



Australian Government

**Department of Families, Housing,
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs**

PO Box 7576 Canberra Business
Centre ACT 2610
Email • Facsimile • Telephone 1300
653 227
National Relay Service: TTY: 133 677,
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727,
[Internet relay:](#)
www.relayservice.com.au
www.fahcsia.gov.au

Closing the Gap

in the

Northern Territory

Monitoring Report

January – June 2012
Part One

Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory

Whole of Government Monitoring Report

The Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement ceased on the 30 June 2012. Under this Agreement FaHCSIA had responsibility for the compilation and publication of the six monthly Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory monitoring reports. This will be the last Monitoring Report published under this agreement.

The Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory package commenced on 1 July 2012 and is the Australian Government's new commitment, over 10 years, to work with Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory to build strong, independent lives, where communities, families and children are safe and healthy. Stronger Futures is a \$3.4 billion investment over ten years by the Australian Government that is underpinned by a new National Partnership Agreement with the Northern Territory Government relating to services that the Northern Territory is responsible for delivering to remote communities, such as policing, schooling and child protection.

It has been agreed by the Australian and Northern Territory Governments that six monthly performance reports will continue and be strengthened as an essential part of the Stronger Futures package. The reports will continue to be publicly released by the Commonwealth Minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs. These reports, the first of which will be due in mid-2013, will provide information on the performance of all programs and services funded in the Stronger Futures package delivered by the Australian or Northern Territory Governments.

Report Structure

This Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory Monitoring Report brings together performance information for each measure from 31 December 2011 to 1 July 2012. However, in many instances information is provided for the entire period 1 July 2007 to 1 July 2012.

Much of the data in this Monitoring Report focuses on output measures such as increased police presence, number of night patrols, extra health workers etc. Where possible the report also includes related indicators such as the incidence of reported crime. However, interpretation of these data may be complicated by factors such as the underreporting of crime or by increased police numbers, which result in an increase in reported crime. These data alone makes it difficult to determine if the actual incidence of crime remains unchanged or may have fallen.

While policies designed to improve communities can have a significant immediate effect, this is the exception rather than the rule. It will take a concerted effort over many years to achieve significant lasting change.

This Monitoring Report has a slightly different structure to previous reports and also provides an overview of the Stronger Futures legislation and funded measures.

The Monitoring Report has two parts.

Part One

Part I of this report includes the following elements:

- Outcomes and the NTER;
- Stronger Futures in the NT;
- Background to the NTER Measures; and
- NTER Measures.

Part Two

Part Two of the Monitoring Report brings together information against each measure and includes achievements and progress to date against targets and/or milestones. It also includes what has not been achieved and 'lessons learned' or impacts.

Outcomes and the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER)

The previous Monitoring Report provided a high level overview regarding how outcomes have changed since the commencement of NTER¹. An extensive overview of trends in outcomes was also provided in the NTER evaluation². Since those reports were published, new data have become available which inform our understanding of whether progress is being made to close the gap in Indigenous disadvantage in the NT.

Taken as a whole, the health-related data show continuing positive trends. In particular, there was a statistically significant fall in the age standardised Indigenous mortality rate in the NT, which declined by 17.7 % between 2007 and 2011. Data on the nutritional status of Indigenous children also show improvements with a statistically significant fall in the age standardised rate of anaemia among Indigenous children aged 0-4 in remote parts of the NT (a 28% decline) and stunting (a 23% decline) from 2004 to 2011. Given the relatively short time frame it is difficult to assess whether changes from 2007 to 2011 are statistically significant but some changes are evident. There was a significant decline in the age standardised rate of anaemia from 25.1 per 100 in 2007 to 20.9 per 100 in 2011 (a 16% decline). There was also a significant decline in the age standardised rate of stunting for Indigenous boys from 2007 to 2011. These findings are supported by hospitalisation data which show a statistically significant decline

¹ <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/our-responsibilities/indigenous-australians/publications-articles/closing-the-gap/measuring-progress-of-nter-activities/closing-the-gap-in-the-northern-territory-monitoring-report-july-to-december-2011>

² <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/our-responsibilities/indigenous-australians/publications-articles/northern-territory-emergency-response-evaluation-report-2011>

in the hospitalisation rate for nutritional anaemia and malnutrition (any diagnosis) for Indigenous children in the NT from 2000-01 to 2010-11. Declines are also evident from 2006-07 to 2010-11 but these changes are not statistically significant.

Counter to this generally positive picture there has been a small but statistically significant increase of wasting for Indigenous boys³. The age standardised rate per 100 population of wasting for Indigenous boys aged 0-4 in remote areas rose from 4.6 in 2007 to 6.4 in 2011. The rate for girls was unchanged at 4.0 in both 2007 and 2011. Also, the overall hospitalisation rate for Indigenous children has remained largely unchanged since 2000-01 with a rate of 245 per 1,000 hospitalised in 2010-11.

