

APPENDIX 1

2007-08 NTER MEASURES AND SUB-MEASURES

MEASURE: Promoting Law and Order

Sub-measures:

- Increased police presence in remote communities
- Australian Crime Commission (National Indigenous Violence and Child Abuse Intelligence Taskforce and Child Abuse Desk)
- Alcohol, drugs and pornography restrictions
- Northern Territory Aboriginal Interpreter Services
- Expansion of Northern Territory Night Patrol Services
- Additional Legal Services for Indigenous Australians

MEASURE: Improving child and family health

Sub-measures:

- Child health checks and medical follow-up and treatment
- Child special services
- Drug and alcohol treatment and rehabilitation services

MEASURE: Supporting families

Sub-measures:

- Childrens' services and family support (including crèches and child care services upgrades)
- Child at risk workers for NT child protection services
- Safe place for families escaping family violence
- Youth alcohol diversionary services

MEASURE: Enhancing Education

Sub-measures:

- Additional classrooms
- Scaffolding literacy (Accelerating Literacy Program)
- Quality Teaching Package
- School Nutrition Programs – breakfast and lunch program

MEASURE: Welfare reform and employment

Sub-measures:

- Welfare reform including income management and community stores
- Increased participation activities for people on income support in remote areas (including Remote Area Exemptions and Work for the Dole)
- Community Employment Brokers¹

¹ Note: Whilst Community Employment Brokers (CEBs) is not a separate NTER measure (it is a sub-measure of the Welfare Reform and Employment Measure) it is important to note that CEBs play a key coordination role for DEEWR employment and education services and programs and work closely with Government Business Managers as the key Australian Government representatives within communities.

MEASURE: Housing and land reform

Sub-measures:

- Five year lease program
- Urgent repairs to infrastructure
- Community clean-up
- Permits
- Government Business Manager housing

MEASURE: Coordination

Sub-measures:

- Taskforce role
- Government Business Managers
- Community engagement (including Leadership Development) and volunteering programs
- Commonwealth Ombudsman support for the NTER
- Logistical support (including temporary accommodation, telecommunications and vehicles)

Measure: Law and order

Sub-measure: Increased police presence in remote communities

What are we aiming to do?

As part of the immediate emergency response, to increase policing levels in NTER communities, including requesting secondments from other jurisdictions to supplement NT resources, funded by the Australian Government.

Why are we delivering this?

The Gordon Inquiry report and the Senate Petrol Sniffing report identified the need for police in communities to secure law and order.^{2,3} This has been reiterated in the LCS report in respect of NT communities.⁴ The Valentin report identified a level of additional police required in NT communities.⁵

How are we delivering this?

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) and State police forces have provided additional police officers. The additional police are working closely with NT police and are under NT police command. The additional police have NT police powers.

The costs of the additional police and the incidental cost to the NT of administering these police are being met by the Australian Government.

What has been achieved?

Since the NTER started in June 2007, an additional 51 police (33 AFP & Interstate police & 18 NT Police), in 18 remote communities, have been deployed. The stations are typically staffed by one NT Police Officer and two State or Australian Federal Police (AFP) Officers.

Additional AFP Officers were first deployed to the NT in July 2007 with the first interstate police (Queensland) deploying at the end of August 2007. Tasmanian, New South Wales, South Australian and Victorian police progressively deployed over following months with Victoria the last to deploy early in 2008. The periods of deployment were for six months except NSW where it was for four months. As interstate police have completed deployment, they have been replaced with AFP police who are progressively building up to a total commitment of 66 officers.

² Gordon, S Hallahan, K Henry, D (2002), *Putting the picture together, Inquiry into Response by Government Agencies to Complaints of Family Violence and Child Abuse in Aboriginal Communities*, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Western Australia, Chapter 9 - Policing pp. 197-231.

³ Senate Community Affairs Committee, (2006), *Beyond Petrol Sniffing: Renewing Hope for Indigenous Communities*, Parliament of Australia, Canberra, 26 June 2006

http://www.aph.gov.au/SENATE/COMMITTEE/CLAC_CTTE/completed_inquiries/2004-07/petrol_sniffing/report/c01.htm.

⁴ Valentin, JP (2007) *An Independent Assessment of Policing in Remote Indigenous Communities for the Government of Australia*, http://www.facs.gov.au/Internet/Minister3.nsf/content/valentin_25may07.htm , pp 12-15 re NT police presence in remote communities.

⁵ LCS, Chapter 10, pp. 109.

The absence of infrastructure in remote communities delayed the rollout of the additional full-time police presence in communities in some cases. The NT Police, funded by the Australian Government, have put in place temporary infrastructure to provide office, housing and custodial facilities. The additional stations in the south of the NT generally became operational earlier than the northern stations as a result of infrastructure issues. Before infrastructure was available, the additional police would visit the communities including, where possible, staying overnight.

State and AFP Officers deployed to the NT as part of the NTER are under the operational control of the NT Police Commissioner.

Locations of the additional stations and the dates they began full-time operations are as follows:

Alpurrurulam	20/12/2007	Mutitjulu	5/07/2007
Arlparra	11/07/2007	Numbulwar	17/09/2007
Bulman	18/11/2007	Nyirripi	11/07/2007
Galiwinku	12/11/2007	Peppimenarti	10/12/2007
Gapuwiyak	14/01/2008	Ramingining	21/01/2008
Haasts Bluff	11/07/2007	Santa Teresa	11/07/2007
Imanpa	11/07/2007	Warrawi	22/02/2008
Minjilang	30/01/2008	Willowa	18/07/2007
Minyerri	24/12/2007	Yarralin	26/11/2007

The additional police in communities has resulted in the reporting of additional crimes and other incidents.

A number of other communities without a police station have requested that a full-time police presence be located in their community. It is worth noting that:

- 15 communities that do not have a police presence are located half an hour or less from a community that has a police station⁶
- 18 communities have a THEMIS station⁷
- 15 communities have a permanent police presence which was in place prior to the commencement of the NTER.

Next steps

The Australian Government has recently agreed to fund a substance abuse intelligence desk and additional sniffer dog unit in the north of the Territory. This follows the success of the southern substance abuse intelligence desk based in Alice Springs which was established two years ago as part of the Integrated Petrol Sniffing Strategy.

Funding has been provided in the Australian Government Budget for 2008-09 for support for activities linked with changes to alcohol and pornography laws, assistance

⁶ Please note: The numbers represented above are related to the distance between a community and the closest police station. Actual response times are dependent on the urgency of the situation, police resources and availability (police may be responding to a situation in a different community), police transportation (car, boat or plane) and accessibility to the community (dependant on weather conditions).

⁷ 'THEMIS' is the operation name selected by the NT Police for their component of the NT Government response to the National Taskforce Against Child Abuse in Indigenous Communities.

to the NT Police in managing the deployment of AFP and supporting the additional police stations. Funding has also been provided for the AFP for 2008-09 and 2009-10 to deploy 66 officers to the NT for remote policing and the child abuse taskforce.

Measure: Law and order

Sub-measure: Australian Crime Commission (ACC) (National Indigenous Violence and Child Abuse Intelligence Taskforce (NIITF) and Child Abuse Desk).

What are we aiming to do?

The NIITF is providing its key stakeholders such as Commonwealth, State and Territory government agencies with an enhanced understanding of crime in Indigenous communities and what is driving that crime. This is achieved through the following objectives:

- improving national coordination in the collection and sharing of relevant information and intelligence
- enhancing national understanding about the nature and extent of violence and child abuse in Indigenous communities
- providing related intelligence and other advice, including on organised criminal involvement in drugs, alcohol, pornography and fraud
- conducting research on intelligence and information coordination and identification of good practice in the prevention, detection and responses to violence and child abuse in Indigenous communities.

Why are we delivering this?

The NIITF was authorised by the ACC Board on 13 July 2006. This followed a resolution by the Australasian Police Ministers' Council to establish the Taskforce to address issues raised by the Intergovernmental Summit on Violence and Child Abuse in Indigenous Communities. The Taskforce, led by the ACC, is being resourced jointly by the Commonwealth and states and territories and includes involvement of the AFP, some state and territory jurisdictions and the Australian Institute of Criminology.

How are we delivering this?

NIITF operations are underpinned by a coordinated program of community visits, undertaken in close consultation with local authorities. National and regional level consultative arrangements have been and will continue to be established, where possible, utilising existing structures.

NIITF liaises extensively before and during visits to communities with its partner law enforcement and government agencies, and consults closely with stakeholders including Indigenous leaders, women's groups, health and education workers, police, government officials and community members in collecting information and intelligence.

Making contact with Indigenous groups and individuals in communities to obtain information is undertaken with sensitivity to the local circumstances and all staff involved in the NIITF undertake cultural awareness training.

Deployments are coordinated to ensure a broad national geographical and cultural representation of communities.

Activities are being coordinated by the NIITF operational head, based in Alice Springs, with support from the ACC and jurisdictional staff working from Darwin and other ACC offices. The NIITF has developed operational relationships with the

NTERT and NTER operations centre, which involves regular meetings, briefing GBMs and liaising with the NT Police.

Through this approach the NIITF has established a comprehensive intelligence collection capability which underpins the analysis in intelligence assessments and advice to government.

Child abuse desk

In 2006-07, the ACC received seed funding under the NTER to scope the establishment of a national child abuse desk (CAD) that would be accessible by all state/territory law enforcement agencies and key Commonwealth Government agencies.

Child Abuse Taskforce

Note: The Child Abuse Task Force is an initiative of the NT Government and was expanded under its Closing the Gap response to the LCS Report.

What has been achieved?

Since it began operations in December 2006 to 28 August 2008, the NIITF has made 166 community visits to 124 communities nationally. The Taskforce has also conducted 65 visits to 43 different towns/regional centres.

In total, over the period December 2006 to 28 August 2008, in line with its information sharing objective, the NIITF has made:

- 447 disseminations to law enforcement and government agencies (102 of these have been disseminated to NT agencies and the NTERT)
- over 1,067 reports have been uploaded onto the Australian Criminal Intelligence Database (ACID), over 450 of which have related to the NT
- eight comprehensive intelligence products have been produced on situations or persons of interest and provided to NT departments.

Over this same period a Special Intelligence Operation focussing on National Indigenous Violence and Child Abuse (SIO-IVCA) was approved by the Board on 5 February 2008 under amendments made to the *Australian Crime Commission Act 2002* as part of the NTER package of legislation. The use of special powers will be reviewed in December 2008. The initial focus of the SIO-IVCA has been in the NT.

ACC examinations have been conducted in Alice Springs and Darwin between May and July 2008. Examinations in the NT will continue and examinations will be held in NSW, QLD, WA and SA over the coming 12 months.

The outputs from this approach include:

- evidence based advice to government and key stakeholders regarding the nature and extent of crime and related social issues in Indigenous communities
- enhanced understanding of what drives crime in Indigenous communities
- enhanced understanding of the efficacy of measures and policies that relate to crime and related social issues in Indigenous communities
- a national information sharing capability through the establishment of a dedicated component of ACID that collates all intelligence reports in the database relating to crime in Indigenous communities

- comprehensive research that underpins advice to government and adds significant value to the scholarship in this area.

Next steps

NIITF is continuing its comprehensive collection strategy which is focusing on specific crime and socially related issues in a cross-section of remote, regional and urban regions of Australia. This approach has been informed from intelligence gathered by the NIITF over the last two years.

NIITF's intelligence collection strategy will continue to be complemented, where appropriate, with the ACC's coercive powers. This will result in comprehensive intelligence products which will underpin informed advice to government and partner agencies on crime and related social issues in Indigenous communities, in priority regions in Australia. These products will contribute to the evidence-based approach of the Government's *Closing the Gap* strategy.

Measure: Law and order

Sub-measure: Alcohol, drugs and pornography restrictions

What are we aiming to do?

To introduce widespread alcohol restrictions and to reduce the availability of 'pornography' in the 'prescribed areas' as defined in the *Northern Territory National Emergency Response Act 2007* (NTNER Act).

Why are we delivering this?

The LCS report found a strong association between substance abuse, particularly alcohol, and the sexual abuse of children.

The consequences of alcohol abuse for Indigenous Territorians are extraordinarily damaging. The Australian Government has imposed significant alcohol restrictions on Aboriginal land. These restrictions were intended to help stabilise communities.

The LCS report also referred to community complaints of pornography being available to children in communities.

How are we delivering this?

In August 2007, legislation was passed by the Commonwealth Parliament to ban the sale, possession, transportation and consumption of alcohol. The ban commenced on 5 August 2007 with penalties applying from 15 September 2007.

Legislation was also passed in August 2007, banning the possession or supply of X 18+ films, restricted publications, Refused Classification material and unclassified material likely to be at these levels. This involved amendments to the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995* (the Classification Act) contained in the *Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Northern Territory Emergency Response and Other Measures) Act 2007*. The bans commenced on 14 September 2007.

The alcohol and pornography restrictions apply in relation to 'prescribed areas' which is defined in section 4 of the NTNER Act and covers a broad region including, including 55 communities, 82 community living areas, and 45 town camps.

Under the NTNER Act, the Commonwealth FaHCSIA Minister may declare by legislative instrument that additional areas are 'prescribed areas'.

Alcohol

In the prescribed areas there is a ban on people possessing, selling, transporting and drinking alcohol.

In the whole of the NT, liquor licensees and their employees are required to ask people purchasing liquor to show identification, and provide their name and address and ask the purchaser where the liquor is proposed to be consumed and record the name and address of that place, if the purchaser buys:

- \$100 or more of take-away alcohol; or

- more than five litres of wine either in a single container, or two or more containers of at least 2 litres each.

Penalties and offences under the Northern Territory National Emergency Response Act 2007 (NTNER Act)

The penalties and offences of the NTNER Act prohibit the consumption, possession, supply and transportation of liquor in prescribed areas, unless a person has a liquor permit or is drinking in licensed premises.

Harsher penalties apply (maximum fine of \$74,800 or 18 months in gaol) for more serious offences involving 1350 ml or more of pure alcohol (for example, 3 cartons or more of light strength beer). These offences are designed to stop the large scale trafficking of illegal alcohol into prescribed areas, and profiting from the vulnerability of Aboriginal communities.

Much lower penalties apply for offences under 1350 mls (maximum fine of up to \$1,100 for a first offence or \$2,200 for a second and subsequent offence), reflecting the desire of the Australian Government to divert people away from the criminal justice system and into health and rehabilitation services.

Signs

The NT Government was responsible for implementation, however, due to the tight timeframes and complexity involved, the project has been managed by FaHCSIA staff in FaHCSIA's NT State Office.

At the start of the project, the urgent nature of the work did not allow time for consultation with stakeholders. As the project has continued, stakeholders, including Indigenous communities have been engaged on a range of matters including the placement of signs, wording and declaration applications.

There has also been significant public education undertaken, including production of posters and fliers explaining the alcohol bans and restrictions, radio advertisements in English and in language and face-to-face consultations by FaHCSIA NT State Office (NTSO) staff and GBMs in communities.

Licensing Inspections

Under the NTER, the Australian Government provided funds in 2007-08 to employ eight out of a total of 12 new licensing inspectors. The primary objective of the positions is to provide liquor regulatory and compliance services to targeted rural and remote areas, with a particular focus in the prescribed areas.

