature in black ink.

His Honour the Honourable Jordy Humphreys

Youth Administrator of the Northern Territory

26 September 2025

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

YOUTH JUSTICE REFORM ACT 2025

Act No. 6 of 2025

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NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Act No. 6 of 2025

An Act to amend youth justice related Acts, to strengthen access and funding to youth services, strengthen accountability for service providers, reform bail conditions, and for related purposes.

[Introduced 25 September 2025]

The Youth Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory enacts as follows:

Part 1 Preliminary matters

1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Youth Justice Reform Act 2025*.

2 Commencement

- (1) This Act commences on the day after the date on which it receives the Administrator's assent.

3 Objects

The objects of this act are:

- (a) to reform the framework around court-sentenced rehabilitation programs for youth and adults who have committed, or are alleged to have committed, an offense;
- (b) to implement harsher penalties and reforms regarding distribution of alcohol and illicit substances to minors and youths;

- (c) to increase funding for services in Alice Springs that handle youth crime and criminal prevention activities;
- (d) to ensure the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children;
- (e) to promote continuous improvement and innovation in policies, practices and services relating to the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children; and
- (f) to ensure the efficiency of services that manage youth wellbeing and diversion programs.

Part 2 Youth Justice Reforms

4 Amending Section 27B of the *Bail Act 2017*

Before section 27B(1)

insert

(1AA) Subsection (1AB) applies if a **prosecuted** person has entered into a conduct agreement; and

(1AB) A police officer may—

- (a) place on, attach to or remove from the **prosecuted** person an approved police monitoring device; and
- (b) give reasonable directions to the **prosecuted** person regarding the use of the device.

5 Inserting Part 3, Section 45 to the *Youth Justice Act 2005*

After part 3, section 44

insert

45 Mandatory Action for Early Intervention

- (1) The Department of Children, Youth Justice, and Multicultural Affairs is to establish and implement mandatory early intervention programs for all young people who are identified as being at risk of involvement in criminal activities as determined by the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY).

- (2) The Department of Children, Youth Justice, and Multicultural Affairs is to work alongside existing early intervention programs.
- (3) Early intervention programs and youth services include—
 - (a) family support services to strengthen family units and address underlying issues contributing to at-risk behaviors;
 - (b) education programs, including school attendance support and academic tutoring;
 - (c) mental health services, including counseling and substance abuse treatment;
 - (d) mentoring programs that connect young people with positive role models and provide guidance;
 - (e) community-based activities, including sports, arts, and employment programs, designed to engage youth in pro-social behavior; or
 - (f) early intervention ‘boot camps’ that encourage discipline and skill-development.
- (4) Any exemptions to the application of this section’s regulations must be documented and provided to a judge.

6 Establishment of the “Breaking the Cycle” Fund

- (1) In line with the proposal put forward by the Justice Reform Initiative, the Northern Territory Government, in partnership with the Federal Government, is to commit over the span of four (4) years, towards a “Breaking The Cycle”.
- (2) The goal of this program is to boost funding for community-led organisations that deal with youth crime and youth crime prevention, and building services and support for youth crime prevention.
- (3) Funding for the “Breaking the Cycle” Fund is to be determined by the Department of Treasury and Finance.

Part 3

Alcohol and Illicit Substances Reforms

7 Amending Section 52 of the *Volatile Substance Abuse Prevention Act 2005*

In section 52

amend to read

52 Unlawful supply of volatile substances

(1) Unlawful supply of volatile substances a person (the first person) must not supply a volatile substance to a second person if the first person knows or ought to know the second person intends—

- (a) to inhale the volatile substance; or
- (b) to supply the volatile substance to a third person for inhalation by the third person or any other person.

Minimum penalty: 2 penalty units or 24 hours of community service.

Maximum penalty: 200 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years.

8 Funding for the Northern Territory Youth Drug and Alcohol Prevention Programs

- (1) In accordance with the *Volatile Substance Abuse Prevention Act 2005*, funding increases should be allocated to new and existing youth drug and alcohol prevention programs.
- (2) The specific amount allocated to all programs covered by this section should be determined by the Department of Treasury and Finance.