It is difficult to assess trends in community safety as reported crime has been affected by the provision of around 60 additional police. However, there is strong evidence from both the Community Safety and Wellbeing Research Study (CSWRS) and research commissioned in 2009 by the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) and Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service (CAALAS) that the extra police that were provided through the NTER were welcomed by residents in NTER communities. There is also good evidence that the additional police and other extra services such as night patrols have made people feel safer. This conclusion has some support in the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS). For example the proportion of Indigenous people in remote parts of the NT who reported that the level of neighbourhood conflict was a problem in their community fell from 30.7 % in 2002 to 17.4 % in 2008. In 2002, 42.4 % of respondents in remote parts of the NT reported that assault was a problem in their community. By 2008 this proportion had fallen to 32.9 %.

There are concerns that suicide rates have increased in the Northern Territory in recent years⁴. The latest data shows that the total number of Indigenous suicides

³ Wasting is defined as 'below minus two standard deviations from median weight for height of reference population', Stunting is defined as 'below minus two standard deviations from median height for age of reference population', and Underweight is defined as 'below minus two standard deviations from median weight for age of reference population'. WHO Global Database on Child Growth and Malnutrition <http://www.who.int/nutgrowthdb/en> and UNICEF, State of the World's Children, 2001, <http://www.unicef.org/sowc01/tablesTable 2>

⁴ Some commentators have claimed that the Indigenous youth suicide rate in the NT has risen in recent years. In a submission from the Menzies School of Health Research to the recent NT Inquiry to youth suicides it was claimed that a comparison of data between 2001-05 and 2006-10 indicate an increasing rate of suicide deaths of 10 to 17 year old Aboriginal children in the Northern Territory (2001-05 18.8 per 100,000; 2006-10 30.1 per 100,000). However, the underlying numbers on which this comparison is based are very small. Such small numbers which represent a rise from 2 to 3 suicides per year, would not normally be converted to a rate per 100,000.

The study upon which these numbers are based is now available on the Office for the Children's Commissioner's web site. The underlying data upon which this report is based do not support claims that Indigenous youth suicide has increased since the start of the NTER (no such claim is made in the Menzies Report). The number of suicides among Indigenous 10-17 year olds in the NT was as follows: 2006 (5), 2007 (6), 2008 (4), 2009 (0) and 2010 (3). The numbers are actually lower in 2010 than they

in the NT in 2010 (24) was lower than in 2007 (29) and is at the same level as it was in 2004. There is no obvious trend in the data in recent years. A 2006 study by Measey et al⁵ advised caution given small numbers and concluded that the suicide rate for Indigenous people in the NT had risen sharply from 1981 to 2002. The Indigenous suicide rate in the NT is higher than any other Australian jurisdiction⁶ and for this reason is of serious concern.

A key data source for assessing trends in outcomes for NTER communities is the Census. Results from the 2011 Census have been progressively released over 2012. These data allow for assessments to be made, among other things, on educational attainment and employment.

Comparing the 2006 and 2011 Census results showed a 21% increase in the number of Indigenous Australians counted in the Census; 548,370 counted in 2011 compared to 455,028 in the 2006 Census. The distribution of this increase was heavily concentrated in the Eastern Seaboard States. For example the number of Indigenous people counted in the census was 26% higher in 2011 than it was in 2006 in Victoria, and 24.6% higher in 2011 than it was in 2006 in NSW. The increase in the Northern Territory at 5.8% was far lower than in any other State or Territory.

The census count is used in conjunction with other population statistics to estimate of the size of the Indigenous population or Estimated Resident Population (ERPs) These ERPs are used for funding allocations rather than the Census count. The ERP figures adjust, among other things, for any Census undercount.

The ABS released preliminary ERP figures for the Australian Indigenous population on 27 September 2012. According to the ABS ERP data there were 669,736 Indigenous Australians on 30 June 2011. The ABS estimates that there were 68,901 Indigenous people in the NT which represents 10.3% of Australia's Indigenous population. This proportion is down from the 2006 Census when the ABS estimated that the NT accounted for 12% of Australia's Indigenous population in 2006.

For planning and for the purposes of monitoring trends over time, analysts use the projections developed by the ABS. The ABS projections (series B) based on the 2006 Census suggested that there were 575,552 Indigenous people across Australia in 2011, however, the new ERP figures based on the 2011 Census suggest that there were 669,736 Indigenous Australians in 2011. Most of the difference was due to Indigenous people on the Eastern seaboard.

were in 2007 but care is required due to small numbers. If the suicides in Greater Darwin and for Alice Springs are excluded then a similar pattern is evident: 2006 (2), 2007 (4), 2008 (1), 2009 (0), 2010 (2).

5 Measey, M.L., Li, S.Q., Parker, R. and Wang, Z. 2006, 'Suicide in the Northern Territory, 1981-2002, Medical Journal of Australia, Vol 185 (6).'

6 Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage, Key Indicators 2011, Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision 2011, p 7.64

However, in the NT the 2011 Census count had little impact on the estimate of the size of the Indigenous population in the NT. Indeed the ABS estimate of the Indigenous ERP in 2011 (68,901) is actually slightly lower than projected figure for 2011 based on the 2006 Census (69,855).

While the 2011 Census does not change our understanding of the overall size of the Indigenous population in the NT it does provide some useful updated information on outcomes.