In line with the funding agreement, the inspectors are expected to visit all prescribed communities, providing outreach services from regional offices in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. The licensing inspectors will provide an important on-the-ground resource in the prescribed areas and will work closely with the GBMs, police and other agencies to monitor ongoing compliance with the alcohol provisions of the NTNER legislation. FaHCSIA is putting in place a formal process for continuing information exchange on emerging issues identified during the licensing inspectors' site visits and their potential impact on the ongoing operation of the Act.

FaHCSIA NTSO has also been involved in research projects to explore solutions for long-term management of alcohol as a complement to the NTNER Act initiatives. A research project is being undertaken by the Australian National University in three communities, Elliott, Epenarra and Canteen Creek, to engage the communities on alcohol issues they experience or have experienced and potential solutions.

Restrictions on licensed premises in prescribed areas

Since October last year, the trading conditions of licensed premises in prescribed areas were changed to apply the following restrictions:

- limiting alcohol sales to mid strength and light beer only
- prohibiting trading during the middle of the day
- limiting trading days to 4 days a week, and 3 hours a day where licensees agree to make substantial (i.e., hot) food available
- prohibiting all take-away alcohol sales.

Eleven licensed premises are currently operating in the prescribed areas. Complaints have been received from some licensees arguing that the restrictions have led to a loss of income, of up to \$10,000 a week in some cases. The NTNER Act makes no provision for private enterprises to be compensated for loss of business arising out of any of the measures of this Act.

Separate restrictions have been imposed on the “wet-mess” licenses of mining and gas pipeline operations in prescribed areas. These include liquor being sold only in open containers, all liquor to be consumed within the confines of wet-mess licensed areas, and companies agreeing that removal of liquor from the wet-mess area will be grounds for an employee’s instant dismissal. These restrictions have generally been agreed, with only two licensees asking the Minister for a relaxation of the requirement to sell liquor in open containers. Both requests were rejected.

The NT Government is developing and implementing a comprehensive plan to tackle alcohol misuse.

Pornography

To facilitate the immediate removal of prohibited material, police are able to seize material found in prescribed areas where a police officer suspects, on reasonable grounds, that the material is prohibited. Seizure of potentially prohibited material may be made without obtaining a court order or conviction.

Police must still obtain a warrant or consent to enter and search premises.

Seized material may be returned, on application, where the responsible police officer, or a magistrate, is satisfied on reasonable grounds that it is not prohibited material. If the material is not returned, it is forfeited to the Commonwealth and must be destroyed or otherwise disposed of.

The Attorney-General’s Department (AGD) received additional funding of \$15,000 in 2007-08 from FaHSCIA to fund travel by AGD staff and education materials to support a ‘pornography’ education campaign. In August 2007, AGD officers attended several workshops in the NT at the request of the NT Government. These workshops were held in major NT centres to seek ideas about how an education campaign on classification could be developed and presented to communities. AGD initially provided an outline of a community education program and then provided additional information. AGD also provided a ‘train the trainer’ package on the new laws to the

NT Police College. Following the workshops held in August 2007, the Department provided information and participated in the development of an education campaign. The campaign was launched in Darwin on 3 March 2008.

AGD continues to liaise with FaHCSIA and NT Police on operational issues under the relevant provisions of the Classification Act.

During October 2007, and at the request of the NT Government, an officer from the Community Liaison Scheme, a joint initiative of State, Territory and Australian Governments and located within the AGD, visited 44 locations including roadhouses, petrol stations, video stores and restricted premises (that is, adult shops) in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Darwin and Nhulunbuy to assess compliance with classification laws. A restricted premises in Alice Springs was referred to NT Police for potential breaches of classification legislation. Meetings were also held with the NT Police and ACC's NIITF.

AGD provided advice and assistance for radio and print advertising, call centre scripts, cards and posters, a Question and Answer document and factsheet and signage.

In February 2008, an officer from the Community Liaison Scheme delivered several presentations (in Alice Springs and Darwin) to NT Police, the ACC, FaHCSIA and the AFP on the National Classification Scheme including the NTER laws.

In February 2008, AGD drafted a seizure notice for NT Police to use in seizing material under section 107 of the Classification Act.

Legislation for the restriction of R18+ programming transmitted by pay television services in prescribed areas is currently before the Parliament.

The first audit of publicly funded computers in the NT took place on 2 June 2008. 264 organisations were contacted in relation to the 2 June 2008 audit. These organisations were required to complete the audit, or provide a declaration that the computers referred to are not ordinarily situated within a prescribed area. These responses were due within 14 days, however due to the remote location of many computers and organisations there were delays in receiving responses in many cases.

At 30 June 2008, responses were still being received and collated.

What has been achieved?

Alcohol

There have been some anecdotal reports that some communities are quieter. Information on alcohol sales and consumption and alcohol related incidents is not yet available.

Pornography

As at 14 May 2008, the Commonwealth DPP has confirmed that five offences under section 101 of the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995* (possession or control of level 1 prohibited material in prescribed areas) have been referred from the NT Police. As at that date, only one matter has gone to court. The defendant pleaded guilty and was fined \$500.

As at 7 May 2008, the NT Police advised that they have handled seven cases - one case resulted in a fine, two other cases have been adjourned and there are a further four cases before the court. (All of these cases relate to offences under section 101).

The legislation is currently before Parliament that will permit the possession, supply or intended supply of prohibited material in a prescribed area if the sole purpose for bringing the material into the prescribed area is to transport the material outside the prescribed area.

The first audit of publicly funded computers commenced on 2 June 2008. The collation of audit material and compliance recording is currently underway.

The audit had significant value in relation to the requirements around internet filters, raised awareness regarding appropriate computer usage and the requirement to run the FaHCSIA provided audit software.

Next steps

NT Police has been funded to produce a multimedia DVD providing consistent information on the NTNER legislation targeted to police, licensing inspectors and others charged with the enforcement and management of the alcohol and pornography provisions. Police have also been funded to undertake research on possible collaborative approaches with the NT Licensing and Regulation Division on joint surveillance and enforcement relating to licensed premises in prescribed areas.

Measure: Law and order

Sub-measure: Northern Territory Aboriginal Interpreter Services

What are we aiming to do?

To provide access to interpreting services for Indigenous people who interact with the justice system.

Why are we doing this?

The implementation of specific law and justice measures under the NTER has created a heavy demand on the existing resources of Northern Territory Aboriginal Interpreter Services (NTAIS).

How are we delivering this?

The Australian Government, through AGD, jointly funds the NTAIS with the NT Government. This funding is specifically focused on improving access to interpreters for legal assistance service providers in the NT funded by AGD.

In recognition of the increase in demand for interpreters as a result of the NTER, AGD received \$800,000 for the 2008-09 financial year.

The NTAIS is a NT Government body. Funding is allocated under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Australian and the NT governments for the purchase of additional interpreter services from the NTAIS.

What has been achieved?

The NTAIS has conducted a number of recruitment drives and recruited additional staff to assist with the demanding schedule resulting as a consequence of the NTER. The NTAIS has also conducted training workshops relating to income management in communities throughout the NT. The workshops have included a 3-day Induction/Centrelink Interpreter Training Session.

NTAIS has reported a significant increase in the use of interpreters, and the use of interpreters by Australian Government officials continues to be promoted.

Next Steps

The following challenges have been identified by the NTAIS: recruitment and retention of interpreters, the lack of literacy and numeracy skills of potential interpreters, and the need for accredited interpreters for legal proceedings.

The NTAIS is working with Government agencies and communities to arrange recruitment drives and training of interpreters. The NTAIS has also reported that they are considering options to assist with accreditation.

Measure: Law and order

Sub-measure: Expansion of NT Night Patrol Services

What are we aiming to do?

The aim of NT Night Patrol Services (NPS) is to assist people at risk of either self-harm, or causing harm to others or becoming victims of harm.

Why are we delivering this?

Night patrol services were recognised from the outset in NTER planning as essential to promoting law and order. The LCS report considered night patrols to be important for law and order in communities and recommended the development of violence management strategies based around existing services and infrastructure available to run night patrols, safe houses and other related services available to territory communities.⁸ Prior to the NTER, the AGD had funded 23 night patrols in 2007-08. A 2003 evaluation of NPS provided a generally favourable assessment of the effectiveness of night patrols in reducing the level of contact of community members with the criminal justice system and as an adjunct to, but not a replacement for, policing.⁹

How are we delivering this?

The Commonwealth AGD is responsible for implementing this sub-measure and has entered into funding agreements with service providers in the NT Government shire council regions to establish and manage the services. The service providers are responsible for undertaking community consultations to identify individual community safety needs and develop the most appropriate service for that community, recruiting and training night patrol staff, and managing operation of the night patrols.

Prior to the NTER, NPS in the NT were usually an identified Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program activity, with night patrols staffed by CDEP participants. Until the announcement of the NTER in June 2007, the AGD funded night patrols in NT communities through its *Prevention, Diversion, Rehabilitation and Restorative Justice* (PDRR) program.

Under NTER measures, AGD was required to establish night patrols in 50 additional Indigenous communities to ensure all 73 NTER communities had night patrol services. AGD developed an *Implementation Strategy* for the expansion in November 2007. The *Implementation Strategy* also foreshadowed an evaluation of the 2007-08 expanded NPS.

AGD identified NT local government reforms as an opportunity to deliver NPS through a regional administrative framework, or 'hub and spoke' model. Regional night patrol manager positions were created to support the delivery model and manage relationships between shire councils and communities.

⁸ LCS, Chapter 21, pp. 191, Rec. 76.

⁹ Blagg H. (2003) An Overview of Night Patrol Services in Australia, 2003, Attorney-Generals' Dept, Canberra. <[http://www.crimeprevention.gov.au/agd/www/rwpattach.nsf/personal/5F8FC82F1B5448FCCA256E6F00070F68/\\$FILE/NightPatrol.htm](http://www.crimeprevention.gov.au/agd/www/rwpattach.nsf/personal/5F8FC82F1B5448FCCA256E6F00070F68/$FILE/NightPatrol.htm)>.

Key tasks of a regional night patrol manager include:

- regularly consulting with communities on appropriate safety measures
- identifying and sourcing employment and training requirements
- managing and developing NPS in accordance with AGD's operational requirements (outlined in the AGD interim *Operational Framework 2007-08* and the *Operational Framework 2008-09*).

AGD and the NT Government agreed on the terms of Performance Funding Agreements (PFAs) to facilitate service delivery. PFAs were entered into with the MacDonnell and Central Desert Shire Councils on 20 December 2007, the West Arnhem and Tiwi Island Shire Councils on 23 January 2008, the Barkly and Victoria Daly Shire Councils on 24 January 2008, the East Arnhem Shire Councils on 30 January 2008 and the Roper Gulf Shire Council on 13 March 2008.

On 12 January 2008, NT Chief Minister, Paul Henderson, announced that the Top End Shire would not be included in the NT local government reforms. Two NTER identified communities, Belyuen and Acacia Larrakia/Batchelor, are located in this region. AGD sought alternative arrangements for implementation of night patrols in these communities and signed a funding agreement with a private provider Ironbark (NT) Employment and Training Inc in March 2008.

AGD received supplementary funding of \$11.048 million in the *Appropriation (Northern Territory National Emergency Response) Act (No. 1) 2007-2008*. As part of this appropriation, \$8.486 million was provided to extend the night patrol program to all 73 NTER communities.

The \$8.486 million in funding for the NT night patrol service is comprised of \$8.211 million in administered funding and \$0.275 million to cover departmental costs associated with the expanded program. As at 9 May 2008, all funding had been committed.

The establishment of night patrols has been delayed in some communities due to:

- difficulty in recruiting staff while community members are uncertain about the future of CDEP in their communities
- delays in obtaining suitable night patrol vehicles, with delivery not expected to occur in some regions until September 2008
- lack of existing infrastructure within communities for night patrol services.

Service providers are working to overcome these difficulties, for example by promoting the benefits of 'real jobs' over CDEP, and operating foot patrols in some communities until vehicles are available.

Service providers have submitted operational plans for establishing night patrol services in the NTER identified communities. These plans outline the strategies in place to effectively establish night patrols, risks and risk mitigation strategies, and proposed timelines to deliver the services.

What has been achieved?

As at 15 August 2008, 46 night patrols were operational in communities with 27 in the consultation phase. The consultation phase involves service providers initiating

primary discussions with community members, establishing night patrol bases and recruiting night patrol workers.

Next steps

An evaluation of the implementation of the expanded night patrol services in the NT in 2007-08 by AGD and the service providers is planned to be undertaken in the 2008-09 financial year. The evaluation will contribute to further risk identification, capacity building and evidence to improve the NPS effectiveness.

Consistent performance measures for all NPSs across the NT, including in those communities not identified by the NTER, have been applied in the 2008-09 PFAs. These agreements are being negotiated with service providers.

Measure: Law and order

Sub-measure: Additional Legal Services to Indigenous Australians

What are we aiming to do?

To meet the legal assistance needs of Indigenous people in the NT arising from the NTER.

Why are we delivering this?

Indigenous legal aid providers, the NT Legal Aid Commission and Community Legal Centres require funding to meet the additional demand for legal assistance created by the emergency response. This assistance targets high need clients (for example, women, domestic violence victims, Indigenous males or females).

How are we delivering this?

Indigenous legal aid service providers employ lawyers and field officers to address demand for services, meet the increase in referral rates and meet the service delivery needs of rural and remote Indigenous communities. Additional staff located with services in Alice Springs, Katherine and Darwin will provide outreach services to rural and remote Indigenous communities.

AGD received \$2 million for the 2008-09 financial year to address urgent and unavoidable demand arising from the emergency response. This funding provides additional capacity for providers of legal aid services to respond to the needs of Indigenous people in the NT arising from the emergency response.

AGD is funding the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency Ltd (NAAJA) and Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service Inc (CAALAS) to deliver a Welfare Rights Outreach Project. The project will provide early dispute resolution services to divert Indigenous people away from the legal system by providing information and advice on their social security rights in relation to NTER measures.

What has been achieved?

The anticipated increase in prosecution of child sex offences has not occurred. Services do report increases in prosecutions of teenagers for under-age consensual sex cases and increased prosecutions by police of traffic offence matters.

Alcohol management issues have been a significant area of demand for additional services. ATSILS have put significant resources into explaining to clients how the laws in regard to alcohol management have changed and that the police have additional powers which are not open to being challenged.

Services have reported increasing demand for legal assistance in the area of welfare rights issues as a result of the new income management arrangements.

Next Steps

Consideration is being given to possible extension of outreach service visits to regional and remote Indigenous communities to provide community legal education and legal assistance services in line with identified community needs. The provision of services will be assessed to ensure it is responsive to actual areas of increased demand for services compared to what was originally anticipated to be the legal assistance impact of the NTER.

Welfare rights

An evaluation of the Welfare Rights Outreach Project is planned to be undertaken in the 2008-09 financial year. The evaluation will look at the effectiveness of the Project in providing expert legal advice, assistance and advocacy to Indigenous Australians affected by the significant social security changes included in the NTER. The evaluation will also seek information from service providers on the efficiency of Centrelink and social security policies and their implementation in the communities.

Consistent performance measures for the Welfare Rights Outreach Project have been applied in the 2007-08 PFAs.

Measure: Improving child and family health

Sub-measure: Child Health Checks and medical follow-up and treatment

What are we aiming to do?

To provide voluntary child health checks (CHCs) and follow up treatment to Indigenous children under 16 years of age in the NTER communities. The aim of the checks was to detect, treat or refer children for clinically significant problems.

Why are we delivering this?

The CHC initiative was based on existing health checks that are available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 15 years or under through Medicare (Medical Benefits Scheme (MBS) item number 708). The MBS 708 health checks were introduced prior to the NTER and have continued in parallel.