Part 4 Commission into Youth Service Effectiveness

9 Establishing the Commission into Youth Service Effectiveness

The Department of Corporate and Digital Development, in cooperation with the Office of the Children's Commissioner, is to jointly manage a commission into the effectiveness of youth services, with—

- (a) the official name to be The Commission Into Youth Service Effectiveness; and
- (b) powers and responsibilities currently held by both the Department of Corporate and Digital Development and the Office of the Children's Commissioner to also apply.

10 Disbanding the Commission into Youth Service Effectiveness

- (1) The Commission into Youth Service Effectiveness is to be disbanded four (4) years after the commencement of operations
- (2) If the Department of Corporate and Digital Development and the Office of the Children's Commissioner jointly determine the need, the Commission may be disbanded later than four (4) years.



*23rd Session of the
Youth Parliament of the Northern Territory*

Petition Submission #1

(Alpurrurulam Community College)

SUBJECT:

Access to safe drinking water.

Ayes	Noes
28	0

Northern Territory Youth Legislative Assembly Petition Submission

Safe drinking water in our community

Submitted by Malcolm Billy and Tarrant Anderson

23 September 2025

To the Speaker and the Members of the Youth Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory:

WE THE UNDERSIGNED RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH

Alpurrurulam is a Northern Territory Aboriginal Community, in Barkly region near Queensland border. 400 Alyawarra people and my family live here. In 2007 – 2009 the fluoride levels started from 1.5mg per L to 1.6mg per L, 2010 – 2020 Fluoride levels increased to 1.7mg per L, 2021 to 2025 Fluoride levels stayed on 1.7mg per L max but averages around 1.6mg per L. The World Health Organisation and guidelines has clearly stated that Fluoride levels should not exceed 1.5mg per L. The impact of Fluoride levels in community has gone on for more than 14 years, the high levels of Un dissolvable substances make the water undrinkable. We shower in the water which causes itchiness, dry skin, kidney problems etc. People could see white stuff around the taps, taps outside our classroom have stopped working for over 5 years now. This affects the education amongst children, it has shown that there are more impaired developments of intelligence. Our teeth are ruined from the water, and the health risk is not only from the water but also from fizzy drinks which are cheaper than buying boxes of clean water. Therefore, we are forced to buy what we can afford, fizzy drinks, 1 litre of coke is what some of us buy everyday, there are 27 teaspoons of sugar which is more dangerous and unhealthy to drink, children are recommended 6 teaspoons of sugar everyday. So, in conclusion, my people need clean water for everyday and in schools. Safe drinking water is a basic human right.

All of this information is documented and available to the public.

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE HUMBLY PRAY THAT

1. The bore issue with Lake Nash Station to be finished.
2. Water taps in school should be reinstalled, once the bore is established.
3. Water tanks installed in all community houses (rain water).
4. Children's Sport and Recreation Centre needs access to drinkable water.
5. The Community Church needs clean water.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS AS IN DUTY BOUND, WILL EVER PRAY.



*23rd Session of the
Youth Parliament of the Northern Territory*

Petition Submission #2

(Tennant Creek High School)

SUBJECT:
Tennant Creek Youth Hostel

Ayes	Noes
28	0

Northern Territory Youth Legislative Assembly Petition Submission*Tennant Creek Youth Hostel*

Submitted by Shakina Frank and Maleah Presley

23 September 2025**To the Speaker and the Members of the Youth Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory:****WE THE UNDERSIGNED RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH**

Young people do not have homes to go to due to violence and people drinking at home – that is not a safe environment. This will impact them, with no place to sleep or no ability to attend school. The current situation is unsafe not only for the young people who do not have anywhere to stay but also for the wider community. The sad reality is clear and present in the community, particularly at night.

There are 147 homeless people per 10,000 residents in Tennant Creek and a severe lack of youth-specific crisis accommodation and housing options. Also, there is not enough funding for crisis facilities as well – just over \$750 thousand is provided to Tennant Creek while almost \$10 million is provided to Darwin. This gap needs to be closed and fixed.

All of this information is documented and available to the public.

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE HUMBLY PRAY THAT

1. Children are to be referred to a necessary organisation.
2. Parents will be held accountable for their actions.
3. Increased funding for youth homelessness housing.
4. A Youth Hostel located in Tennant Creek will be built.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS AS IN DUTY BOUND, WILL EVER PRAY.