Table 1 shows the data that is used to assess progress against the COAG target to halve the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people aged 20- 24 in Year 12 or equivalent attainment by 2020. As the table shows, the proportion of Indigenous Territorians aged 20-24 with a year 12 or equivalent qualification rose from 18.3% in 2006 to 28.7% in 2011. This rise of 10.4 percentage points was faster than in any other State or Territory⁷. However, at 28.7% the proportion of Indigenous 20-24 year olds with a year 12 or equivalent qualification in the NT is considerably lower than in any other jurisdiction.

Table 1: Percentage of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people aged 20-24 in the NT with a year 12 or equivalent qualification.

2006		2011			
20-24 with Yr12 or above %		20-24 with Yr12 or above %		Change 2006-2011 % points	
Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non Indigenous
18.3	76.9	28.7	80.6	+10.4	+3.7

Source: 2011 Census of Population and Housing, Australian Bureau of Statistics, www.abs.gov.au

The COAG target to halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people within a decade (by 2018) is measured with data on the proportion of 15-64 year olds who are employed.

The proportion of Indigenous people (nationally) aged 15-64 who are employed fell slightly from 2006 to 2011. However, these data should be treated with caution due to the impact of changes to the Community Development Employment Projects Program (CDEP).

The ABS has historically treated CDEP participants as being employed mainly because in the past CDEP participants were paid a CDEP wage that was similar to the amount paid to a Newstart participant. In recent years, however, the total number of CDEP participants has fallen and there has been a shift in the

⁷ ACT rose 4.9% points from 66.2% in 2006 to 71.1% in 2011, TAS rose 0.7% points from 57.2% in 2006 to 57.9% in 2011, SA rose 8.0% points from 42.7% in 2006 to 50.7% in 2011, WA rose 5.7% points from 39.6% in 2006 to 45.3% in 2011, QLD rose 4.6% points from 57.9% in 2006 to 62.5% in 2011, VIC rose 5.1% points from 56.4% in 2006 to 61.5% in 2011 and NSW rose 6.1% points from 49.8% in 2006 to 55.9% in 2011

composition of CDEP participants with many now in receipt of income support payments rather than CDEP wages.

As such, analysts often focus on trends in non-CDEP employment. This is also relevant as the key policy goal is to increase the number of Indigenous people in non-CDEP jobs not to increase the number of CDEP participants.

Table 2 also shows the NT Indigenous employment rate for 2006 and 2011 excluding CDEP participants⁸. The proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15-64 who were employed in a non-CDEP job rose in all jurisdictions (apart from the ACT) from 2006 to 2011 but the largest increase (9% points) was in the Northern Territory⁹. This is consistent with the finding in the Community Safety and Wellbeing Research Study, through which many residents in NTER communities, cited job creation as a key positive development¹⁰. This job creation is a result of the CDEP conversion process through which former CDEP positions were converted into properly paid jobs, and the additional jobs created, among other things, through NTER measures.

Table 2: The proportion of the NT Indigenous and non-Indigenous population (age 15-64) employed in a non-CDEP job

	2006 %	2011 %	Change % points
Indigenous	21.3	30.3	9.0
Non-Indigenous	81.9	82.4	0.5

If Darwin is excluded from the NT data then this trend is even more evident. If CDEP is counted as employment then the proportion of Indigenous people in the NT outside of Darwin who were employed fell slightly from 36.8% in 2006 to 33.9% in 2011. However, the proportion of Indigenous people aged 15-64 who were employed in a non-CDEP job rose from 15.3% to 25.4% points which is a rise of 10.1% points.

⁸ This analysis is based on Census data on CDEP participation. As the census data on CDEP is partial it understates the impact of falls in the number of CDEP participants from 2006 to 2011. If CDEP administrative data are used then the rise in the non-CDEP employment rate from 2006 to 2011 is greater than the census suggests. See Indigenous Employment: A Story of Continuing Growth, Matthew Gray, Boyd Hunter and Monica Howlett, CAEPR Topical Issue No 2/2013

⁹ ACT unchanged at 0.0% points from 63.6% in 2006 to 63.6% in 2011, TAS rose 0.2% points from 54.2% in 2006 to 54.4% in 2011, SA rose 0.7% points from 40.4% in 2006 to 41.1% in 2011, WA rose 2.0% points from 37.6% 2006 to 39.6% in 2011, QLD rose 0.5% points from 47.1% 2006 to 47.6% in 2011, VIC rose 0.5% points from 50.1% in 2006 to 50.6% in 2011 and NSW rose 1.8% points from 44.9% 2006 to 46.7% in 2011

¹⁰ <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/our-responsibilities/indigenous-australians/publications-articles/community-safety-and-wellbeing-research-study>

While the increase in the non-CDEP employment rate in the NT is welcome the proportion of Indigenous people in the NT who are employed in a non-CDEP job is still much lower than in any other jurisdiction.

Table 3 shows changes in the NT median household income from 2006 to 2011. Nationally the Indigenous median household income grew at a faster rate (25.3%) than non-Indigenous median household income (20.4%) from 2006 to 2011. In the NT Indigenous median household income grew at a faster rate (31.2%) than the national median for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous households from 2006 to 2011 but at a slightly slower rate than for non-Indigenous households in the NT (Table 3).