The MBS 708 Child Health Check (CHC) was developed by DoHA in conjunction with NACCHO, RACGP and was listed on the MBS in May 2006.

The purpose of this check is to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children receive the optimum level of health care by encouraging prevention, early detection, diagnosis and intervention for common and treatable conditions that cause considerable morbidity and early mortality.

The CHC aims to regularly assess a child's health and physical, psychological and social function, and determine what preventive health care, education and other assistance should be offered to that patient or the patient's parents/carer, to improve the patient's health and physical, psychological or social function.

The justification for this is the disparate burden of disease, exposure to other life stress events and social dysfunction that Indigenous children experience as compared to non-Indigenous children.¹⁰ The detection of health problems and/or risk factors at an early stage, through regular assessment enables effective early intervention to reduce the impact of the health problem.

The CHC provides an avenue to proactively identify issues and develop a plan of management for health, social and emotional well-being as identified from the check.

How are we delivering this sub-measure?

The Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) is responsible for implementing this sub-measure. The initial focus under the Child Health Check and Follow-up sub-measure was on the delivery of CHCs in the NTER communities.

DoHA established the Northern Territory Emergency Coordination Centre (NTECC) to coordinate the delivery of the CHCs. NTECC was responsible for:

- recruiting and deploying paid health professional volunteers in CHC teams
- arranging training, clinical and personal support and debriefing for all CHC team members

¹⁰ Vos T, Barker B, Stanley L, Lopez AD, (2007), *The burden of disease and injury in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples 2003*. Brisbane: School of Population Health, The University of Queensland

- arranging the acquisition and transportation of all medical supplies required by CHC teams
- liaison with ADF to arrange logistics support for deployed CHC teams
- liaison with the NTER Operational Command Centre to ensure coordinated scheduling of CHC team deployments
- establishing and implementing a data collection and reporting system.

A database of health professionals interested in volunteering to participate in the delivery of NTER CHCs was established by NTECC to support the coordination of workforce supply to the initiative. As at 30 June 2008, the database included 1,050 health professionals who had registered their interest in participating in the NTER.

Most of the checks were conducted by teams recruited and deployed by the Australian Government. The teams were made up of a doctor, up to three nurses and administrative support workers working in conjunction with local health services. Where possible, each team comprised members of both genders and included team members with skills in paediatrics and Aboriginal health.

Local health services contributed to the compilation of community surveys, which were used to inform the scheduling of CHC team visits and infrastructure requirements, i.e. clinic and staff accommodation for visiting teams. Local health services were also engaged to provide access to each child's medical records to ensure the health check teams were informed of each child's medical status/background and there was no duplication of previous health check activity (through, for example, CHCs, the Growth Assessment and Action Program or the Healthy School Aged Kids checks).

Community meetings were undertaken prior to or upon arrival of CHC teams to explain the purpose of the CHCs and to clarify any misconceptions regarding the provision of CHCs under the NTER, i.e. CHCs being used as a screening tool for sexual abuse. Departmental Liaison Officers travelled with the CHC teams to each community and spent a day or two facilitating engagement between the CHC teams and communities.

A number of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHOs) undertook to provide CHCs directly or in conjunction with teams deployed by the Australian Government. Both ACCHOs and NT Department of Health and Families (DHF) have, and will continue to, provide CHCs throughout the follow-up phase and beyond.

The first CHC team was deployed on 10 July 2007 and the final CHC team directly deployed by the Commonwealth finished on 14 June 2008. Within this timeframe, 102 CHC teams were deployed, involving over 260 paid, volunteering health professionals, to 49 communities and 15 town camps across the NT (including between 1 and 8 deployments to some communities). CHCs will continue to be provided by local health services across the NT.

Child Health Check Follow-Up Services

Follow-up services are being delivered by existing health services in the NT rather than by teams deployed directly by the Australian Government. DoHA is providing additional funding to DHF and ACCHOs to deliver the follow-up services required as

a result of the CHCs, as well as CHCs for those children who did not receive one in the first phase.

Initial data gathered by the CHC teams indicated that the follow-up care requiring the greatest resourcing was primary health care follow-up, specialist hearing and ear, nose and throat (ENT) services and specialist dental services. This data formed the basis of the planning for the follow-up health services.

Initial planning for the delivery of follow-up services highlighted that the most effective way of delivering primary care follow-up services was:

- with the support of the existing primary health care service delivery infrastructure in the NT, mainly through DHF and ACCHOs
- to apply findings of the CHCs to inform the type and extent of follow-up services required.

Extra resources were therefore made available to local health service providers to ensure the capacity to provide follow-up care. Resources enabled the acquisition of additional workforce, clinical and administrative supplies and clinic and staff accommodation.

Primary Health Care Follow-up

Funding has been provided by the Australian Government to ACCHOs and DHF for the delivery of primary health care follow-up services across the NT. Primary health care follow-up has commenced in all regions and will continue in 2008-09.

DoHA has provided assistance with the acquisition of infrastructure required to deliver the follow-up care and the supply of potential workforce for employment by local health services. At 30 June 2008, 69 health professionals had been referred by DoHA to health services for consideration for employment.

To aid in the coordination of referrals, the existing Paediatric Liaison Unit in Alice Springs Hospital has been coordinating the follow-up of referrals from CHCs in Central Australian communities. The Australian Government contributed funding to a new Paediatric Liaison Unit in Darwin which has been coordinating follow-up services for children in the Top End.

Hearing and ENT Follow-up Services

DHF is being funded to deliver hearing and specialist ENT follow-up services across the NT. Implementation is staged, with services commencing in the Central Australian region and now progressively rolling out to other regions.

Non-surgical specialist hearing and ENT services are generally provided through local health centres and surgical services are provided in regional hospitals. DHF arranges all of the travel and accommodation of children requiring surgery, and their carers.

Oral Health Follow-up Services

DHF is being funded to deliver the majority of oral health follow-up services. A number of ACCHOs are also being funded to deliver oral health follow-up. Non-surgical dental follow-up services are generally provided through local health centres and surgical services are provided in regional hospitals. DHF arranges all of the travel and accommodation of children requiring surgery, and their carers.

What has been achieved?

Child Health Checks

Between July 2007 and June 2008, over 260 health care professionals were involved in the provision of 9,428 CHCs across the NT. This represents an estimated 55 per cent coverage and is comparable with other voluntary screening programs.

An estimated 2,000 MBS Item 708 CHCs were also provided to Indigenous children in the NTER communities through the usual care provided by primary care services. In total, approximately 11,200 children aged under 16 years in the NTER areas received a comprehensive CHC, representing a 66 per cent coverage rate.

Follow-up service delivery has now commenced in all regions through existing service providers. Both child health checks and follow-up services will continue during 2008-09. The major impediments to the rollout of the CHCs and follow-up were local infrastructure to support an increased workforce, particularly accommodation for clinical work and staff housing, and workforce availability. These were targeted for action in 2008-09 and will continue to be a focus of attention for the next two years under the new Expanding Health Service Delivery measure.

The *Progress of the Northern Territory Emergency Response Child Health Check Initiative: Health Conditions and Referrals*¹¹ report (the 'Progress Report') describes the number and types of health conditions identified during the CHCs as well as the number and types of referrals made as part of those health checks. The report provides detailed and comprehensive information on child health, at the regional level and by age groups, collected during the CHCs and which has been used to plan and manage referrals and will assist in planning future health strategies.

The most recent data (currently unpublished at August 2008) on health conditions identified through 8,227 CHCs shows the following:

- **Smoker in household.** Over three in four (76 per cent) children were identified as living in a household with a smoker.
- **SIDS risk factors.** 72 per cent of children aged less than 1 year were at risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) due to bed sharing, 32 per cent of children were at risk due to soft sleeping surfaces and loose bedding, and 23 per cent due to prone sleeping.
- **Oral health issues.** 44 per cent of children were found to have an oral health issue, with the most common issue being untreated caries (affecting 41 per cent of children).
- **Ear disease.** Just under one in three (30 per cent) children were found to have ear disease.
- **Respiratory.** 38 per cent of children had a history of recurrent chest infection.

¹¹ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Welfare Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare & Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, 2008 Progress of the Northern Territory Emergency Response Child Health Check Initiative: Health Conditions and Referrals, Canberra.
<<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/nterchciProgressReport>>.

- **Immunisations** were due for 16 per cent of children.
- **Skin sores.** 31 per cent of children were identified as having a skin problem, with skin sores and scabies being the most common problem specified (affecting 10 per cent and 8 per cent of all children respectively).
- **Physical growth.** Growth was found to be faltering in 16 per cent of 0 to 5 year olds, 12 per cent of all children were wasted (i.e. light for their height), 10 per cent were underweight (light for their age), 5 per cent of children between the age of 2 and 15 years were overweight (heavy for their height) and 4 per cent of children were stunted.

Referrals and treatment

Primary health care (PHC) clinic follow-up. Health teams indicated that just under two in five (39 per cent) children who received a health check required a PHC clinic follow-up.

Dental referrals were made for 34 per cent of children.

Other referrals. Twelve per cent of children were given a paediatric referral, 13 per cent received a referral for tympanometry and audiology, 8 per cent a referral to an Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) specialist, and 3 per cent were referred to a cardiologist or for cardiac investigations. 0.6 per cent of children have been referred to the Department of Health and Families, Family and Children's Services Division.

Number of referrals per child. Two out of three children (69 per cent) were referred for at least one type of follow-up service.

Provision of vaccination. Overall, 6 per cent of children received a vaccination during their health check.

Child Health Check Monitoring and Evaluation

DoHA has established two key pieces of infrastructure for the monitoring and evaluation of the Child Health Check Initiative (CHCI):

- a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DoHA, Northern Territory Department of Health and Community Services (NT DHCS), Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT (AMSANT) and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)
- the CHCI and follow-up data collection.

The CHCI data collection, including the production of the progress report above, is managed by AIHW. DoHA is undertaking data collection on the extent to which follow up services are being received. This data base is still being developed and data is not yet available.

The overall objective of the shared work program under the MOU is to measure the implementation of the NTER CHC initiative and its impact on, and outcomes for, the target population.

Monitoring and evaluation will be based on the data collected through the CHCI and follow-up, as well as data from other sources which can be linked with those CHCI

data within the scope of consent provided by CHC recipients. The evaluation will be undertaken by an independent expert.

Next Steps

Child health check follow-up services will continue into 2008-09 to ensure that all children receive the follow-up care they require. Ongoing health care, including annual access to child health checks (as specified in the MBS Child Health Check) will be better integrated into service delivery through local health service providers.

The Expanding Health Service Delivery Initiative (\$99.7 million over the next two years) will provide increased capacity for local health service providers to build and sustain the enhanced focus on child health achieved through the first twelve months of the NTER.

Measure: Improving child and family health

Sub-measure: Child special services

What are we aiming to do?

To provide specialist counselling and support services for Aboriginal children and their families dealing with the affects of child abuse and trauma.

Why are we delivering this?

The LCS report referred to the need to support children who have suffered abuse related trauma and to also provide support to families. LCS recommended the expansion and upgrade of the Sexual Assault and Referral Centres in the NT and the development of victim and community assault programs.

How are we delivering this?

DoHA is responsible for implementing this sub-measure.

The Child Special Services sub-measure aimed to build on existing services for children and families suffering the effects of child abuse and trauma, provided by the NT Government and the Aboriginal community controlled health sector. The sensitivities inherent within this issue have meant that negotiations on agreed approaches were unavoidably lengthy.

The approach agreed between the Australian and Northern Territory Governments involved the expansion of the existing Sexual Assault Referral Centres to include a Mobile Outreach Service to Aboriginal communities to deliver counselling services to children, families and communities who have suffered trauma from child abuse.

Two project approaches were also agreed with Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (Congress) in Alice Springs:

- the scoping phase of a *Healing Model of Adolescent Sex Offenders* which will involve community education and engagement in Yuendumu. Recruitment of personnel and initial community engagement activities are underway; and
- *A Male Health Summit* to provide a forum for Aboriginal men in Central Australia to discuss issues associated with violence and abuse and to explore positive methods to address these issues.

What has been achieved?

The Child Special Services implementation proceeded following analysis of existing service delivery and extensive consultation with NT Government and non-government stakeholders. The development and delivery of the new Sexual Assault Referral Centre Mobile Outreach Service (MOS) from April 2008, together with funding secured for a further four years is a major increment to service availability of this type.

A Mobile Outreach Service is now being delivered in communities where the Sexual Assault Referral Centre had not previously had a presence. Services are being provided by professionals who are part of the development team working on a service delivery model for children and families in communities. A professional consultant has been appointed to provide expert clinical input and staff supervision and development.

Congress was funded to host a Male Health Summit, '*Taking care of our children*' to explore ways to address child abuse related trauma and related health issues and their impact on victims, families and communities. The Summit was held from 30 June to 3 July at Ross River Resort, 85km from Alice Springs and was attended by over 400 Aboriginal men. A report of the Summit outcomes has been presented to the Australian Government.

Next steps

The Mobile Outreach Services will continue to deliver services in 2008-09. Negotiations are currently underway with the NT Government to undertake an evaluation of the NT Sexual Assault Referral Centres Mobile Outreach Service to inform the enhancement and expansion of the program.

Measure: Improving child and family health

Sub-measure: Drug and alcohol treatment and rehabilitation services

What are we aiming to do?

To expand Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) treatment and rehabilitation services across the NT to support individuals and communities affected by the new alcohol legislation.

Why are we delivering this?

It was anticipated that the new alcohol restrictions would increase the demand for alcohol withdrawal, treatment and rehabilitation services across the NT.

How are we delivering this?

DoHA is responsible for implementing this sub-measure. In November 2007, a working group consisting of membership from AMSANT, NT DHCS and the NT and Central offices of the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) was established to oversee the implementation of this measure.

Initial activities focused on providing immediate support to individuals and communities affected by the alcohol legislation through:

- the provision of detoxification beds at both Katherine District Hospital and Tennant Creek Hospital
- the deployment of specialist medical teams at both Katherine District Hospital and Tennant Creek Hospital for an initial six week period
- increasing the bed capacity of selected residential rehabilitation services
- the provision of professional resources including a 1800 national clinical advice line and dissemination of the *Alcohol Treatment Guidelines for Indigenous Australians*.

Feedback from the sector following the implementation of the initial package of activities indicated that there was not a significant increase in demand for detoxification services in the acute setting. There was, however, an increased demand for treatment and rehabilitation services across the regional centres of the NT, and subsequent activities under this sub-measure aimed to build the capacity for service delivery within this setting.

These activities included:

- the deployment of AOD Outreach Workers to selected primary care services and substance use services
- the appointment of an NT based AOD Clinical Director
- increased capacity of selected sobering up shelters
- provision of drug and alcohol training and education for both drug and alcohol, health and community workers
- health promotion activities including community education.

Funding for dedicated detoxification hospital beds at Tennant Creek and Katherine District hospitals continued until 30 June 2008.

Agreement has been finalised with NT Government for the funding of hospital-based support workers at selected hospitals, including Alice Springs, Darwin, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Gove.

What has been achieved?

Twenty-eight AOD outreach personnel (including Registered Nurses, local Indigenous Community Support Workers, one Social Worker and one sessional GP) have been engaged in selected primary care and substance use services.

Workers are supported by the NT-based Clinical Director who also provides clinical advice to the sector more broadly.

A broad range of community health promotion activities and professional education has been delivered to communities and services across the Territory. Expansion of selected residential rehabilitation services and a sobering up shelter has been finalised.