Bill & Petition Summaries

Youth Justice Reform Bill 2025

(Alice Springs)

The Youth Justice Reform Bill 2025 introduces reforms to strengthen youth justice, rehabilitation, and service accountability in the Northern Territory. It amends the Bail Act 2017 to allow police monitoring devices for prosecuted youths and mandates early intervention programs under the Youth Justice Act 2005. The Bill establishes the “Breaking the Cycle” Fund to support community-led crime prevention initiatives and increases penalties for unlawful supply of volatile substances and expands funding for youth drug and alcohol prevention programs. Finally, it creates a Commission into Youth Service Effectiveness to oversee service outcomes, with a four-year operational term.

Senior Student Wellbeing Bill 2025

(St John’s Catholic College)

The Senior Student Wellbeing Bill 2025 mandates a dedicated “free week” in the final week of each semester for all Year 10–12 students in Northern Territory secondary schools. During this period, compulsory academic activities including, classes, assessments, and new content are prohibited. Instead, schools must provide access to optional wellbeing programs, such as mindfulness, sports, creative workshops, and mental health services, while keeping study facilities available. Academic staff will remain accessible for consultations and support. Exceptions apply to courses with external accreditation or intensive formats. Institutions bear responsibility for compliance, with a formal review scheduled after three years.

Youth Homelessness and Housing Bill 2025

(Charles Darwin University)

The Youth Homelessness and Housing Bill 2025 mandates a coordinated approach to prevent and reduce youth homelessness across the Northern Territory. It expands crisis accommodation by increasing capacity at existing facilities and requiring new, culturally appropriate shelters in underserved regions, with case management, life-skills support, and strict rules on safety and rent contributions. A Youth Homelessness Awareness Council is established to advise the government, coordinate campaigns, and publish reports. Schools must integrate homelessness awareness and life skills into curricula from Years 7–12, supported by qualified professionals, community engagement, and project-based learning. The Act commences upon assent.

Young Carers Identification Bill 2025

(Carers NT)

The Young Carers Identification Bill 2025 requires schools, health providers, and community organisations in the Northern Territory to formally identify and support young carers aged 25 and under who provide unpaid care to family or friends with disability, illness, frailty, or substance issues. Institutions must maintain confidential registers, appoint liaison officers, and ensure timely referrals to Carer Gateway services within 14 days.



Bill & Petition Summaries

Criminal Code Amendment (Age of Criminal Responsibility) Bill 2025

(Darwin Schools)

The Criminal Code Amendment (Age of Criminal Responsibility) Bill 2025 raises the minimum age of criminal responsibility in the Northern Territory from 10 to 13 years. It updates related provisions to ensure children under 13 cannot be charged with or found guilty of offences, while clarifying procedures for children aged 12–13. The Bill introduces safeguards around record-keeping, requiring expungement of past charges below the new threshold and prohibiting unlawful disclosure, with penalties for breaches. It ensures archives and record holders update information to reflect expungement. The Act commences upon assent and is repealed immediately after commencement.

Youth Scrutiny Committee Bill 2025

(Darwin High School)

The Youth Scrutiny Committee Bill 2025 establishes a statutory youth committee to review proposed legislation in the Northern Territory. Comprised of elected members aged 10–25 from each electorate, the Committee operates through an annual election process overseen by the Northern Territory Electoral Commission. It has authority to select and examine bills, require youth impact statements, and present reports before bills progress to a third reading. Government must formally respond to recommendations. The Bill strengthens youth civic participation, transparency, and long-term policy consideration. It sets eligibility criteria, rules for vacancies, and duties for internal operations and accountability reporting.

Petition: Access to safe drinking water

(Alpurrrulam Community College)

This petition calls on the Youth Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory to address unsafe drinking water in Alpurrrulam, a community of 400 Alyawarra people. Fluoride levels in local water have consistently exceeded the World Health Organisation guideline of 1.5mg/L, causing dental damage, skin irritation, and broader health risks. Lack of clean water access forces families to rely on sugary drinks, worsening health outcomes for children. Petitioners request urgent action: completing bore works at Lake Nash Station, reinstalling school taps, installing rainwater tanks, and ensuring clean water for community facilities.