Table 3: Median total household income in the NT (\$/week) (a)(b) - 2006 and 2011

	2006		2011		Change 2006 to 2011	
	Households with Indigenous persons	Other households	Households with Indigenous persons	Other households	Households with Indigenous persons	Other households
	\$	\$	\$	\$	%	%
NT	837.10	1,323.50	1,098.00	1,811.00	31.2	36.8

(a) Applicable to occupied private dwellings excluding households where at least one member 15 years and over did not state an income or was temporarily absent. Excludes visitors.

(b) Households with at least one person of any age as a resident who identified as of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

Some care is required in interpreting the level and changes in median household income as the data does not control for household size. It is also useful to review changes in median personal income.

Nationally, growth in median personal income over 2006 to 2011 was at a faster rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (30.2%), than for non-Indigenous people (23.6%). The increase in median personal income for Indigenous people in the NT from 2006 to 2011 (25.1%) was above the national average for non-Indigenous people but was below the national average for Indigenous Australians and below the recorded change (2006-2011) for non-Indigenous people in the NT (Table 4).

Table 4: Median personal income in the NT (\$/week) (a) - 2006 and 2011

	2006		2011		Change 2006 to 2011	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	\$	\$	\$	\$	%	%
NT	215	712	269	925	25.1	29.9

(a) Applicable to persons aged 15 years and over

Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory

Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory is a comprehensive commitment by the Australian Government to work in partnership with Aboriginal people to tackle the unacceptable levels of disadvantage currently being experienced by too many Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory, particularly in remote communities.

Stronger Futures involves a 10-year funding commitment for programs and services that are critical to closing the gap, making communities safer and supporting Aboriginal people in remote areas to live strong and independent lives. These build on measures that were previously delivered through the Northern Territory Emergency Response. The future funding commitment is based on evidence of the effectiveness of these measures and strong support for their continuation, and responds directly to what Aboriginal people told the Government was important to them.

The 2012/13 Commonwealth Budget provides \$3.4 billion over 10 years and includes the following:

- \$713.5 million over 10 years for better primary health care, and better access to allied health services;
- \$40.9 million over 10 years for food security;
- \$694.9 million over 10 years to improve the safety of communities and help communities tackle alcohol abuse;
- \$583.4 million over 10 years to continue to improve Aboriginal children's access to quality education;
- \$442.4 million over 10 years to strengthen the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal children, youth and their families;
- \$206.4 million over 10 years to support the continuation of basic municipal and essential services for up to 9,000 Aboriginal people living in outstations and homelands;
- \$19.1 million to create 50 extra Aboriginal Working on Country ranger positions in remote Northern Territory communities over the next four years. In addition,

up to 100 Indigenous traineeships will be offered to ensure local people can fill jobs available in their communities;

- \$427.4 million over 10 years to place more local Aboriginal people in Indigenous Engagement Officer jobs, ensure local services are effective, support governance and leadership and local planning, and continue to support interpreting services;
- \$283.5 million to improve remote Indigenous housing, and remove asbestos from houses and community buildings. This will complement the substantial investment already provided for housing over 10 years under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing; and
- \$13.7 million to continue the family and social support services as part of the Alice Springs Transformation Plan which began in 2009 with over \$150 million investment.

Complementing the long-term investment, the Stronger Futures legislation aims to help deal with some of the issues that Aboriginal people have said are the most urgent. These include:

- Tackling the significant harm caused by alcohol abuse;
- Ensuring that children go to school every day so they can get a good education, and ensuring that parents play their part in making this happen; and
- Promoting greater food security in communities through community stores licensing.

The Stronger Futures legislation repeals the *Northern Territory National Emergency Response Act 2007*, and the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* applies in full to the new legislation. The Stronger Futures legislation was passed by the Parliament on 29 July 2012.

The 10-year funding for services and the legislation are accompanied by a strong commitment by the Australian Government to work differently and in partnership with Aboriginal people.

Through Stronger Futures the Australian Government is working with all levels of government and with communities in the Northern Territory to:

- improve services
- create more local jobs
- tackle alcohol abuse, and
- encourage children to go to school every day.

The Government will support Aboriginal organisations to deliver services under Stronger Futures and service providers will be expected to employ local Aboriginal people wherever possible.

Details of the Stronger Futures package can be found on the FaHCSIA website.¹¹

Background to the NTER

The Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) was announced by the previous Australian Government in June 2007 following release by the Northern Territory Government of the *Ampe Akelyernemane Meke Mekarle* "Little Children are Sacred"¹² report which brought national attention to evidence of child abuse in the Northern Territory's Indigenous communities.

The NTER comprised a wide range of measures that were primarily designed to protect children and make communities safe, and create a better future for Indigenous people in the Northern Territory.

The Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement transitioned the NTER to a three year development phase to build on and enhance the NTER measures. This agreement expired on 30 June 2012. The Australian Government's Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory package provides funding for the provision of services beyond this date and is underpinned by a new National Partnership Agreement with the Northern Territory Government.

The Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory Monitoring Report is organised under the relevant Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Building Blocks:

- Early Childhood;
- Schooling;
- Health;
- Economic Participation;
- Safe Communities; and
- Governance and Leadership.