Next steps

AOD services will continue in 2008-09. An evaluation of the AOD program will be undertaken to measure the achievements made through the program and to inform the ongoing improvement of service delivery models.

Measure: Supporting Families (including crèches and child care services upgrades)

Sub-measure: Childrens' services and family support

What are we aiming to do?

Providing existing services with additional funding and funding new Early Childhood Program services in the NT priority communities will provide assistance to more families and children, including increased coverage in outlying areas.

This will be achieved by the establishment of up to 10 new crèches and upgrades for up to 16 existing crèches with identified urgent health and safety concerns.

Why are we delivering this?

The provision of a range of options and programs to support parenting skills through the early childhood years assists in laying a foundation for capacity building within the family, which leads to greater capacity of the individuals and the community as a whole. Experience shows that early childhood programs and playgroups provide a place where children can socialise through play, and parents can share ideas and gain information in a supportively organised and routine environment. Such initiatives also provide opportunities for other service providers to introduce their services to families in a more relaxed and natural setting.

New crèches are being established in communities with little or no early learning and child care services for children under 5 years. The 10 new crèches in Indigenous communities will provide Indigenous families with young children access to early learning programs for the first time. Services will also facilitate linkages with other services such as material health, child health clinics, school and parenting services.

How are we delivering this?

Australian Government funding has been provided for:

- Additional playgroups (\$859,000)
 - 2 new Intensive Support Playgroups
 - 3 new Locational Supported Playgroups.
- Expansion of current Early Childhood Programs (\$400,000)
 - Additional funding to current Indigenous Children Programme (ICP) - Council for Aboriginal Alcohol Program Services (CAAPS) Inc. (\$70,000)
 - Additional funding for 3 Invest to Grow projects: Core of Life's 'Pregnancy, Birth, Breastfeeding and Early Parenting Program' (\$100,000); Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council Aboriginal Corporation (NPY) Child Nutrition Program (\$130,000); and Let's Start – Exploring Together for Indigenous Preschools (\$100,000).
- Establishment of up to 10 new crèches and upgrade of up to 16 existing crèches at a total cost of \$4.2 million

- New crèches are being established in Milikapiti, Peppimenarti, Lajamanu, Robinson River, Yarralin, Docker River (Kaltukatjara), Areyonga and Timber Creek. Lajamanu opened on 11 August 2008
- Creche upgrades have been completed in Nyirripi, Ntaria and Santa Teresa
- Creche upgrades will be undertaken in Arltarlippita/Atitjere (Harts Range), Waruwi, Pirlangimpi, Maningrida, Wugularr (Beswick), Minjilang (Mamuruni), Gapuwiyak, Borrooloola and Minyeri.

What has been achieved?

Additional Playgroups – Intensive Support Playgroups - Sites and service providers have been identified and approved for Tennant Creek and Katherine. Funding agreements have been finalised and service delivery has commenced.

Locational Supported Playgroups – Three sites have been identified and approved. They are Numbulwar, Milingimbi and Yuendumu.

ICP – CAAPS: Initial funding agreement from 1 January to 30 June 2008. Funding was used to purchase a licence for Jubudah program which teaches children about their feelings and how to deal with them. Staff were trained to deliver the program and it was incorporated into the Indigenous Children Program. Twenty-one children 0 to 8 years and 15 parents/caregivers were assisted by the program.

Invest to Grow: Funding was provided to expand three projects: Child Nutrition Program, Core of Life and Let's Start and agreements began in January 2008.

Achievements for the period January to June 2008 include:

- *Child Nutrition Program*: Intensive family support, advocacy, coordination and case management and nutrition rehabilitation for 11 children and their families (existing clients) and new referrals for 10 more children at risk. Also 18 nutrition education sessions have been provided to 75 participants.
- *Core of Life*: five community forums and needs analysis conducted in Wadeye, Groote Eylandt, Darwin, Alice Springs and Tiwi Islands. Facilitator training conducted in Groote for 12 participants, with facilitator training scheduled for Tiwi Islands, Darwin, Mutitjulu, Alice Springs and Wadeye between May and July 2008. Training resources are being developed for each community involving local images and artwork to increase local ownership.
Challenges: *Core of Life* uses multidisciplinary teams and the time constraints of service providers in some communities and wet weather led to a delay in delivering some training sessions.
- *Let's Start* has been laying ground work and developing contacts with target communities in preparation for running programs. Let's Start is a ten week program for preschool children and their parents, which includes parenting management sessions for parents, parent-child interaction sessions and children's social skills learning in a children's group. The program also includes training for local early childhood personnel.

Creches:

- first new crèche opened on 11 August 2008 – remaining new crèches to open progressively to March 2009.
- payments to establish seven additional new crèches have been made.
- three upgrades to existing crèches are complete.
- payments made for an additional six upgrades.
- in 2008-09 three additional upgrades are under development.

Next steps

Additional Playgroups: Intensive Support Playgroups (ISP) - agreements are now in place to 30 June 2009 and service delivery continues. Activity reports due in October 2008. Locational Supported Playgroups (LSP) - Work has commenced to undertake a selection process to identify service providers for the three LSPs. It is expected that the selection processes and approval of service providers will be completed in late 2008 with service delivery commencing in early 2009.

ICP – CAAPS: Service delivery will continue. Funding has been approved to 30 June 2009 and new agreements are being negotiated. A progress report is due 1 February 2009 and the final report is due 15 May 2009.

Invest to Grow: Service delivery will continue. Funding has been approved to 30 June 2009 and new agreements are being negotiated. The first performance reports are due in February for the period July to December 2008, and final progress reports are due in late May 2009. In all three projects, service delivery will be similar to that provided in the reporting period January to June 08.

Creches: Construction continues to establish new crèches and upgrades. A process is under development to secure providers for new crèches. Basic child care skills training is underway in communities where a new crèche is being established.

Measure: Supporting Families (including crèches and child care services upgrades)

Sub-measure: Child at risk workers for NT child protection services

What are we aiming to do?

Consistent with recommendations of the LCS report, increase the number and capacity of child protection and Remote Aboriginal Family & Community Workers (RAFCWs) in remote communities.

Why are we delivering this?

The LCS report recognised that as a consequence of greater focus on child protection issues, increased media coverage, and the NT Inquiry Board's proposal for more professional and community education, there would likely be increased reporting of suspected sexual abuse (and other maltreatment). A boost to the resourcing of child protection services and health and family support services would be needed to cope with and respond effectively to this demand. The LCS report recommended that the numbers of child protection workers be increased and there be enhanced training and support for workers, and more strategic and planned investment in local community workers.¹²

How are we delivering this?

The Family Support Package allocated funding in 2007-08 to supporting families and children in the NT including establishing a Mobile Child Protection Team of 10 to 12 workers and recruiting thirteen RAFCWs to be placed in remote communities.

Mobile Child Protection Teams

Families and Children's Services NT will establish a team of ten child protection practitioners, plus a coordinator and an administrative officer to deliver a Mobile Child Protection Team. The team will work closely with local support services, RAFCWs and police to support families and communities and will investigate reports of child maltreatment and neglect. The mobile team will be based in Darwin and will be available to service the NT Regional FACS offices including Darwin, Nhulunbuy, Katherine, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and surrounding remote communities.

Remote Aboriginal Family and Community Workers

Funding has been provided to the NT Government to recruit 13 RAFCWs plus two regional coordinators to provide a link between families, local services and regional services, particularly child protection. The workers will have a primary role of linking services to children, young people and their families in a culturally appropriate way to reduce the risk of harm to children. These workers will be established in the following communities: Beswick, Gunbalanya, Hermannsburg, Ti Tree, Daly River, Mutitjulu, Numbulwar, Yuendumu, Galiwinku, Nguiu, Papunya, Borroloola and Elliott.

What has been achieved?

Eight child protection workers, one coordinator and one administration assistant had commenced employment and begun undertaking investigations by 30 June 2008.

¹² LCS report, Chapter 8, rec 19, pp102-103.

Ten RAFCWs and two coordinators had been recruited by the end of June 2008. One coordinator has since left the position and will be replaced.

Next steps

From the 2008-09 Budget, FaHCSIA has \$9.5m in administered funds to contribute to the project. Negotiations are continuing with the NT Government to determine actual use, but it is intended to support the operation of the safe houses, mobile child protection team and the RAFCWs.

Measure: Supporting Families (including crèches and child care services upgrades)

Sub-measure: Safe place for families escaping family violence

What are we aiming to do?

Consistent with recommendations of the LCS report, increase the number of safe houses in communities and the capacity of existing safe houses/places for women and children fleeing violence.

Why are we delivering this?

The LCS Report and the Senate Community Affairs Committee report indicated the need to provide children and families with safe places from which to escape violence and abuse.¹³ The LCS report indicated that safe places for women and children (and sometimes men) fleeing violence are generally viewed as a critical part of a violence management strategy for many communities. In many of the communities visited by the Inquiry and at the regional forums conducted as part of the NT inquiry, the need for safe houses was consistently identified as a key service for keeping women and children safe from violence.

How are we delivering this?

The Family Support Package allocated \$11.83m in 2007-08 to establishing, or expanding, 22 safe houses in 16 remote communities and expanding safe houses in Darwin and Alice Springs.

Safe Houses

Containers were chosen to deliver the safe house model as they represented the most efficient and effective way of addressing an immediate need in communities to protect women and children and help break the cycle of violence. Containers were considered to offer a higher level of building security than demountables, are cyclone coded, quick to construct and are less expensive to retrofit.

Formaldehyde Issue

Shipping containers are being used for safe houses in remote communities. These are not the same containers originally found to have harmful fumes. FaHCSIA advised the NT Government to suspend rollout to allow testing to ensure the containers were safe.

Initial testing indicated there may be air quality issues. The NT Government decided to recommence the rollout, but safe houses will not be occupied until comprehensive testing shows them to be safe. It is anticipated that the remaining safe houses will be completed by 30 September 2008.

¹³ Senate Community Affairs Committee, (2006), *Beyond Petrol Sniffing: Renewing Hope for Indigenous Communities*, Parliament of Australia, Canberra, 26 June 2006
http://www.aph.gov.au/SENATE/COMMITTEE/CLAC_CTTE/completed_inquiries/2004-07/petrol_sniffing/report/c01.htm.

What has been achieved?

Ten safe houses have been constructed from shipping containers in eight communities though these are not yet occupied – Apatula (Finke), Angurugu, Hermannsburg, Nguiu (2), Pmara Jutunta, Ramingining (x2), Ti Tree and Yuendumu.

Progress of Safe Houses

Community	Commenced	Expected completion	Status at 19 June 08
Alyangula			GEMCO have concerns over site, continuing to work to resolve issues.
Angurugu	May 2008	June 2008	Built – Not Open
Apatula (Finke)	March 2008	April 2008	Built – Not Open.
Hermannsburg	March 2008	April 2008	Built – Not Open.
Kalkarindji/Daguragu			House on Lot 13 to be demolished to allow for container facility.
Lajamanu			Upgrade to existing safe house - awaiting quote from builder.
Maningrida			Containers in Darwin awaiting transport.
Nguiu (Bathurst Island)	May 2008	June 2008	2 Built – Not Open
Ngukurr			Construction to commence w/e 27 th June.
Peppimenarti	January 2008	June 2008	Upgrade of existing building nearing completion. Fit out of youth and storage container underway. Proposed delivery date of late June/early July.
Ramingining	May 2008	May 2008	2 Built – Not Open
Pmara Jujunta	March 2008	March 2008	Built – Not Open
Ti Tree	May 2008	May 2008	Built – Not Open
Beswick (Wugalarr)			Containers utilised for Angurugu and will be replaced.
Yarralin			Construction to commence w/e 27 th June.
Yuendumu	April 2008	April 2008	Built – Not Open.
Alice Springs			Appropriate safe houses have been located and inspected.
Darwin			Appropriate safe houses have been located and inspected.

Next steps

From the 2008-09 Budget, FaHCSIA has \$9.5m in administered funds to contribute to the project. Negotiations are continuing with the NT Government to determine specific usage, but it is intended to support the operation of the safe houses, mobile child protection team and the RAFCWs.

Measure: Supporting Families (including crèches and child care services upgrades)

Sub-measure: Youth alcohol diversionary services

What are we aiming to do?

To curb alcohol and drug abuse and anti-social behaviour among young people in NT communities. This measure targeted young Indigenous people aged between 12 to 18 and their families and aimed to reduce the incidence and impact of alcohol use by young people.

Why are we delivering this?

The LCS report and the 2006 Senate Community Affairs Committee report *Beyond Petrol Sniffing: Renewing Hope for Indigenous Communities* indicated the need for and importance of youth diversionary services in reducing the incidence of alcohol and substance misuse by young people in communities.¹⁴

How are we delivering this?

Through consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including the NTER Operations Centre, the FaHCSIA Northern Territory State Manager, and non-government service providers, a three-part youth alcohol diversionary (YAD) implementation strategy was developed. The strategy included:

- establishment of an NT Regional Youth Development Network. The goals of this network were to bring about an increase in the quality, quantity and coherence of diversionary activities for young people aged between 10 and 20 years in the West Arnhem and Daly River regions and to seed the development of a sustainable regional network of youth oriented services and youth leaders that will work together to develop, secure broad endorsement for, and implement an integrated youth diversion plan across the region
- Alice Springs Town Camp Youth Diversion Project and Central Australian School Holiday Program. The goals of this element were to reduce the incidence of alcohol and other substance use by youth in the Alice Springs town camps; and to prevent the uptake of alcohol and other substance use, including petrol, in a number of the remote communities in Central Australia through the provision of a Christmas school holiday program
- a NT Indigenous Youth Flexible Funding Component to fund youth diversionary projects and activities that target young Indigenous people in NTER designated communities. Applications for funding were sought from communities through GBMs and Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs).

In preparing for implementation, it was apparent there was insufficient capacity in the youth services sector in Alice Springs to deliver the Alice Springs Town Camp element of the proposal within the required timeframes. Funds allocated to this activity were rolled into the Flexible Funding component, with priority to be given to activities in Central Australia.

¹⁴ Senate Community Affairs Committee, (2006), *Beyond Petrol Sniffing: Renewing Hope for Indigenous Communities*, Parliament of Australia, Canberra, 26 June 2006
http://www.aph.gov.au/SENATE/COMMITTEE/CLAC_CTTE/completed_inquiries/2004-07/petrol_sniffing/report/c01.htm.

It also became apparent in the responses from GBMs and ICCs that there was a great need to provide, repair, or upgrade recreation and sporting infrastructure. As a result, the final scope of the measure included infrastructure, art and culture, sports, and youth sector development initiatives.

The 2007-08 YAD expenditure was \$8.5 million on 95 projects. Implementation began in December 2007. Providers were secured for the school holiday programs and these were delivered in ten communities over the Christmas, Easter and mid-year school holidays.

The first round of Youth Diversion Flexible Funding Proposals were sought in early January 2008. On 29 January 2008, the Minister announced 30 youth activity projects aimed at young people living in Indigenous communities in the NT, to a value of \$2.6 million. This included 20 sport/recreational infrastructure builds or upgrades (basketball courts, recreation halls, ovals, storage sheds, etc), sport and recreation materials and equipment grants, one project involving the employment of a youth worker in a community, and five event or ongoing organised activity projects (3-day youth gatherings, a series of dance clinics).