Petition: Tennant Creek Youth Hostel

(Tennant Creek High School)

The petition raises urgent concerns about youth homelessness in Tennant Creek, where many young people cannot safely return home due to violence and alcohol misuse. With 147 homeless people per 10,000 residents and limited youth crisis housing, the community faces serious risks. Funding is disproportionately low compared to Darwin. Petitioners call for parental accountability, proper referrals for children, increased funding for crisis housing, and the establishment of a dedicated youth hostel in Tennant Creek. Such measures are essential to provide safe accommodation, support education, and improve community safety while addressing the urgent housing needs of vulnerable young people.



Commencing Script

Commencing Script

Members to enter Chamber and assume assigned seating.

Sergeant-at-Arms

“Members, please stand. The Speaker.”

Speaker

“I call the Youth Chief Minister to provide an Acknowledgement of Country.”

Youth Chief Minister

“We acknowledge and give gratitude to the Larrakia people, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which this Assembly meets. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of all the sacred lands that we live, work and travel on. We acknowledge and pay our respects to any Elders and Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people who are here today.”

Speaker

“Members, I ask you to stand in silence and reflect on our responsibilities to the people of the Northern Territory.”

Members stand for a moment of silence.

Speaker

“Members please be seated.”



First Reading

Speaker

“The Clerk will read the order of the day.”

Clerk

“Government/General Business, order of the day number __ standing in the name of the Member for <last name of main sponsor>.”

Speaker

“I call on the Member for <last name of main sponsor> to present the bill. ”

Main Sponsor

“Speaker, I present a bill titled <short title>.

Speaker, I move the bill be read a first time.”

Speaker

“The question is that the bill be read a first time. Those of that opinion say ‘aye’, to the contrary ‘no’.”

REMEMBER: everyone must vote AYE at this stage!

“I think the ayes have it.”

“The Clerk will read the long title.”

Clerk

“A bill for an Act to <long title>.”

This concludes the first reading.



Second Reading

Speaker

“The Clerk will read the order of the day.”

Clerk

“Government/General Business, order of the day number __ standing in the name of the Member for <last name of main sponsor>, the <short title> Bill 2025, to move the bill be read a second time”

Main Sponsor

“Speaker, the Member for <last name of main sponsor>. I move the Bill be read a second time.”

Main sponsor delivers a five-minute speech.

Speaker

“I call on the Member for <last name of main sponsor>”

(The Speaker refers to the speaking list when calling sponsors & refuters)

The Bill is now open for debate from the remaining members of the Sponsoring and Refuting teams who are not on the speaking list. Each speech should be a maximum of 3 minutes. After multiple rounds of speeches, the Speaker will call for a final speaker from each side.

Speaker

“I call on a Refuter in closing debate”

A refuter delivers a speech of no more than 3 minutes

Speaker

“I call on a Sponsor in closing debate”

A sponsor delivers a speech of no more than 3 minutes

Speaker

“The question is the Bill now be read a second time. All those in favour say ‘aye’, to the contrary ‘no’.”

REMEMBER: everyone must vote AYE at this stage!

“I think the ayes have it”

This concludes the second reading.



Consideration in Detail

Amendments

Speaker

“Does any Member wish to consider the Bill in detail?”

Member

“Aye.”

Speaker

“Member, which clause do you wish to discuss?”

Member

“Speaker, the Member for <last name of the member>. Clause number [insert number].”

Member to speak to amendment request for up to 1 minute

Speaker

“The question is that clause __ as amended stands. All those in favour say ‘aye,’ to the contrary ‘no’.”

Speaker

“Does any other Member wish to discuss clause number [insert number]?”

Members will stand and speak to the amendment for up to 1 minute

Speaker

“The question is that the clause as amended be accepted. All those in favour say ‘aye’, to the contrary ‘no’.”

Members will say “AYE” or “NO” - THIS IS WHERE YOU VOTE FOR OR AGAINST!

“I think the ayes/noes have it. I call the Clerk.”

Clerk

If accepted

“The amendment has been accepted and will now read... [Clerk reads out clause as amended].”

If rejected

“The section will remain unamended.”

Speaker

“The Assembly will now break before the next order of business.”

This concludes the consideration in detail process.



Third Reading

Main Sponsor

"Speaker, I move that the Bill be now read a third time."

Speaker

"Is the motion seconded?"

Member

"Is the motion seconded?"