The National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing in the Northern Territory (NPARIH) is not a measure under the NTER or Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement and is not covered in this report. Although land tenure is a measure under the NTER, the Healthy Homes building

¹¹ <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/our-responsibilities/indigenous-australians/programs-services/stronger-futures-in-the-northern-territory>

¹² P Anderson & R Wild (2007) *Ampe Akelyernemane Meke Mekarle* "Little Children are Sacred" Report of the Northern Territory Board of Inquiry into the Protection of Aboriginal Children from Sexual Abuse, Northern Territory Government, Darwin 2007

block is reported under the National Partnership Agreement for Remote Indigenous Housing and is not included in this report.

NTER Measures

Table 5: NTER Measures by Portfolio

Measure	Lead Commonwealth Portfolio
Improving Child and Family Health	Department of Health and Ageing
Enhancing Education	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Supporting Families	Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Promoting Law and Order	Attorney-General's Department
Land Tenure	Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Employment and Welfare Reform	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Coordination	Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The full suite of NTER measures has been implemented progressively in the prescribed areas specified in the former *Northern Territory National Emergency Response Act 2007* (NTNER Act). These areas comprise Aboriginal land, Community Living Areas (near pastoral leases) and town camps.

Key Information

Early Childhood

Crèches

The Government committed to construct 9 new crèches and upgrade 13 existing crèches under the NTER.

- All 13 crèche upgrades have been completed in Ntaria, Nyirripi, Santa Teresa, Gunbalanya, Borroloola, Maningrida, Minjilang, Minyerri, Gapuwiyak, Wugularr, Atitjere, Pirlangimpi and Waruwu;
- 8 of the 9 new crèches are operational: Milikapiti, Peppimenarti, Robinson River, Areyonga, Docker River, Papunya, Yarralin and Timber Creek; and
- Funding for the 'Lajamanu crèche and childcare centre' has been allocated and construction is close to completion.

Locational Supported Playgroups

Between 1 January and 30 June 2012, 210 adults and 219 children participated in 341 Locational Supported Playgroup (LSP) sessions. Across the reporting time period, this participation included:

- 42 adults and 43 children in 69 LSP sessions in Numbulwar;
- 36 adults and 38 children in 56 LSP sessions in Milingimbi;
- 54 adults and 53 children in 57 LSP sessions in Lajamanu;
- 49 adults and 54 children in 94 LSP sessions in Gunbalanya; and
- 29 adults and 31 children in 65 LSP sessions in Yuendumu.

Intensive Support Playgroups

Between 1 January and 30 June 2012, 187 adults and 344 children participated in 264 Intensive Support Playgroups (ISP) sessions. This included:

- 136 adults and 186 children in 72 ISP sessions in the Katherine communities of Binjari, and Rockhole;
- 33 adults and 72 children in 96 ISP sessions in Tennant Creek; and
- 18 adults and 86 children in 96 ISP sessions in the Borroloola communities of Garawa, Mara and Yanyula.

Parenting Programs

Between 1 January and 30 June 2012, 168 adults, 124 children and 149 youth participated in Invest to Grow activities.

Between 1 January and 30 June 2012, 66 adults, 38 children and 10 youth participated in the Indigenous Children's Program in Berrimah.

Schooling

School Enrolment and Attendance

- The average school attendance rate in the NTER communities in June 2012 was 60.4%. This compares with 59.5% in June 2011.
- Total school enrolments decreased by 189 students between June 2011 and June 2012 (from 8,481 to 8,292).

School Nutrition Program

As at 30 June 2012, the School Nutrition Program (SNP) operated in 67 schools (62 Government, 5 non-government) in NTER communities..

- In the period 1 January to 30 June 2012 an estimated 3,080 breakfasts and 4,654 lunches were provided each school day (7,734 meals in total); and
- In the period 1 January to 30 June 2012, over 200 people were directly employed by the SNP program in meal delivery, of whom 171 are local Indigenous people.

Initiatives supporting Quality Teaching and Literacy and Numeracy

These initiatives assist Northern Territory education providers to develop career pathways for Indigenous staff, increase the number of Indigenous staff with education qualifications and provide support and programs to enable teachers and students to achieve improved outcomes in literacy and numeracy in prescribed remote communities. Key achievements over the past four years for these initiatives include:

- 15 Indigenous Workforce Development specialists worked with Indigenous para-professionals and professionals across the Northern Territory to enhance, strengthen and grow remote Indigenous workforces in schools;
- Since 2008 in the Government sector a total of 130 Assistant Teachers have attained Certificate III or higher level qualifications – Graduate Certificates, Diplomas or Degrees (in 2011, 56 staff completed qualifications);
- Since 2008 in the Catholic sector the Growing Our Own program has contributed to a total of 46 staff members completing in-service qualifications and/or Certificate or Bachelors qualifications in education (in 2011, 20 staff completed the program);
- Enhanced support has been provided to young people to enable transition from school into the workforce, further training or education or to take a leadership role within their community;

- Enhanced services have been provided to support students with Conductive Hearing Loss;
- Regional Indigenous Education Managers are supporting school leaders to effectively engage and work closely with Indigenous communities and to develop plans to prioritise Indigenous education reform activity; and
- 26 Literacy and Numeracy Coaches have worked with school teachers and leaders across the Northern Territory. Their support is changing the way in which school leaders plan for literacy and numeracy from pre-school to senior years, and shifting the ways in which literacy and numeracy teaching is delivered in classrooms.