In January 2008, a prominent youth service provider in Alice Springs closed severely impacting on the capacity of the local youth sector to deliver any additional activities. Funds allocated to the Alice Springs Town Camp element of the measure were rolled into the Flexible Funding component, with priority to be given to activities in Central Australia.

In February 2008, the Australian Red Cross was auspiced as the provider for the Youth Development Network in the Arnhem Land and Daly River regions. It brought together non government organisations with a track record of delivering focussed youth activities and programs, in order to bring about a coordinated approach to youth service delivery. Seven communities participated in the committee and assessment process. They were Waruwu, Oenpelli, Daley River, Maningrida, Minjilang, Wadeye, and Jabiru. Twenty activities were approved and funded across 15 NGO providers, for a total of \$1.79 million.

In March 2008, a further \$2.75 million of Youth Diversion Flexible Funding Projects was announced for 26 youth diversion activity projects, again across a range of equipment, infrastructure and activities projects.

School Holiday Programs were delivered in ten communities in April and June/July 2008.

What has been achieved?

In total, across the three elements of the Youth Diversion Measure 95 projects were funded for a total of \$8.5million.

Next steps

Rollout of funding is complete and now awaiting evaluation reports.

Measure: Enhancing Education

Sub-measure: Additional classrooms

What are we aiming to do?

To provide additional classrooms in schools where increased enrolment and attendance may place pressure on existing infrastructure.

Why are we delivering this?

Approximately 8000 children are enrolled in 69 schools in the 73 NTER communities, at least 2500 of whom were not attending school regularly when the Emergency Response began. As many as 2000 children of school age were not enrolled in education.

At least ten schools in the NTER area had an average student attendance that exceeded available classroom capacity, with classroom pressures emerging in further schools.

How are we delivering this?

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations is responsible for this measure and has provided capital funds to Northern Territory Education providers for building more classrooms. The NT Government has been allocated \$6 million to construct up to 14 additional classrooms and the Catholic Education Office \$1.703 million to build four new classrooms in Wadeye.

With construction commencing in early June 2008, it is anticipated that the majority of these classrooms will be completed by 29 September 2008. The classrooms come equipped with reverse cycle air-conditioning units, storage and work benches, sewage, water and power connections, and carpeting.

What has been achieved?

The outcome of the NT Government 07/08 tender process provided for the construction of 13 classrooms. Efficiencies achieved through this process have allowed for the construction of two more classrooms to be considered in 2008.

Four further classrooms at the non-government school of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Wadeye are due for completion in December 2008.

Next steps

Funding of \$2.626m has been provided in the Australian Government Budget for 2008-09 for the construction of six additional classrooms. This will bring the total number of additional classrooms to 25.

Measure: Enhancing Education

Sub-measure: Scaffolding literacy (Accelerating Literacy Program)

What are we aiming to do?

To support the NT education providers by putting in place a number of regionally based specialist teams to provide onsite, and in context, professional development training to embed at the local level, good teaching practices to accelerate literacy and numeracy outcomes for Indigenous students in remote communities.

Why are we delivering this?

The provision of school services is primarily the responsibility of the NT Government and non-government education providers. The Australian Government is providing additional funding support to the NT education providers to help them manage the anticipated increases in school enrolment and attendance as a result of the NTER.

Schools in the remote areas of the NT are predominantly small, staffed by less experienced teachers and experience high staff turnover, poor student attendance and low literacy and numeracy outcomes. There are significant challenges to these schools, whereby teachers need to be culturally aware and have English as a Second Language experience.

The Accelerating Literacy specialist teams work directly with the teaching staff in these schools to improve and consolidate classroom practices through in-class support, mentoring and delivery of onsite and external professional development in the areas of literacy and numeracy. Approaches focus both on the individual and the whole school.

How are we delivering this?

The Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) has contracted the NT Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) and the NT Catholic Education Office (CEO) to implement the Accelerating Literacy measure and the Quality Teaching measure under an integrated package.

The NT DEET contract was executed on 26 March 2008 for \$7.53 million over 2007-08. The CEO contract was executed on 3 April 2008 for \$0.64 million over 2007-08.

The NT CEO is coordinating on behalf of the non-government sector and has established one specialist team called 'Practitioners in Residence' who are targeting the following ten remote schools:

- Ltyente Apurte Community Education Centre (Santa Teresa)
- Murrupurtiyanwu Catholic School (Bathurst Island)
- St Francis Xavier (Daly River)
- Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Wadeye (Port Keats)
- Xavier Community Education Centre (Bathurst Island)
- Nyangatjatjara College (Yulara)
- Yipirinya School (Alice Springs)
- Yirara College (Alice Springs)
- Gawa Christian School (Elcho Island)

- Wolaning Homeland Christian College (Litchfield)

The NT DEET has established three specialist teams. There are two ‘Remote Schools Improvement Strategy teams’ based in Darwin servicing the Top End schools listed below. The ‘Strengthening Classroom Practices Project team’ is based in Alice Springs and services the Central Australia schools listed below.

NT DEET Accelerating Literacy Remote Schools	
TOP END	CENTRAL AUSTRALIA
Angurugu	Areyonga
Borrooloola	Finke
Gapuwiyak	Mutitjulu
Gunbalanya	Titjikala
Jabiru Area School Council	Ntaria
Kalkaringi	Nyirripi
Lajamanu	Mt Allan
Maningrida	Walungurru
Milingimbi	Papunya
Minyerri	Willowra
Ngukurr	Ali Curung
Numbulwarr	Epenarra
Ramingining	Newcastle Waters
Shepherdson	Canteen Creek
Yirrkala	Neutral Junction
	Elliott
	Alpurrurulam
	Alcoota
	Harts Range
	Bonya

The implementation details vary slightly from team to team depending on the specific needs of each of the targeted schools.

The specialist teams make preliminary visits to each of the target schools to discuss with the teachers and the School Principal the level of support that is required and the sort of literacy and numeracy curriculum being used. The teams then prepare a program of support tailored to the needs of each school and supplement this with the appropriate support material before going back out to the schools and spending one week with the teachers in their class delivering onsite support.

The specialist teams also organise follow up visits to provide ongoing support and in conjunction with teachers and assistant teachers, assess the effectiveness of the strategies and approaches introduced during the first visit.

What has been achieved?

The Accelerating Literacy measure was developed through continued collaboration with the Department’s NTER Joint Steering Committee (JSC) partners – the NT Government, NT CEO and the NT Association of Independent Schools. Through this

process, it was determined that an integrated approach with the Quality Teaching Package and the Accelerating Literacy specialist teams approach would help NT education providers improve teaching standards in remote schools by raising the capacity of the existing education workforce and embedding at the local level good teaching practices to accelerate literacy outcomes.

The NT DEET contract was executed on 26 March 2008 and the NT CEO contract was executed on 3 April 2008. NT DEET and NT CEO have undertaken a comprehensive recruitment process to establish the specialist teams. The Project Manager for NT DEET's Central Australia team commenced on 28 April 2008, and the Top End Project Managers commenced on 7 April 2008. The NT CEO 'Practitioners in Residence' team contracts commenced on 14 July 2008.

A series of consultation sessions have been undertaken with school principals to determine the target school locations. Schools were selected on the basis of their poor literacy results in the national benchmarks.

All 45 schools selected to participate in this initiative have now been contacted and specialist teams have now commenced the schools systems audit of literacy and numeracy packages, materials and professional development needs. The teams are currently in the process of compiling benchmark data on literacy and numeracy achievements for each of the target schools. The teams are also working with each of the schools to assist in interpreting and using this data to inform their classroom planning practices.

NT DEET's Central Australia team has commenced their preliminary visits and some of the follow up onsite training sessions as per the below table:

School	Preliminary visit	Mentor Visit
Areyonga	29 July	4 – 8 August
Ntaria	7 August	18 – 22 August
Papunya	25 July	1 – 5 September
Ali Curung	21 May	21 – 25 July
Newcastle Waters	5 August	18 – 22 August
Neutral Junction	22 July	18 – 22 August
Elliott	5 August	18 – 22 August
Canteen Creek	20 May	2 – 6 June
Epenarra	19 May	16 – 20 June
Alcoota	13 August	
Harts Range	14 August	
Alpurrurulam	24 July	4 – 8 August
Bonya	15 August	

As of 7 April, NT DEET's Top End teams have conducted scoping visits (up to three times) to the following target schools:

- Angurugu
- Jabiru
- Maningrida
- Numbulwar

- Shepherdson
- Yirrkala
- Milingimbi
- Gapuwiyak
- Gunbalanya
- Borroloola
- Ngukurr
- Minyerri
- Lajamanu
- Kalkaringi

Ramingining has had no visits as yet, however the Principal and other staff have participated in telephone consultations and meetings both in Darwin and other locations (eg: PD at Groote Eylandt).

The NT CEO's 'Practitioners in Residence' team commenced on the 14 July 2008 at the 10 targeted non-government schools. A week of Professional Learning Accelerated Literacy training was followed by four days (21-24 July 2008) of induction/mandatory reporting, professional development and training.

Visits to the ten schools to obtain the baseline data on numeracy and literacy commenced on Monday 28 July 2008 and is scheduled as follows:

School	Visit
Xavier CEC, Bathurst Island	28 July
Murrupurtiyanwu Catholic School	31 July
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Wadeye	6 August
Saint Francis Xavier, Daly River	11 August
Wollaning Homeland Christian College, Litchfield	18 August
Gawa Christian College, Elco Island	25 August
Yirara College, Alice Springs	1 September
Yipirinya School, Alice Springs	8 September
Nyangatjatjara College, Yulara	15 September
Ltyentye Apurte CEC, Santa Terresa	22 September

Term 4 visits are currently being negotiated with schools.

Next Steps

The specialist teams will finalise the initial scoping visits and commence the onsite training sessions over the next quarter. NT DEET and NT CEO are next due to report to DEEWR on the outcomes of the scoping visits and progress with the site visits on 30 September 2008.

Measure: Enhancing Education

Sub-measure: Quality Teacher Package

What are we aiming to do?

To help NT education providers to attract and retain the best teachers, and to develop those already in remote schools, with a particular emphasis on developing local Indigenous education staff. It is anticipated that the Quality Teacher Package (QTP) will improve teaching standards and subsequently student educational outcomes, and reduce the high turnover of teaching staff in these communities.

Why are we delivering this?

The provision of school services is primarily the responsibility of the Northern Territory Government and non-government education providers. The Australian Government is providing additional funding support to the NT education providers to help them manage the anticipated increases in school enrolment and attendance as a result of the NTER.

Schools in the remote areas of the NT are predominantly small, staffed by less experienced teachers and experience high staff turnover, poor student attendance and low literacy and numeracy outcomes. This initiative provides training, mentoring, in-classroom support and the acquisition of additional teaching skills through professional learning and training incentives.

The QTP targets improvements in teaching standards in remote schools by raising the capacity of teachers and developing teaching support resources with a particular focus on the development of local Indigenous staff.

How are we delivering this?

The Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) have contracted the NT Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) and the NT Catholic Education Office (CEO) to implement the Accelerating Literacy measure and the Quality Teaching measure under an integrated package. Further information on Accelerating Literacy is detailed in the previous sub-measure.

The QTP is a professional development framework focused on up-skilling local Indigenous staff who are more likely to stay long term in communities. It is managed collaboratively with the Accelerating Literacy sub-measure and is targeted at all 35 government schools (see list under Accelerating Literacy sub-measure) and five of the NT CEO schools:

- Ltyentye Apurte Community Education Centre (Santa Teresa)
- Murrupurtiyanuwu Catholic School (Bathurst Island)
- St Francis Xavier (Daly River)
- Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Wadeye (Port Keats)
- Xavier Community Education Centre (Bathurst Island).

The focus on the development of Indigenous staff is being implemented in two stages. The first stage is the establishment of Career Development Framework that maps the skills qualifications and career opportunities based on a series of consultations with

principals and teaching staff in the target schools. The second stage is to support the take-up of the opportunities for Indigenous staff to gain qualifications focussing on the attainment of Certificate III and IV and Diploma level qualification in Indigenous Education Work through NT DEET agreements with Bachelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education.

The QTP makes provision for (depending on need):

- a career planning and development phase for Indigenous staff
- 75 places for improved qualifications in Cert III, IV or Diploma in Indigenous Education Work through the Bachelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (includes costs associated with travel and accommodation)
- 20 places to undertake a Teaching Degree
- 50 places for Graduate Certificates in Accelerated Literacy
- 12 Masters Scholarships in Literacy, Numeracy, English as a Second Language (ESL) or Cross Cultural Teaching, and
- incentive bonuses to staff on the successful completion of accredited training.

What has been achieved?

The QTP measure was developed through continued collaboration with the Department's NTER Joint Steering Committee (JSC) partners – the NT Government, NT CEO and the NT Association of Independent Schools. Through this process, it was determined that an integrated approach with the Quality Teaching Package and the Accelerating Literacy specialist teams would help NT education providers improve teaching standards in remote schools by raising the capacity of the existing education workforce and embedding at the local level good teaching practices to accelerate literacy outcomes.

On 30 January 2008, the Deputy Prime Minister approved funding of \$3.485 million in 2007-08 for the QTP. The Joint Steering Committee determined that NT DEET would coordinate this work on behalf of all sectors to achieve a higher economy of scale and allocate 15 per cent of all study and professional development placements to the non-government sector.

The QTP Project Coordinator based in NT DEET commenced in April 2008. A dedicated Indigenous staff development coordinator was appointed on 23 June 2008. In addition, the JSC agreed in July 2008 to transfer \$80,000 from NT DEET to NT CEO to appoint a non-government QTP Coordinator to better facilitate access to study and professional development placements in the non-government sector. The non-government QTP Coordinator commenced in August 2008 and will work closely with the NT DEET Project Coordinator and all non-government target schools.

Nine stakeholder meetings have been conducted to date with target school principals and Group Cluster Principals to workshop the development of Indigenous Career Development Framework and to identify appropriate training and professional development opportunities.

NT CEO have also conducted a series of consultations with their target school principals to determine the needs of their education staff.

NT DEET and NT CEO are both close to finalising the skills qualifications and professional development needs of the educational staff within their target schools.

This will inform the implementation and take up of additional training and professional development opportunities over Terms 3 and 4 (commencing 21 July 2008). The feasibility of the original targets will also be reviewed on this basis.

A number of curriculum resources have been identified to support the implementation of the QTP and negotiations are underway with Charles Darwin University and Batchelor Institute to align professional development programs to accredited units and qualifications.

Next steps

NT DEET and NT CEO will continue to collaborate on the implementation and take up of the additional training and professional development opportunities over Terms 3 and 4 (commencing 21 July 2008). Placements are currently being organised and procured for study and professional development at Charles Darwin University and Batchelor Institute of Technology.

NT DEET are also developing a supporting coaching pilot and targeted communications and marketing strategy.

Measure: Enhancing Education

Sub-measure: School Nutrition Programs (SNP) – breakfast and lunch program

What are we aiming to do?

The School Nutrition Program (SNP) was introduced as an indirect way to improve school attendance and engagement by providing breakfast and lunch to school aged children in schools in prescribed communities in the NT. It also provides employment opportunities for local Indigenous people to administer and deliver the program.

Why are we delivering this?

Enrolment and attendance rates in the prescribed communities have historically been very poor. Prior to the NTER approximately 8,000 children were enrolled in NTER schools. A further 2,000 children were estimated to be not enrolled; and among the children who were enrolled, at least 2,500 were not attending school regularly enough to benefit from their education (NT DEET 2007).