Debate will continue until the Speaker calls a final refuter and a final sponsor for their Right of Reply.

Voting

Speaker

"The question is that the Bill now pass. I now yield control of the chamber to the Clerk."

Clerk

"The question is that the Bill now pass. All those in favour say 'aye', to the contrary 'no'."

Members will say "AYE" or "NO" - THIS IS WHERE YOU VOTE FOR OR AGAINST THE BILL!

"I think the ayes/noes have it."

Two members from minority

Division!

Clerk

"Division has been called, ring the bells."

The bells will be rung and members may move to the back of chamber if they wish to abstain. Abstentions should be reserved for reasons of great emotional connection or personal conflict associated with the bill.

"The chamber will now divide. Those in favour of the bill move to the right of the chair, those against to the left. The chamber will now divide in silence."

If passed

"The Bill for an Act to <long title> has been passed with ___ ayes and ___ noes. Members may resume their seats."

If rejected:

"The Bill has failed to pass with ___ ayes and ___ noes. Members may resume their seats."

Speaker

"The Assembly will now break before the next order of business."

This concludes the third reading and debate on the Bill.



Presentations Script

Speaker

“Are there any petitions?”

Main Sponsor stands

“Member for <last name of the main sponsor of petition>.”

Main Sponsor

“Speaker, I present a petition from the Members for <last names of members from team presenting petition>. The petition bears the Clerk’s certificate that conforms in with the requirements of Standing Orders. I move that the petition be debated”

Speaker

“The question is that this petition be debated. All those in favour say ‘aye’, to the contrary ‘no’.”

REMEMBER: everyone must vote AYE at this stage!

“I think the ayes have it. I call the Clerk to present a summary of the petition”

Clerk

The Clerk reads the petition summary.

Speaker

“Are there any other petitions? Member for <last name of the main sponsor of petition>.”

The process repeats until all petitions are presented to the Legislative Assembly.

Chief Minister

“Speaker, I move that all petitions be referred to the Public Accounts Committee to consider whether they be debated.”

Speaker

“The question is that the Committee allow the petitions be debated. Does the Committee accept?”

Members

“Yes, they petitions should be debated.”

Speaker

“The petitions in the name of the Members for Billy & Anderson and the Members for Presely, Paterson & Frank are to be debated on Thursday, the 25th of September”

This concludes the petitions presentation.



Debate Script

Speaker

“The Clerk will read the order of the day.”

Clerk

“Debate on Petition Number <__> concerning <subject of petition>.”

Main Sponsor (Mover of the Petition)

“Mr/Madam/Mx Speaker, the Member for <last name of main sponsor>, I move that <title of the Petition> be noted” (member then delivers speech of no longer than 5 minutes).

Speaker

“I call upon the next member moving the petition be noted to speak in debate”

Main Sponsor (Mover of the Petition)

“Mr/Madam/Mx Speaker, the Member for <last name of main sponsor>, I second the motion” (member then delivers speech of no longer than 5 minutes).

Speaker

“I call upon the next member to speak in debate”

Members will then speak on the petition for the duration of the debate on the petition.

Speaker

“The question is that the petition be noted. Those of that opinion say ‘aye’, to the contrary ‘no’.”



Debate Script

Voting

Speaker

“The question is that the petition be noted. I now yield control of the chamber to the Clerk.”

Clerk

“The question is that the petition be noted. All those in favour say ‘aye’, to the contrary ‘no’.”

Members will say “AYE” or “NO” - THIS IS WHERE YOU VOTE FOR OR AGAINST THE BILL!

“I think the ayes/noes have it.”

Two members from minority

Division!

Clerk

“Division has been called, ring the bells.”

The bells will be rung and members may move to the back of chamber if they wish to abstain. Abstentions should be reserved for reasons of great emotional connection or personal conflict associated with the petition.

“The chamber will now divide. Those in favour of the petition being noted move to the right of the chair, those against to the left. The chamber will now divide in silence.”

If passed

“The petition concerning <long title> has been noted with ___ ayes and ___ noes. Members may resume their seats.”

If rejected:

“The petition has failed to be noted with ___ ayes and ___ noes. Members may resume their seats.”

Speaker

“The Assembly will now move to the next petition.”

The process repeats until all petitions are debated.