Additional Teaching Staff

As at 30 June 2012, an additional 196 full-time equivalent teachers had been funded by the Commonwealth and employed by Northern Territory education providers:

- 170 in Northern Territory Department of Education schools (from NT DET report April 2012)
- 21 in Catholic schools (from NT CEO report July 2012); and
- 5 in Independent Schools (NT CEO Report July 2012).¹³

The measure is on track to meet its targets of 200 additional teachers by the end of 2012. Reporting from the NT Government sector indicates the full allocation of 170 full-time equivalent teachers have been recruited and the NT Catholic and Independent sector reports the measure is on track to meet its target of 30 teachers.

Teacher Housing

The Northern Territory Department of Education and Training received \$9.35 million for the construction of up to 22 additional teacher houses in remote communities. DEEWR agreed to pool the available Australian Government funding with Northern Territory Government funding for the same purpose into a Remote Teacher Housing Development Funding Pool. As a result of the pooling of funds, this measure has contributed to the construction of 47 teacher dwellings.

The Northern Territory Catholic Education Office received \$1.65 million for the construction of 4 teacher houses in remote communities (2 dwellings at Wadeye, 1 dwelling at Bathurst Island and 1 dwelling at Santa Teresa). All houses have been completed.

¹³ The non-government sector is implemented under the Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act 2000 (IETA)

Health

Expanding Health Service Delivery Initiative

Between 1 January to 30 June 2012:

- The NT Government and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations have advised that 222 new¹⁴ primary health care service positions continued or were established within the Northern Territory;
- Progress towards regionalisation proceeded in five priority Health Service Delivery Areas using the Guidelines endorsed by the Northern Territory Aboriginal Health Forum, with strategic oversight by a Senior Officer's Group (SOG) consisting of representatives from Department of Health Australia (DoHA), NT Department of Health (NT DoH) and Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT);
- Hub services funding continued in the areas of chronic disease and health promotion, hearing health and audiology services;
- Implementation of the Northern Territory Continuous Quality Improvement framework continued across all 14 Health Service Delivery Areas; and
- Between 1 January and 30 June 2012, the Commonwealth provided funding to the Remote Area Health Corps (RAHC) to place 306 health professionals in remote Aboriginal communities throughout the Northern Territory on short term placements – 66 general practitioners, 140 nurses, 29 allied health professionals and 71 dental personnel.

Child Health Check Specialist and Allied Health Follow-up Services

Between 1 January to 30 June 2012:

- 719 audiology checks were conducted and 683 children received audiology follow-up services; and
- 1,984 dental checks were conducted and 1,489 children received dental follow-up services.

Northern Territory Hospitalisation Data

The following provides data on long term trends in hospitalisation for Indigenous children aged 0-14 in the NT. There was a significant decrease over the period 2000-01 to 2010-11 in the age standardised hospitalisation rate for infectious and parasitic disease - from 45.5 per 1,000 populations in 2000-01 to 24.5 per 1,000 populations in 2010-11. This is a 46% decrease over the period. An analysis of additional diagnoses (i.e. all recorded diagnoses rather than only principal

¹⁴ Positions created since 1 July 2007

diagnosis) for selected nutrition-related conditions of Indigenous children aged 0-15 years, found:

- A significant decrease in the hospitalisation rate for nutritional anaemia (any diagnosis) over the period 2000-01 to 2010-11. The rate declined from 32.2 per 1,000 population in 2000-01 to 14.0 per 1,000 population in 2010-11 which is a 68% decline over the period; and
- A significant decrease in the hospitalisation rate for malnutrition - from 14.3 per 1,000 populations in 2000-01 to 5.1 per 1,000 in 2010-11 which is a 56% decline over the period.

Note: Care should always be exercised when analysing hospitalisation data as the data can be affected by the provision of additional services.

Part Two of the Monitoring Report shows age standardised hospitalisation rates for Indigenous children aged 0-14 for each financial year from 2000-01 to 2010-11 for the Northern Territory as a whole. This analysis is from the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2010 report, Northern Territory* (NT HPF report), updated to include 2010-11 data.

Healthy Under 5 Kids Program Data

The NT DoH Healthy Under Five Kids Data Collection (GAA) Program Report also contains detailed analysis of the Healthy Under 5s Kids (HU5K) Program data collection. This data was analysed for the NTER Evaluation.¹⁵¹ The HU5K program measures underweight, wasting, stunting and anaemia among Indigenous children aged 0-4 years in the NT based on World Health Organisation (WHO) 2006 standards. The analysis found:

- Significant improvements in two of the indicators (stunting and anaemia) from 2004 to 2011.

These results combined with findings of the analysis of hospitalisation rates for selected nutrition-related conditions (any diagnosis) may indicate some improvements to Indigenous children's health in the NT over this period (see Part 2 of the Monitoring report).

Child Special Services

Workforce training and development for remote workers, as at 30 June 2012 included:

- 75 workshops and information sessions; and
- 1,169 remote health and community services workers who have participated in these sessions increasing workforce capacity to respond to child abuse and related trauma, which includes mandatory reporting obligations.