The *Little Children Are Sacred* report to the NT Government specifically recommended that a school nutrition program be established (Recommendation 52a). In addition, The SNP compliments the policy goal of closing the Indigenous disadvantage gap by contributing to halving the gap in literacy and numeracy within 10 years.

How are we delivering this?

The Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) are responsible for the administration of the SNP. A key implementation principle followed by DEEWR has been that the program should, wherever possible, harmonise with existing nutrition programs and individual community circumstances.

DEEWR works with each community to establish and fund SNP providers so they can employ local workers to prepare and deliver the meals, to upgrade their kitchen facilities and other supporting infrastructure where necessary, and to meet the costs of any related professional development. CEBs also assist with the SNP's operations as required.

Parents and carers are expected to contribute to the cost of the food for each child they support. Participation in the program is voluntary and encouraged for income managed (IM) clients with school aged children.

Implementation of the SNP has sought to harmonise, wherever possible, with existing nutrition programs (i.e. the Red Cross Good Start Breakfast Club program) and community needs. Due to the broad range of community settings in which the program operates, there is no single model for implementation. For example, providers may include, but are not limited to, Aged Care Centres, Child Care Centres, schools and stores. To assist with local capacity issues, some of the communities are being supported by an additional book-keeping arrangement.

What has been achieved?

As at 1 August 2008 all communities and town camps have now been scoped to assess the viability and options for implementation. In most communities the SNP is operating from the commencement of IM in that community. There are school nutrition programs established in 61 communities. The SNP has also successfully accommodated the needs of eight town camp areas even though the 2007-08 SNP appropriation did not include funding for jobs or equipment in relation to town camps.

There are many contributing factors to poor school attendance and engagement in education such as poor health, overcrowded housing, a child's innate ability, basic infrastructure, the level of school access, quality and support and so on. School nutrition programs have proven to have a positive impact on school enrolment and attendance rates, and it is reasonable to assume that this would articulate over time into improved educational outcomes. The SNP must however be considered as part of broader school engagement strategy.

Based on a telephone survey of available providers at 21 June 2008, 69 employment outcomes had been achieved for the SNP. This figure is made up of 59 Indigenous employees and 10 non-Indigenous employees. Of the 69, 15 are employed on a full time basis and 54 are employed on a part time basis.

Next steps

SNP has secured \$7.4 million in funding in the 2008-09 Budget to continue operating in the NTER communities. All current SNP contracts have been extended to the end of September 2008 while the operational model and program guidelines for the SNP in 2008-09 can be modified and responsive to implementation issues experienced to date, and to bring the program in line with the Government's forward agenda for Indigenous affairs following the NTER Review.

Measure: Welfare reform and employment

Sub-measure: Income management, food security and community stores

What are we aiming to do?

The aim of income management (IM) is to promote socially responsible behaviour by setting aside whole, or part, of a person's welfare payments for their individual and families' priority needs. This ensures that:

- money paid by the Government for the benefit of children is directed to the needs of children
- better financial security is provided to women and elderly community members who are vulnerable to 'humbugging'
- the amount of cash in communities is reduced where substance abuse, gambling and other antisocial behaviours are problems that can lead to child abuse and community dysfunction.

Why are we delivering this?

To ensure that money provided for children is used for their benefit and not directed towards substance abuse and other anti-social behaviours.

How are we delivering this?

IM has been rolled out on a community by community basis. Every community member who is receiving a relevant welfare payment receives half of their payment in the usual way, while the other half is held in an account to pay for priority needs, such as food, clothing, housing, transport and utilities. Prior to IM commencing, Centrelink will sit with a person to discuss their priority needs and regular expenses, and the needs of the person's family or children. Funds that are income managed cannot be used to purchase items such as alcohol, tobacco, pornography or gambling products.

Centrelink, as the agency responsible for delivering IM services to customers in the NT, provides flexibility in the way that people access their income managed funds. Centrelink also aims to ensure that, as far as possible, people on IM are not inconvenienced in purchasing essential items and services. People on IM will meet with a Centrelink officer to agree on how the money will be allocated to best meet their individual needs or the household. People can access their income managed funds in a number of ways, including:

- through individual IM accounts at licensed community stores
- through store specific cards for use in larger retail outlets such as Woolworths, Coles, Big W and Target. Centrelink is able to provide the relevant card or make the necessary deduction to certain merchants depending on the customer's preference, their priority needs and their IM balance
- Centrelink can also make direct deductions to a range of third party organisations and traders so that customers can meet less regular expenses such as mechanic or phone bills with their income managed funds.

As part of the 2008-09 Budget, Minister Macklin announced that the Government will fund the development an IM card, called the 'BasicsCard', to provide greater flexibility in delivering income managed funds to customers. Once issued with a BasicsCard, customers will be able to use the card to purchase non-excluded items

and services from approved outlets. The BasicsCard will deliver more choice for customers in more locations than is currently available. This is a PIN protected card which allows customers to use their income managed funds to purchase everyday priority items such as food, clothing and household items, and not for one-off or large purchases, at a range of approved merchants using EFTPOS facilities.

Integrated money management services have been introduced alongside IM to provide financial education, training and financial crisis support to people in communities where IM has commenced.

What has been achieved?

At 30 June 2008, income management (IM) was operating in 53 communities and their associated outstations and 8 town camp regions. There were 13,305 people on IM at 30 June 2008.

Early anecdotal evidence and advice from government staff working on the ground is that IM is having a positive impact. The licensing of community stores, which is a necessary pre-condition for starting IM, has resulted in improvements in the quality and availability of fresh food.

Community store managers have reported that customers had changed their shopping habits considerably, buying more fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy goods, frozen vegetables and meat and that, in some stores, sales of cigarettes has halved.

The improvement of food security in remote communities through IM and community stores has been a positive outcome of the NTER. A total of 62 community stores have been licensed under the NTER arrangements: 45 stores operating under their own licences and 17 stores operating under corporate licences.

FaHCSIA is monitoring the implementation of IM and has commenced an evaluation of the measure, which is expected to be completed by June 2009. Sources of data will include Centrelink systems data, stakeholder surveys (e.g. income managed customers, Government Business Managers, store managers), reports from Centrelink and Operations Centre staff and, possibly, stakeholder focus groups. Data gaps have been identified, particularly in the collection of baseline data, due to the speed of implementation. Some baseline data will be available and FaHCSIA recently commissioned research in four communities where IM had not yet commenced. Follow up surveys will be conducted to evaluate progress in these communities.

Next steps

The BasicsCard will be rolled out progressively in September 2008, in a number of jurisdictions. Centrelink will issue the BasicsCard to individuals and provide support to those who may need assistance in learning how to use the card. Centrelink will work with the income managed customers to determine an agreed amount of income managed funds to be allocated to the customer's BasicsCard account. The card will have a notional balance which will enable the individual to purchase priority goods and services from any merchant in the approved merchant list.

Measure: Welfare reform and employment

Sub-measure: Increased participation activities for people on income support

What are we aiming to do?

Increase participation opportunities for people on working age income support payments in NTER communities.

The measure's aim is to improve the lives of people by promoting economic independence via increased participation and the take up of appropriate employment; and provide employment services and programs for those not immediately job ready including language, literacy and numeracy training. Strong partnerships with business and the private sector is an important next step in increasing employment opportunities and greater economic independence based on a community place based methodology.

Why are we delivering this?

Indigenous people on working age income support payments in communities were previously granted a Remote Area Exemption (RAE)¹⁵ as it was considered that they did not have access to a local labour market or employment services. A number of residents in these communities were Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) participants.

Initially the focus was on getting adults to clean up their communities via Work for the Dole (WfD). To achieve this, guidelines were changed so that job seekers could be commenced immediately in WfD rather than waiting for a period of mutual obligation and WfD participation could extend for longer than six months in a twelve month period.

After the stabilisation phase of NTER, WfD expanded to include a wider range of work relevant skills development tasks.

Establishing a participation culture via attendance in employment programs and services and getting jobs is a major focus of this measure.

How are we delivering this?

To help ensure employment programs and services are delivered effectively within each community, DEEWR has employed Community Employment Brokers (CEBs) from the inception of the NTER. CEBs work in communities, generally as a live in presence within communities where accommodation is available and provided. CEBs work with residents, employment service providers, Community Councils, NT Government and local shires, Centrelink and GBMs to achieve the most appropriate employment and related support for jobseekers.

All RAEs were lifted from job seekers in the period from July to December 2007. Jobseekers were assessed by Centrelink and Job Capacity Assessors to ensure they were on the correct income support payment that reflected their capacity to look for, and secure employment.

¹⁵ A person with an RAE is not required to satisfy the activity test in return for their income support payment (i.e. they do not have to look for work or participate in services and programs).

As RAEs were removed, Indigenous specific and mainstream employment services and programs available to urban and regional Australians were delivered to communities. Services and programs include:

- Indigenous Employment Program – Structured Training and Employment Program (STEP) and STEP – Employment and Related Services (STEP ERS)
- Job Network
- Work for the Dole
- specialist programs including Vocational Rehabilitation Service (VRS), Personal Support Program (PSP), Job Placement, Employment and Training (JPET) and Disability Employment Network (DEN)
- Language Literacy and Numeracy Program (LLNP)
- Workplace English Language and Literacy (WELL).

At the same time as RAEs were lifted, CDEP was being progressively abolished in communities as announced by the former Government on 23 July 2007. CDEP was to be replaced by real jobs, training and Indigenous-specific or mainstream employment services and programs.

Changes were implemented on a community by community basis, commencing in September 2007, and were to be aligned with the introduction of IM.

Immediate job opportunities were realised by Job Network providers and via the NT Jobs Package¹⁶ for former CDEP participants and some working age income support payment jobseekers.

On 10 December 2007, a moratorium was announced by the new government on any further transition of CDEP participants in the NT. By this time, 16 CDEP providers and over 2,000 participants had been transitioned. The Government also announced its intention to reform the CDEP program to better focus on promoting enterprise, training and jobs.

On 30 April 2008, the Government announced that it would address inconsistencies created by the removal of CDEP. It announced that as an interim measure, CDEP would be made available from 1 July 2008 to the 30 NTER communities and town camps where the program was removed as part of the emergency response.

In making CDEP available, the Government is mindful that a great deal of progress has been made in converting CDEP positions to jobs via the NT Jobs Package. Therefore, certain activities previously funded under CDEP which were now funded as “real jobs” would no longer be appropriate.

FaHCSIA has written to all CDEP providers and providers of ‘transitional’ activities in the NT to inform them of the process for negotiating 2008-09 funding. (Further information on CDEP is provided below).

¹⁶ The Jobs Package provides funding for jobs in Australian Government and NT Government service delivery provision for former CDEP clients. The Government has committed funding to create paid jobs to support the delivery of government services rather than relying on CDEP to do this work. The Government will continue the process of converting CDEP positions delivering Australian Government services and will also work with state and territory governments to convert positions to support state and territory services.

The replacement program for CDEP will be implemented from 1 July 2009.

In July 2009, new employment services will commence that will provide better, more tailored assistance to job seekers, particularly those who are disadvantaged, and to place greater emphasis on assisting employers to address skill shortages and fill job vacancies. The Government is committed to employment services delivered through high quality, not-for-profit and for-profit, organisations.

Further Reform - Increasing Indigenous Economic Opportunity

This discussion paper aims to encourage debate and ideas on economic development and jobs for Indigenous Australians. The discussion paper seeks feedback on how:

- individuals, businesses, communities and partnerships could be involved to lift Indigenous employment rates
- to remove disincentives for people to study, train, or take up other work outside CDEP
- to encourage people to travel for work and training opportunities
- employers of Indigenous workers can be better supported
- we can build on the principle that improved universal employment services and training places are essential for sustained economic development.

In conjunction with the release of the discussion paper, between 19 May and 20 June 2008, FaHCSIA conducted 39 public consultations, undertaken jointly with DEEWR consultations on Indigenous Employment Services reforms. In addition, 17 community consultations have been held in remote communities and targeted sessions have been held with employers and unemployed Indigenous people.

In the NT, public consultations were held in Darwin, Alice Springs, Nhulunbuy, Tennant Creek and Katherine. Community consultations were held in Tiwi Islands, Borroloola, Galiwinku, Hermannsburg, Maningrida, Papunya, Elliot and Wadeye.

The Government received feedback from more than 2,000 people on the future of the programs. In addition, more than 120 written submissions have been received in response to the discussion paper. FaHCSIA, jointly with DEEWR, will collate feedback received through consultation sessions, written submissions and all other information received to date.

This valuable feedback is assisting the Government to consider the best possible ways to reform the CDEP and Indigenous Employment Program. Further consultations will be undertaken later in the year, once the Government has considered feedback and developed a proposed model. It is anticipated that reforms to these programs will be implemented from July 2009 and will form part of a broader Indigenous Economic Development Strategy. The reformed programs will also complement the Government's new universal employment services model.

What has been achieved?

Solid progress has been made towards increasing the participation of job seekers, in light of the limited abilities and experience of many jobseekers and practicalities associated with the delivery of mainstream employment services and programs in very remote areas. Key outcomes (as at 30 June 2008) include:

- RAEs removed from jobseekers in 86 communities (including all NTER communities)
- 5,830 Job Capacity Assessments (JCA) completed identifying jobseekers' barriers to participation, interventions to address those barriers, assessing jobseekers capacity to work and recommending referral to an employment service where appropriate
- over 5,000 JCAs recommended referral to either Job Network, DEN, VRS, PSP, or JPET
- 8,119 jobseekers receiving Job Network services
- 80 Work for the Dole activities delivered across the NTER. Of these, 55 have been delivered to 42 of the NTER communities, 23 to town camps and two to outstations
- 1,300 jobs under NT Jobs Package been created, with the majority filled, and more to come in 2008-09
- in addition, there has been 982 job outcomes brokered with the assistance of Job Network providers
- there have been 261 STEP and 924 STEP ERS commencements - both programs help to assist employers to provide ongoing employment for Indigenous Australians, particularly in the private sector
- there have been a total of 1,373 people who have started on WfD projects
- there have been 1,189 jobseekers engaged in specialist programs including VRS, PSP, DEN and JPET
- there has been 809 referrals to LLNP
- 138 people have commenced in WELL.

Next steps

The Government is committed to closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians and has set targets, including halving the gap in employment outcomes within a decade.

The Australian Government is currently developing its Indigenous Economic Development Strategy (IEDS). The IEDS will be finalised before the end of the year.

The overarching objective of the IEDS will be to promote economic participation of Indigenous communities and individuals by improving Indigenous employment, business and wealth creation opportunities.

The IEDS will be a key driver for halving the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians over the next ten years.

It is proposed that key components underpinning the IEDS will include:

- enhancing employment opportunities and pathways supported by reforms of CDEP and Indigenous Employment Program and better use of universal employment services for Indigenous people
- leveraging land and native title assets, rights and interests to support economic development and ensure intergenerational benefit
- facilitating access to markets and business finance and skills, including through partnerships with the private sector and appropriate incentives for business and enterprise development

- leveraging infrastructure investment and related economic activity to improve and sustain employment and business opportunities
- fostering better engagement between Indigenous Australians, governments and the private sector, including through the recognition of the diversity of economic opportunities faced by Indigenous communities and individuals
- building capacity and leadership to enable Indigenous people to take ownership of the economic development agenda and progress initiatives in partnership with the private sector and government.

Measure: Welfare reform and employment

Sub-measure: Community Employment Brokers (CEBs)

What are we aiming to do?