“The Assembly will now break before the next order of business”

This concludes the petitions debate.



Member Statements

Maiden Statements

Speaker

“Are there any members that wish to deliver a maiden statement to the Assembly?”

Member

“Speaker, the Member for <last name>.”

The Member will then briefly introduce themselves to their fellow Youth Parliamentarians for up to 1 minute.

This process will repeat until all Members have spoken.

Speaker

“I thank all Honourable members who spoke. The Assembly will now break before the next order of business”

This concludes Maiden Statements.

Adjournments

Chief Minister

“Speaker I move that the Assembly adjourn for Member Statements.”

Speaker

“The question is that this petition be debated. All those in favour say ‘aye’, to the contrary ‘no’.”

REMEMBER: everyone must vote AYE at this stage!

(Refers to speaking list to call on members to present their Member Statements)

Members will speak for up to three minutes at a time

Speaker

“I thank all members who spoke. The Assembly stands adjourned until (time) on (date).”

This concludes all business for the day.



Motions Script

Motion of Public Importance

Speaker

“Honourable Members, I have received correspondence from the Youth Chief Minister, as follows: ‘I propose for discussion this day the following definite Matter of Public Importance: <reads the motion>.’

Is discussion supported? All those in support say ‘aye’, to the contrary ‘no’.”

REMEMBER: everyone must vote AYE at this stage!

“I think the ayes have it”

Youth Chief Minister *speaks for three minutes in favour of the motion, then all members will*

Speaker

“The question is that the motion now pass. I now yield control of the chamber to the Clerk.”

Clerk

“The question is that the motion now pass. All those in favour say ‘aye’, to the contrary ‘no’.”

Members will say “AYE” or “NO” - THIS IS WHERE YOU VOTE FOR OR AGAINST THE BILL!

“I think the ayes/noes have it.”

Two members from minority

Division!

Clerk

“Division has been called, ring the bells.”

The bells will be rung and members may move to the back of chamber if they wish to abstain. Abstentions should be reserved for reasons of great emotional connection or personal conflict associated with the motion.

“The chamber will now divide. Those in favour of the petition being noted move to the right of the chair, those against to the left. The chamber will now divide in silence.”

If passed

“The motion has passed with ___ ayes and ___ noes. Members may resume their seats.”

If rejected:

“The motion has failed to pass with ___ ayes and ___ noes. Members may resume their seats.”

“The Assembly will now break before the next order of business”

This concludes the debate.



Supporting Resources

Simplified Outline - *Youth Scrutiny Committee Bill 2025*

This act establishes the Youth Scrutiny Committee (YSC), a statutory committee that provides independent review and advice to the Northern Territory Legislative on proposed legislation.

The Committee consists of one youth representative elected from each electorate of the Northern Territory (NT). Each representative must be aged between 10 to 25 years old at the time of their election. Members are elected annually by eligible youth voters in their respective electorates in elections conducted by the Northern Territory Electoral Commission.

The Committee may, either by resolution or upon the written request of at least two members, select any proposed bill introduced into the Legislative Assembly for review. A review may include an assessment of the bill's likely effects on young people and the broader community, analysis of its long-term impacts, public engagement and consultation, and hearings with the Minister or Member responsible for the bill.

The Committee's scrutiny of a bill must take into account the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (except Article 1). The Committee has the power to summon Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, public officers, and other persons to appear before it and provide evidence or information relevant to a bill under review.

The Legislative Assembly must table and consider the Committee's report before proceeding to the third reading of the bill. Where recommendations in the report are not adopted, the Government must table a written statement of reasons in the Assembly.

The Committee must not exercise any power or function under this Act for the purpose of influencing the outcome of an election to the Legislative Assembly or to the Committee itself.



Supporting Resources

Background Information - *Criminal Code Amendment (Age of Criminal Responsibility) Bill 2025*

On Thursday, October 18 the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly passed laws that lowered the age of criminal responsibility to 10, about two years after the previous government raised the age to 12.

It came about two years after the previous Labor government raised the age to 12, making the NT the first jurisdiction in the country to do so.

NT Children's Commissioner Shahleena Musk said that the NT government's plan to lower the age of criminal responsibility from 12 to 10 will only entrench cycles of disadvantage.

Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro said lowering the age back to 10 would allow the government to intervene earlier in the lives of children committing crimes.

"No 10 or 11-year-old is born a criminal. There has been systemic failure in these young people's lives, probably since before they were born," she said.

"We have this obligation to the child who has been let down in a number of ways, over a long period of time.

"And we have [an obligation to] the people who just want to be safe, people who don't want to live in fear anymore."

Opposition Leader Selena Uiho said the move was "dooming young Aboriginal Territorians to a life of disadvantage, reduced opportunities and poorer education outcomes".

Selena Uiho said lowering the age of criminal responsibility was not the answer to the territory's crime problems.

"We know – because all of the evidence tells us this – that the earlier a child comes into contact with the criminal justice system, the more prolonged their involvement is likely to be," she said.

"We want to see children held accountable for bad behaviour but then supported to get on a better path, to re-engage with school."

Other changes to the Criminal Code Amendment Act 2024 included new laws against ram raids and "posting and boasting" about crime on social media.

Source:

Bowles, A 2024, 'NT's CLP government passes legislation to lower the age of criminal responsibility from 12 to 10, in first week of parliament', ABC News, 18 October, viewed 8 September 2025, <<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-10-18/nt-parliament-lowers-age-of-criminal-responsibility-to-10-law/104480034>>

[illegible]



Notes

[illegible]





Standing Orders

What do I wear?

1. Dress code

The required dress in the Northern Territory Assembly Chamber is ‘business attire’. Suit jackets and ties are not required, although the latter are recommended. Modesty must be regarded, and midriffs are required to be covered. The Chamber can get particularly cold, and a jacket/cardigan is recommended. Enclosed shoes must always be worn in the building.

When & how can I speak?

2. Seeking the call

Members may only speak when given the call by the Speaker. Members seek the call by standing in their place and saying “Mr/Madam Speaker”.

If the Speaker gives the member the call the member remains standing and proceeds to speak to the Assembly through the Speaker, typically by commencing “Mr/Madam Speaker”.

3. Only speak to the Speaker

All speech in the Assembly must be made ‘through the Chair’. Members always speak as if talking to the Speaker alone and may only talk of other members in the third person as if they are not there.

For example: “Madam Speaker, the Member for X is wrong when they say.”

Refer to members by title only. Any mention of another member must use the member’s parliamentary title rather than their name.

4. Debate on a question

Usually, members speak as part of a debate on a question. The business of the Assembly primarily comprises considering motions. A member will move a motion, and the Speaker will pose the question “that the motion be agreed to”.



Standing Orders

5. No interruption of speaker or debate

Generally, no one can interrupt a member speaking. A member gets the call, makes their contribution to the debate, then sits down and listens to the next member speaking.

The Speaker will manage the Chamber to ensure the member who has the call can freely express their views.

A member can however interrupt the member with the call to bring the Speaker's attention to a point of order.

What can I say?

6. Relevance

Any contribution to a debate must be relevant to the motion. What is relevant is determined by the Speaker and is context specific. A short diversion may be allowed to set context for a speech.

7. Orderly

Members are not allowed to use offensive language in the chamber under any circumstances. It is the Speaker who determines whether words are offensive or otherwise disorderly.

The question regarding offence is not whether an individual was offended but whether the words themselves in their context are offensive. This is a measure of common decency to ensure parliamentary language accords with community standards.

What if I object to something that is said?

8. Debate

The primary recourse to a member saying something you disagree with is to put your opposing view in your contribution to the debate.

The mover of a substantive motion gets an added opportunity to do this with their right of reply.



Standing Orders

9. Point of Order

If you object to something being said because it is disorderly, you can raise a point of order with the Speaker.

It is not disorderly for a member to have a different view from you, even if you consider that view to be mistaken on the facts and therefore misleading. Using points of order for reasons not related to order can attract the ire of the Speaker, particularly if repeated.

10. Interjection

Despite the prohibition of interjections by the Standing Orders, objectionable or contentious statements may attract an immediate vociferous response from members listening. Excessive interjections may be called to order by the Speaker.

11. Explanation of speech

If part of your speech in a debate has been misquoted or misunderstood, you may seek leave of the Speaker to be heard again briefly to explain the misunderstanding, but cannot make any new points, and cannot interrupt a member speaking.