¹⁵ See Growth Assessment and Action Program, pp. 228 of Chapter 6, NTER Evaluation Report, http://www.facs.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/nter_reports/Pages/nter_evaluation_rpt_2011.aspx

Mobile Outreach Service *Plus* (MOS *Plus*) Projects

Between 1 January and 30 June 2012:

- MOS *Plus* teams responded to any form of child abuse-related trauma by providing culturally safe, best practice counselling and support services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families and communities in remote NT communities. Top End and Katherine teams are located in Darwin and the Central Australia and Barkly teams are located in Alice Springs;
- As at 30 June 2012, 27 staff are employed in MOS *Plus*; and
- MOS *Plus* teams have made 210 visits to 61 communities delivering 544 case related¹⁶ and 863 non-case related services.

Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Rehabilitation Services

A total of \$2.6 million (\$1.5 million under the Closing the Gap – Northern Territory – Indigenous Health and Related Services Measure and \$1.1 million under the 2007 Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Closing the Gap – Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Services measure) was allocated in 2011-12 to continue the key activities of the NTER. This includes:

- Increasing the drug and alcohol treatment and rehabilitation workforce across six Aboriginal Community Controlled Medical Services and five stand-alone services, including; additional registered psychologists, nurses, social workers, Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) workers and community support workers located across Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs and Nhulunbuy;
- increasing the capacity of six treatment and rehabilitation services throughout Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs; and
- Providing drug and alcohol workforce education and professional development through the Northern Territory Department of Health and Families.

Food Security and Community Stores

As at 30 June 2012, there are 91 licensed community stores in the Northern Territory. In the period 1 January 2012 to 30 June 2012:

- no community store licences were revoked or refused

¹⁶ Case-related services may include the provision of therapeutic counselling on an individual or group basis, assessment and other services delivered to the child or to a significant family or community member. The number of services for case-related and non case-related services does not equate to numbers of children or child cases, i.e. case-related services can involve children and families and involve more than one session in the reporting period. NB All six month case-related data is derived from the summation of quarterly data.

- twenty one licences were granted and 25 licences were extended; and
- Eighty one visits to community stores were undertaken, which included assessments of stores for licensing and monitoring visits to improve the operational and retail capacity of stores.

Forty six activities with a total value of \$1.67 million were funded in 2011-2012 to assist community stores in the Northern Territory to meet licensing standards and to better support the food security needs of the communities that they service. Funded activities included the provision of governance and specialist retail management advice and mentoring, and the installation of key infrastructure requirements such as Point of Sale retail systems and essential refrigeration equipment.

Economic Participation

The employment measures under the NTER have created gains in employment. Under the Northern Territory Jobs Package, 2,241 ongoing jobs were created in Australian and Northern Territory government service delivery between December 2008 and June 2010.

The additional services to communities under the NTER also created jobs for Indigenous people in the NTER communities. This Monitoring Report shows that between 1 January and 30 June 2012, there were 1,000 Aboriginal people employed in NTER related services. These include 350 Indigenous people employed in night patrols, 169 in the School Nutrition program, 222 health positions, 54 employed in Safe Houses, 25 as Indigenous Engagement Officers and 180 Indigenous people were employed as rangers in the Working on Country Program.

Job Placements

Between 1 January and 30 June 2012, the number of Job Placements in the NTER communities by Job Services Australia providers was 1,149. Over the same period in 2011 (1 January and 30 June 2011), the number of job placements in the NTER communities by Job Services Australia providers was 1044. There has been a consistent rise in job placements since the commencement of the Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership.

Language, Literacy and Numeracy Program

Between 1 January and 30 June 2012, there were 111 referrals to the LLNP. Of these 111 referrals, 28 eligible job seekers (25%) commenced training. This is an increase from 16% in the July to December 2011 period. Between 1 January 2009 and 30 June 2012, of the 1208 total referrals made, a total of 323 job seekers (28%) participated in the program.

Remote Jobs and Community Program

In the 2012-13 Budget, the Government announced a \$1.5 billion Remote Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP) for people living in remote areas of Australia. RJCP will provide a simpler, more integrated and flexible approach to participation and employment services for people living in remote areas of

Australia. A key feature of the new Remote Jobs and Communities Program is the principle of community ownership of the services. Communities, in partnership with RJCP providers, will determine the best mix of employment and community activities in their region.

The RJCP builds on the strengths of the current programs while providing a simpler, more flexible, integrated and responsive service to better meet the needs of job seekers and communities in remote Australian.

The RCJP will have a significantly improved on-the-ground presence, with all Remote Jobs and Communities Program providers being required to have a local presence.

The new service will ensure more Indigenous and other remote area job seekers participate in meaningful community activities and get the skills they need to find and keep a job.

The RJCP is based on the principle of greater community ownership. Communities will be able to adapt employment and community development services through Community Action Plans to put in place innovative models and to take advantage of community-specific opportunities.

This program will be rolled out to remote communities throughout Australia, including the 73 communities under the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Package.