CEBs work with residents, employment service providers, Community Councils, NT Government and local Shires, Centrelink and GBMs to achieve the highest level of employment related support for jobseekers.

Why are we delivering this?

The social dysfunction and inter-generational poverty that welfare dependency creates is well documented. Employment is one of the ways out of dependency. In 2007 the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership, published a project report titled *From Hand Out to Hand Up* which canvassed the concept of employment brokers who worked in communities to help people make the transition to employment.¹⁷

How are we delivering this?

CEBs are strategically placed in NTER communities to coordinate the delivery of employment related services and job outcomes where their assistance is most warranted. Increasingly, CEBs are becoming involved in the implementation of early childcare and education measures to ensure a 'one DEEWR' service offering is provided to community residents.

CEBs play a key role in identifying increased economic development opportunities, supporting jobseekers to retain their participation activity (i.e. this includes a job opportunity) and working with former CDEP participants now employed under the NT Jobs Package.

CEBs are a resource for communities on early childhood, education and employment related matters. They raise awareness of the benefits that flow from a participation culture and create the means by which Indigenous people can take advantage of employment and other participation opportunities.

What has been achieved?

Solid progress has been made towards increasing the participation of job seekers, in light of the limited abilities and experience of many jobseekers and practicalities associated with the delivery of mainstream employment services and programs in very remote areas. Key outcomes at 30 June 2008 include:

- 80 Work for the Dole activities delivered across the NTER
- 33 CEBs employed providing service to 65 NTER communities. As at 31 July 2008, there were 31 CEBs servicing 60 of the 73 NTER communities .

With the reduction in CEB numbers initially planned and ongoing lack of suitable accommodation in some communities with the closure of Australian Government accommodation complexes, DEEWR has instituted alternative arrangements to ensure as many of the 73 NTER communities continue to receive appropriate service including:

¹⁷ Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership,(2007), *From Hand Out to Hand Up, Cape York Welfare Reform Project, Aurukun, Coen, Hope Vale, Mossman Gorge, Design recommendation*, Cairns.

- CEB placement within the community
- Service as a community caseload by DEEWR NT Office staff across the NT
- Service as a Whole of Government service visit provided by Centrelink employment service providers and DEEWR Contract Managers who travel together to service a community and/or communities
- Drive in/drive out service where communities remain without a CEB until FaHCSIA supplied demountable accommodation is established.

Next steps

CEBs make a difference in improving participation outcomes on the ground. DEEWR will maintain around 31 operational CEBs over the next 12 months. CEBs will be deployed in line with a place based assessment of where their services can offer most value to communities and that whilst maintaining focus on employment and training outcomes, their role will be broadened to include childcare and education elements of the portfolio.

Measure: Housing and Land Reform

Sub-measure: Five-year lease program

What are we aiming to do?

Acquisition of leases over major communities for the period from commencement of the leases until 20 August 2012 and cadastral (boundary) surveys of five-year leased communities.

Why are we delivering this?

The leases were acquired to facilitate security of tenure and access for the repair of buildings and infrastructure. This sub-measure establishes a platform to support implementation of other measures and initiatives.

A range of NTER initiatives have been, or will be, carried out on the basis of these leases including:

- installation and use of Government Business Manager accommodation
- implementation of new property and tenancy management arrangements
- installation of new safe houses
- refurbishments through the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP).

How are we delivering this?

The Australian Government is funding new property and tenancy management arrangements for community houses in the 64 communities where the Australian Government holds five year leases and in another nine communities (Angurugu, Finke (Aputula), Kalkarindji (Wave Hill), Kybrook Farm, Milyakburra, Mutitjulu, Naiyu (Daly River), Nguiu, Umbakumba) where the Government does not hold such leases. The NT Government will implement the new arrangements which will be based on the NT Government's Remote Public Housing Management Framework (RPHMF).

Section 31 of the *Northern Territory National Emergency Response Act 2007* (the NTNER Act) provides for the acquisition of leases over 64 specified communities and allows for the acquisition of further leases by regulation. These leases (known as five-year leases) continue until five years from the commencement of the NTNER Act regardless of the date on which they commence. The leases come into effect by operation of the legislation without any requirement for consent by Land Councils or traditional owners.

All 64 leases over specified communities, detailed in the table below, are now in force. Twenty-six of the leases commenced on 18 August 2007 while the balance of 38 leases commenced on 17 February 2008. No additional leases have been the subject of regulations to date.

The terms and conditions of the five-year leases are set out in section 35 of the NTNER Act which also allows for additional terms and conditions to be determined by the Minister. On 17 August 2007, the then Minister for Families, Communities and Indigenous Affairs determined the Additional Terms and Conditions for Leases.

Underlying title to the land remains unaffected by the five-year leases and pre-existing interests in the land are preserved. Pre-existing registered leases are automatically excluded from the five-year leased area.

The leases can be lifted by the Minister as an administrative decision. No legislation or formal instrument would be required. Where a lease is granted over Aboriginal land in accordance with section 19 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (the Land Rights Act) over an area the subject of a five year lease, the five-year lease will cease to have any effect in relation to the area of land covered by the new lease. The five-year lease is also automatically terminated if a whole of township lease is granted in accordance with section 19A.

The boundaries of the leases were initially set by the legislation using mechanisms including aerial photography and larger areas than necessary were acquired.

Cadastral boundary surveys have been conducted and are expected to lead to reductions in the lease boundaries so that they more closely match the actual area of the township.

The original legislated boundaries remain current until such time as the leases are varied by the Minister giving written notice to landowners.

Payments to Land Owners in relation to the Five-Year Leases

The NTNER Act provides that if the five-year leases amount to an acquisition of property within the meaning of the Australian Constitution, the land owners will be entitled to reasonable compensation. A mechanism is also available under the legislation for an independent valuation by the Northern Territory Valuer-General to determine a reasonable rent to be paid by the Australian Government for a five-year lease.

A special appropriation to cover these payments is provided for by section 63 of the NTNER Act.

The *Indigenous Affairs Legislation Amendment Act 2008* included amendments to the NTNER Act to add flexibility on payments for five-year leases by facilitating the negotiation of agreed payments with the Land Councils. The amendment will enable the Commonwealth and the Aboriginal owners of the land to negotiate an amount for a five-year lease and enable the Land Councils to represent Aboriginal landowners in negotiations for payments (including the option of representing community living areas if requested by the land owners).

The Government would prefer to negotiate the amount of any payment for five-year leases rather than go to court. These negotiations are yet to commence having regard to the fact that the surveys of the five-year lease boundaries have recently been completed and that the *Indigenous Affairs Legislation Amendment Act 2008* was recently passed by Parliament.

What has been achieved?

The NT Government's Territory Housing (TH) has agreed in principle to deliver property and tenancy management services for community houses on the 73 NTER communities.

The transition to the RPHMF will lead to improved community housing in the communities and will take place over the next 2 to 3 years. It will also lead to the houses being managed in a similar way to other public housing properties, with policies such as:

- waiting lists based on need
- effective repair, maintenance and upkeep procedures
- tenancy support services that ensure tenants understand their rights and responsibilities and are supported to meet their obligations, including paying rent and maintaining their home.

Considerable effort has gone into ensuring that there has been adequate community consultation to ease the transition to the new arrangements. This has included the delivery of a community consultation and engagement campaign that started in January 2008 and resulted in community engagement visits to 61 communities by 30 June 2008.

Next steps

The communication and consultation process is ongoing and includes TH establishing Housing Reference Groups in each community that will inform tenancy management practices such as developing waiting lists and managing difficult tenants.

There was no consistent performance indicator data available for property and tenancy management at 30 June 2008, as the new arrangements had not taken effect until 1 July 2008. However, it is anticipated that data will become available from 1 October 2008 as the new arrangements are implemented.

Facilitating rollout of remote housing

In relation to housing, the Australian Government is investing \$813 million in remote Indigenous housing and infrastructure in the NT, including \$793 million over the next four years as part of a joint agreement with the NT Government.

Under the SIHIP, living conditions for 80 per cent of people in targeted communities will be improved. This will include:

- around 750 new houses including new subdivisions
- more than 250 new houses to replace houses to be demolished
- over 2,500 significant housing upgrades
- essential infrastructure and improvements in living conditions in town camps.

Five-Year Leases Under s31 NTNER Act 2007

FIVE-YEAR LEASES								
Commenced 18 August 2007			Commenced 17 February 2008					
Name	Land Type	Land Council	Name	Land Type	Land Council	Name	Land Type	Land Council
Ali Curung	ALRA	CLC	Acacia Larrakia	ALRA	NLC	Peppimenarti	ALRA	NLC
Alpurrululam	CLA	CLC	Amanbidji	ALRA	NLC	Pigeon Hole	ALRA	NLC
Amoonguna	ALRA	CLC	Barunga	ALRA	NLC	Pirlangimpi	ALRA	TLC
Ampilatwatja	ALRA	CLC	Belyuen	ALRA	NLC	Rittarangu	CLA	NLC
Areyonga	ALRA	CLC	Beswick	ALRA	NLC	Robinson River	ALRA	NLC
Atitjere	CLA	CLC	Binjari	CLA	NLC	Tara	CLA	CLC
Daguragu	ALRA	CLC	Bulla	CLA	NLC	Wadeye	ALRA	NLC
Gapuwiyak	ALRA	NLC	Bulman	ALRA	NLC	Warruwi	ALRA	NLC
Gunbalanya	ALRA	NLC	Canteen Creek	MISC	CLC	Weemol	ALRA	NLC
Gunyangara	ALRA	NLC	Engawala	CLA	CLC	Willowra	ALRA	CLA
Hermannsburg	ALRA	CLC	Galiwinku	ALRA	NLC	Wilora	CLA	CLC
Kaltukatjara	ALRA	CLC	Haasts Bluff	ALRA	CLC	Yuelamu	ALRA	CLC
Kintore	ALRA	CLC	Imangara	CLA	CLC			
Minyerri	CLA	NLC	Imanpa	CLA	CLC			
Ngukurr	ALRA	NLC	Jilkminggan	CLA	NLC			
Nyirripi	ALRA	CLC	Lajamanu	ALRA	CLC			
Papunya	ALRA	CLC	Laramba	CLA	CLC			
Pmara Jutunta	ALRA	CLC	Maningrida	ALRA	NLC			
Ramingining	ALRA	NLC	Manyallaluk	ALRA	NLC			
Santa Teresa	ALRA	CLC	Milikapiti	ALRA	TLC			
Titjikala	CLA	CLC	Milingimbi	ALRA	NLC			
Wallace Rockhole	ALRA	CLC	Minjilang	ALRA	NLC			
Wutunugurra	CLA	CLC	Mt Liebig	ALRA	CLC			
Yirkkala	ALRA	NLC	Nturiya	ALRA	CLC			
Yuendumu	ALRA	CLC	Numbulwar	ALRA	NLC			
Yarralin	CLA	NLC	Palumpa	ALRA	NLC			
26			38					
TOTAL COMMUNITIES ACQUIRED: 64								

Legend

ALRA	=	<i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976</i>
CLA	=	Community Living Area
MISC	=	Miscellaneous (NT crown land subject to ALRA claim)
NLC	=	Northern Land Council
CLC	=	Central Land Council
TLC	=	Tiwi Land Council
ALC	=	Anindilyakwa Land Council

Measure: Housing and Land Reform

Sub-measure: Urgent repairs to infrastructure

What are we aiming to do?

To repair buildings and other infrastructure

Why are we delivering this?

Several reports have documented the poor state of infrastructure in remote communities^{18, 19, 20}. This measure is being delivered to contribute to the future development of communities, including supporting increased housing.

How are we delivering this?

A range of infrastructure works requiring immediate upgrades in NTER communities. Additional projects were identified and funding was allocated to the Tasks of Opportunity (ToO) for these projects.

As part of the NTER rollout, NTER communities have been able to access ToO funding to cover the costs of minor capital items, for example, sewerage services, fencing and road upgrades. Funding was via two projects, one administered by the NT Government and the other by the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory. In addition, communities with GBMs have had access to a specific funding pool designed to fund minor upgrades and refurbishments of community facilities.

Tasks undertaken included a sewerage pond upgrade involving extension of a sewerage sprinkler system, airstrip repairs, airstrip lighting installation, water tank upgrades, bore water machinery repairs, chlorination of water supplies, installation of fencing around community dump, repairs to community swimming pools and repairs to community roads.

Overall, these projects will provide improved health conditions for the communities and assist in meeting increased demand for infrastructure.

What has been achieved?

Some works completed and others funded.

Next steps

To complete works.

¹⁸ Commonwealth Grants Commission (2001), *Report on Indigenous Funding, Commonwealth Grants Commission*, Commonwealth Grants Commission, Canberra, pp148-191, in particular conclusions re infrastructure at p. 191.

¹⁹ Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs,(2007), *Living in the Sunburnt Country, Indigenous Housing: Findings of the Review of the Community Housing and Infrastructure Programme, Final Report*, February 2007, PriceWaterHouseCoopers, Ch 4, pp 51-84.

²⁰ Productivity Commission, *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage – Key Indicators reports 2003, 2005, 2007* (environmental health, sewerage and clean water).

Measure: Housing and Land Reform

Sub-measure: Community Clean-Up

What are we aiming to do?

To make communities safer and healthier

Why are we delivering this?

The condition of many properties is poor. It should be noted however that some communities have excellent maintenance programs for their housing stock.

How are we delivering this?

The Community Clean-Up (CCU) sub-measure targeted the 73 NTER communities (excluding outstations) under the NTER.

The CCU program includes 5 components:

1. Component 1 – “Make Safe Works” - electrician and plumber/gasfitter provided expert advice on safety for houses and facilities and carried out physical works where dangerous electrical and sewerage situations exist and could be fixed quickly. If there were dangerous electrical situations where the work could not be fixed quickly, the electrician and/or plumber/gasfitter used a lock out/tag out process to prevent use of that electrical or sewerage system until the Trade Contractor House repair team was mobilised to the site.
2. Component 2 – Rubbish Removal, Cleaning and Painting of Dwellings – the trade contractors purchased the paint and support the Community Works Coordinator (supplied by then DEWR) in the supervision of the painting and arranging and administering the hire of light trucks and equipment from both the Trade Contractors and/or local organisations to support the rubbish clean-up activities.
3. Component 3 – Detailed Property Assessments - Property Condition Reports were provided for all dwellings. These reports detail the scope of works for the minor repair works (Component 4 – Scheduled Repair Works) to a maximum of \$5000 labour and \$5000 materials.
4. Component 4 – House Repair Works – Trade contractors provided the materials and carried out the repair works to the standard specified in the Scheduled Repair Works for each community.
5. Component 5 – Community Summary Report – the Project Manager provided detailed completion reports for each community. These reports include:
 - a) general outcomes
 - b) general overview of the properties in the community
 - c) community involvement;
 - d) community relations;
 - e) summary of works, categorised into:
 - Component 1 - Make Safe Works
 - Component 2 – Rubbish Removal, Cleaning and Painting of Dwellings
 - Component 3 – Detailed House Assessments
 - Component 4 – Scheduled Repair Works
 - f) estimated material costs and labour hours of further required works, per dwelling and public/community building; and
 - g) recommended future housing and infrastructure improvements for future of community.

The public/community buildings included under the CCU Program in addition to housing were:

- recreation halls/community halls including toilets showers, stage, spare rooms, indoor basketball courts, lighting
- drop in centres
- public laundries
- women's business houses
- men's business houses
- art centres
- museums (men/women)
- football ovals/ pools including change rooms, toilet blocks
- outdoor basketball courts including lights
- adult training facilities
- music studios

What has been achieved?

3,046 properties surveyed to assess their condition and need for repair. In all of these properties, "make safe" repairs have been undertaken, that is, the most urgent repairs. The next level of repair work, "minor vital repairs", has been completed in 2,995 properties. The make safe and minor vital repairs work has been undertaken in 68 communities.

Asbestos Surveying was also done as part of the initial "make safe" component of the CCU program. Any asbestos identified was clearly labelled for future management. Members of the community were encouraged to participate where possible.

Next steps

The collection of data on the condition of the properties will provide up to date information for the Strategic Alliance Project, under SIHIP, which is another larger more intensified construction and upgrade project that is due to begin in 2008-09.

This new project is being funded jointly by the NT Government and the Australian Government and managed by the NT Government.

Measure: Housing and Land Reform

Sub-measure: Permits

What are we aiming to do?

The Government is proposing to repeal previous amendments to *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (ALRA) which gave public access to communal areas in major communities in the NT. A Bill for the repeal of the provisions is currently before the Parliament.

Why are we delivering this?

In 2006 the previous Government commenced a review of the permit system. The discussion paper that accompanied the request for submissions referred to concerns that the permit system was causing already remote Aboriginal communities to be “closed off” from scrutiny and excluded from potential economic benefits that could flow from increased numbers of people accessing communities.²¹

The Government made an election commitment to reinstate the permit system on Aboriginal land. The Government takes the view that Aboriginal people should have the right to decide who visits their land and have highlighted the position taken by the Northern Territory Police Association which has stated that the permit system is an additional tool in policing these communities and keeping out grog and drug runners.

How are we delivering this?

The ALRA made it an offence to enter or remain on Aboriginal land without a permit and established the operation of the permit system and made provision for the Land Councils and traditional owners to issue and revoke permits, and for the NT Minister to issue permits.

The 2007 NTER legislation package made changes to the permit system that came into effect in two stages.

On 18 August 2007:

- all government workers and contractors were provided with a defence for entering and remaining on Aboriginal land
- the Federal Minister was given the power to authorise a ‘class of persons’ to enter and remain on Aboriginal land for the five year period of the NTER. On 10 October 2007, the previous Minister used this power to make an authorisation to allow government workers, contractors and volunteers that were engaged by the NTER to enter and remain on Aboriginal land for the five year period (this was primarily aimed at the medical profession and volunteers working as part of the NTER who may not have come under the category of government workers and contractors). This authorisation remains in force.

On 17 February 2008:

²¹ Department of Families, Community Services And Indigenous Affairs (2006), *Discussion Paper, 'Access to Aboriginal Land under the Northern Territory Aboriginal Land Rights Act – Time for Change?'*, October 2006 http://www.oipc.gov.au/permit_system/docs/permits_Discussion_Paper.pdf.

- members of the public no longer require a permit to access common areas of 52 major communities. A Ministerial determination specifying which roads the public may use to access these communities has not been made and as such, members of the public may only access the communities by sea or air (or on a small number of public roads to communities)
- a permit is no longer required by people attending a court hearing on Aboriginal land
- permits issued by Land Councils or traditional owners can only be revoked by the issuer of the permit.

The Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Emergency Response Consolidation) Bill 2008 (the Bill) was introduced to Parliament on 21 February 2008. Schedule 3, Access to Aboriginal land, makes amendments to the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* to repeal the permit system amendments in relation to access to major communities made by the previous Government which came into force on 17 February 2008. The previous Government's amendments which provided for government workers to access Aboriginal land without a permit will not be affected.

What has been achieved?

The Bill is currently before the Parliament. Proposed new subsection 70(2BB) of the ALRA in Item 1 of Schedule 3 of the Bill provides for a ministerial authorisation to provide 'a class of persons' access to Aboriginal land. This ministerial authorisation power is currently provided for in the existing section 70(2BB). It has been in force since the NTER legislation package was passed in 2007. The amendment that is proposed in the Bill is to refine this power to provide that the authorisation can be limited to a geographical area, such as major communities, and that it can be subject to conditions.

The existing power and the proposed power will endure only for the five year period of the intervention. Section 70(2BD) of the ALRA provides that the ministerial power to issue authorisations will expire at the end of the five-year period that commenced with the NTER legislation package.

It is intended that the authorisation power be used to provide access to major communities for journalists for the purpose of reporting on events in communities, subject to certain conditions. FaHCSIA has consulted the four NT Land Councils and the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance on the conditions of the authorisation.

The Bill was referred to the Senate Community Affairs Committee on 19 March 2008 and the Committee Report was tabled on 15 May 2008. The majority report from Government Senators recommends the Bill be passed. The Bill remains before Parliament.

The following table provides a summary of access arrangements to Aboriginal Land in the NT.

NTER Permit Sub-measure

Original measure in the NTNER Legislation	Date of effect	Current Conditions	After 2008 NTER Consolidation Bill passed
Public access to common areas of major communities	17 February 2008	Permit <u>Not</u> Required	Permit Required
Public access to airstrips and landing places servicing major communities	17 February 2008	Permit <u>Not</u> Required	Permit Required
Public access to roads on Aboriginal land	17 February 2008	Permit Required - Minister Macklin has declined to make the necessary determination that any road may be travelled over by the public	Permit Required
Public access to Court hearings on Aboriginal land	17 February 2008	Permit <u>Not</u> Required	Permit Required
Government workers able to access Aboriginal land when acting in official capacity	18 August 2007	Permit <u>Not</u> Required	Permit <u>Not</u> Required
Power to issue Ministerial Authorisation for the duration of the NTNER	18 August 2007	Ministerial authorisation may be made - one such authorisation is in place	Ministerial authorisation may be made - subject to conditions. Minister Macklin proposes to make an authorisation to allow access to journalists to report on events in communities
Prohibition on Land Councils revoking TO permits and vice versa	17 February 2008	Prohibition is in place	Prior position will be reinstated

Measure: Housing and Land Reform

Sub-measure: Ongoing accommodation for Australian Government personnel in remote communities.

What are we aiming to do?

This initiative aims to improve the temporary accommodation standards for GBMs to facilitate their work within remote communities.

Why are we delivering this?

Current temporary staff accommodation in cyclone prone coastal areas (24 locations) is provided through 20 foot containers. These are very small and basic and do not provide an environment suitable for longer term occupation.

The provision of better temporary accommodation will provide a more positive living environment and assist in both the recruitment and retention of GBMs.

How are we delivering this?

Demountable complexes comprising of two demountables joined by a common breezeway will be established within each of the 24 coastal community locations. The demountable complexes will be installed in priority order as resources become available. Subject to environmental conditions, the intention is to install all the demountables within the communities by December 2008.

What has been achieved?

Demountables have been purchased and installation will commence late August 2008.

Next steps

Examine future staff accommodation requirements based on the outcomes of the NTER Review.

Measure: Coordination

Sub-measure: Taskforce role

What are we aiming to do?

The NTER Taskforce (NTERT) was appointed to oversight the response to deal with child abuse and family violence and remote Aboriginal communities in the NT.

Why are we delivering this?

The NTERT was formed to advise the Australian Government and oversee the implementation of the NTER during the first year.

How are we delivering this?

The Taskforce was appointed by the former Government and chaired by Dr Sue Gordon AM, with Major General Dave Chalmers AO CSC as the Operational Commander in charge of the Operations Centre.

What has been achieved?

The Taskforce's final report to the Australian Government, available at www.fahcsia.gov.au/nter/reports, was released on 21 June 2008.

Next steps

The Taskforce ceased on 30 June 2008.

Measure: Coordination

Sub-measure: Government Business Managers

What are we aiming to do?

To improve governance of communities

Why are we delivering this?

So that problems can be tackled community by community, with local input and ownership.

How are we delivering this?

Government Business Managers (GBMs) are being appointed in Indigenous communities as part of the NTER.

GBMs are the single face of the Australian Government at the local community level. They will be in place in communities for at least five years and may work across more than one community.

The GBMs have a leadership role in coordinating Australian Government work at the community level to ensure the effective whole-of-government delivery of services in communities and to maximise the benefits to the community of Australian Government funding provided to the community.

The role of GBMs can be expected to evolve over time as the NTER moves into its next phases and with the rollout of local government reforms in the NT.

Where GBMs are not deployed, such as in town camps, outstations and other small communities (eg Mataranka), Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs) and the NTER Operations Centre will work together to coordinate Australian Government effort.

GBMs provide the key liaison and consultation point in communities and are key sources of local information to the NTER Operations Centre and Australian Government agencies about progress of the NTER measures, government-funded service delivery and issues impacting on the local communities. Their knowledge and information will guide coordinated government action and decision-making that is tailored to the on-the-ground needs of the community.

The Government Business Managers' Flexible Funding Pool (GBM FFP) contributes to the stabilising and supporting of communities by facilitating a streamlined response to immediate community needs that cannot be addressed through other established programs. Priorities are identified by the GBM through consultation with the community, the relevant ICC and the NTER Operations Centre.

The GBM FFP has enabled minor infrastructure repairs and upgrades within the community and projects aimed at enhancing community capability across the NTER communities. Some examples of activities funded from the GBM FFP include the fencing of houses, training for Indigenous people in business and management skills, upgrades to ovals and playgrounds, purchase of fire fighting equipment and child restraints to enable children to safely travel to medical treatment.

What has been achieved?

At 30 June 2008, 55 GBMs were employed providing service to 72 NTER communities.²²

Next steps

Funding has been provided for 2008-09 to continue GBM roles in communities.

²² The community of Acacia Larrakia is an NTER community temporarily not serviced by a GBM.

Measure: Coordination

Sub-measure: Community engagement (including Leadership Development) and volunteering programs

What are we aiming to do?

To facilitate greater engagement and involvement of Indigenous people at the community and local level in policy development and service delivery.

Why are we delivering this?

Community engagement is considered a success factor in complex implementations. Engagement of volunteers was considered as a way to address skill needs and to include highly motivated individuals who wished to contribute to the well-being of Indigenous Australians.

How are we delivering this?

The Indigenous Leadership and Engagement Group (ILEG) developed and delivered a community engagement approach for the NTER resulting in engagement with and support for development of 300 Indigenous people from targeted communities. The approach was to use a series of workshops for key people from the NT communities to promote understanding of the NTER and the implementation process and encourage communities to engage effectively with government representatives. ILEG was able to establish contact with key community stakeholders through its network of past leadership development course participants, and so set up regional workshops to cover the 73 NTER communities.

The community engagement workshops were successful in promoting understanding of Government plans and their implementation among Indigenous communities, and in encouraging communities to engage effectively in the implementation (for example, by articulating their communities' priorities across the measures to be available via the NTER). Workshop facilitators conducted a qualitative assessment of success in achieving the community engagement aims.

The approach of the new Government is to be more consultative and responsive to the expressed views of Indigenous people. The community engagement approach aligns very well with the change in policy direction and coordination and appropriate sequencing should prove less difficult in future. No formal evaluation process was possible.

What has been achieved?

Community engagement and leadership

ILEG developed and delivered the workshops to 178 people, covering the 73 NTER communities between July and November 2007. A further six cluster workshops which included a leadership training component were delivered to another 122 participants between January and June 2008.

The community engagement approach, as assessed by the workshop organisers/facilitators, was that all stakeholders gained a better understanding of what was planned by the Government and how it could affect them. The reaction to the workshops was generally positive, although a few participants remained pessimistic. The value of engaging actively with Government was well understood.

Details on the NTER Community Engagement Workshops are as follows:

- Phase 1, June – December 2007, approximately 178 participants, delivered in Alice Springs, Darwin, Erldunda, Katherine and Nhulunbuy
- Phase 2, Cluster Workshops March – June 2008, approximately 122 participants, delivered in McDonald Shire, Vic/Daly & Roper/Gulf Shires, Tiwi Islands Shire, Barkly Shire, West Arnhem Shire and Darwin Town Camps and near-by communities.

Volunteers

With the exception of paid medical volunteers to assist with CHCs, no volunteers have been deployed as this initiative raised a number of operational difficulties which have not been resolved. These difficulties include:

- lack of suitable transport to and accommodation in Indigenous communities
- need to provide a high level of supervision and support to volunteers in order to meet the duty of care obligations to volunteers and community members
- unresolved insurance issues, including occupational health and safety obligations.

Next steps

The major message from all the workshops was that there needs to be more communication with community members. People want to know what is going on and how they can be involved.

The 2008-09 Budget also provides for the engagement of up to 20 Indigenous community members to act as community agents, providing a conduit between community and government representatives and facilitating greater community input to government decision making.

The volunteers initiative is not continuing.

Measure: Coordination

Sub-measure: Commonwealth Ombudsman support for the NTER

What are we aiming to do?

The Commonwealth Ombudsman will investigate complaints from people who believe that they have been treated unfairly or unreasonably by an Australian Government agency.

Why are we delivering this?

To provide transparency and an avenue for review and procedural fairness to people in communities affected by the NTER.

How are we delivering this?

The Commonwealth Ombudsman was provided with funding to investigate complaints from people who believe that they have been treated unfairly or unreasonably by an Australian Government agency in connection with the NTER and provide an objective channel of communication for Indigenous communities.

Staff of the office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman have been visiting NTER communities, and investigating complaints.

What has been achieved?

By 30 June 2008, the Commonwealth Ombudsman had received 489 complaints, of those, 340 have been or are being investigated.

By 30 June 2008, the Commonwealth Ombudsman had visited 39 communities and town camps and held complaint clinics in Alice Springs and Wadeye.

Next steps

The target is to visit all NTER communities after the commencement of IM.

Measure: Coordination

Sub-measure: Logistical support (including temporary accommodation, telecommunications and vehicles)

What are we aiming to do?

To provide logistical and administrative support

Why are we delivering this?

Joint Task Force (JTF) 641, and in particular North West Mobile Force (NORFORCE), was engaged to conduct this support because of its familiarity with area of operation (NT), ability to mobilise quickly and ability to adapt to change at short notice.

How are we delivering this?

On the 27 June 2007, the Australian Defence Force (ADF) commenced Operation OUTREACH by raising JTF 641, with the objective to provide direct support to the immediate rollout of NTER operations. The ADF responded within 48 hours of notification of the task and deployed from Darwin.

Composition

JTF 641 comprised primarily of the NORFORCE as the lead unit. Members involved were drawn from all three services (Navy, Army and Air Force). ADF members included both full and part-time personnel, with a diverse range of experience from across Australia including almost 200 Indigenous personnel in various capacities within the JTF.

Task

Tasks included transport and communications, camping support, accommodation, meals and rations, distribution of construction stores and other commodities, linguistic support and liaison.

Physical

JTF 641 provided enabling logistics and base infrastructure support to NTER through the physical deployment of ADF assets to support DoHA, CHC teams and the establishment of NT police stations in some communities. JTF 641 provided land, air and sea transport to other government agencies. NORFORCE established processes and enabled the transmission of both data and voice communications.

Brokering

NORFORCE acted as a two way interface between communities and government agencies. Initial misgivings and uncertainty about the emergency response were alleviated by the communication of the intention and intended outcomes of the NTER to the community.

Duration of Support

Agreed levels of support to the stabilisation phase of the NTER were provided from 27 June 2007 and ceased on 31 December 2008. After 31 December 2008, FaHCSIA and other agencies became responsible for logistical support for their operations.

What has been achieved?

Aim of logistical support was achieved.

Next steps

Ongoing NTER logistical support provided through FaHCSIA and other agencies involved.