Community Development and Employment Projects (CDEP) program

On 9 December 2010, the Australian Government announced the extension of CDEP wages until 1 April 2012. All CDEP participants were to be transitioned to income support payments on a community by community basis between 1 April 2012 and 30 June 2012. Following the Government's decision to review remote employment and participation services the Government delayed the phasing out of wages until July 2013 to align with the introduction of new services. As part of the Government's announcement of the Remote Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP) it announced a further extension of grandfathering arrangements. Current grandfathered participants will participate in the RJCP from 1 July 2013 and wages will be extended to 30 June 2017.

Youth in Communities

Over the three years from 2009 to 2012, \$28.4 million was provided under the Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory - Youth in Communities (YIC) program to maintain and strengthen youth services in the Northern Territory.

Over the period 1 January 2012 to 30 June 2012, approximately, 11,837 attendees participated in Youth in Communities activities, with an additional 1,152 attendees participating in suicide prevention activities/services¹⁷.

Through the YIC program, FaHCSIA is working to deliver a comprehensive youth strategy in the Northern Territory that:

- Provides an effective diversion for Indigenous young people from at risk behaviours;
- Improves life choices and outcomes for Indigenous young people, through engagement in positive activities that promote pathways to better health and wellbeing, community capacity building and participation in school, work and social networks; and
- Strengthens and improves the youth services infrastructure, both in the number of youth workers employed and the facilities available for providing youth services and activities.

Land Tenure

Five-year leases

The Australian Government held five-year leases (expired August 2012) under the Northern Territory Emergency Response.

In October 2008, the Government requested the Northern Territory Valuer-General to determine reasonable amounts of rent to be paid to the relevant Aboriginal land owners. As at 30 June 2012, the Government had commenced rent payments in respect of 50 communities.

Payments for the two five-year lease communities on the Tiwi Islands commenced in the week beginning 27 September 2009. The Tiwi Land Council has distributed this rent money to the relevant land owners.

On 25 May 2010, the Government started paying rent for a further 45 communities on Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 land.

Rent payments to three Community Living Areas; Binjari, Jilkminggan and Rittarangu have been made up to April 2011.

The five-year lease in relation to Milikapiti terminated at the time the township lease granted by the Tiwi Aboriginal Land Trust for that land took effect. The Government will make rent payments due up until the date the township lease was executed, 22 November 2011.

¹⁷ Some attendees attend two or more activities

There are three other five year lease communities for which rent is not payable due to land tenure arrangements.

Since May 2010 the Northern Land Council has not distributed payments to the traditional owners. The Central Land Council has commenced consultations and disbursements of rent payments to traditional owners.

The Australian Government is committed to making fair and reasonable payment for the five-year leases. As some valuations in the NT have increased markedly since 2007 and valuation methodologies evolved since the original valuations, the Australian Valuation Office has conducted a market valuation for the five year leases. Top up payments will be made to all 61 eligible five year lease communities to reflect the market valuation once the valuation and terms of agreement are settled.

Long Term Leasing Arrangements

As at 30 June 2012, long term leases have been agreed in 15 of the 16 communities receiving major capital works in housing. Township leases are in place in the Tiwi Island communities of Wurrumiyanga (Nguju), Milikapiti and Ranku and the Groote Eylandt region communities (Angurugu, Milyakburra and Umbakumba).

Forty year leases over public housing have also been agreed in 24 of the 51 smaller communities across the Northern Territory (Amanbidji, Areyonga, Barunga, Belyuen, Beswick, Bulla, Bulman, Canteen Creek, Gunyangara, Kaltukatjara, Manyallaluk, Minjilang, Mt Liebig, Nturiya, Palumpa, Papunya, Peppimenarti, Pigeon Hole, Pmara Jutunta, Ramingining, Rittarangu, Waruwu, Weemol and Yarralin.)

Secure tenure arrangements are also in place in the Tennant Creek town camps and the 18 Alice Springs town camps allocated to receive housing and infrastructure work.

The Australian Government, the Northern Territory Government and the Land Councils are negotiating leases in the remaining communities covered by the five year leases during the reporting period. Interim arrangements have been agreed with the Northern Territory Government and Land Councils to ensure there is no interruption to service delivery of property and tenancy management in communities while long term leases are negotiated at the end of the five year leases.

Safe Communities

Most of the data provided below is from the Northern Territory Police and Northern Territory Department of Justice.

Reported crime data does not always provide an accurate indication of underlying crime levels, particularly when accompanied by a significant change in police numbers. Increased reporting of crime in the NTER communities is likely to be related to an increased capacity to report crime as a result of the

substantial increase in police numbers. This is most evident in the Themis¹⁸ communities where an additional police presence has been established. Increased police numbers may lead to reductions in underlying crime despite increases in reported offences. The only way to establish this is through anecdotal evidence.

A study undertaken for the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency and the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service provides direct evidence. The study, released in 2009, was based on 331 surveys of Aboriginal people in 14 of the Themis communities. The study concluded that 'nearly half of people said that alcohol and violence was less of a problem in their community because of the police.' The study also concluded that three-quarters of people wanted police living in their community.

The NTER Evaluation provided further evidence that people are feeling safer. A Community Safety and Wellbeing Research study in 2011 which surveyed over 1,300 local Indigenous people in 17 NTER communities found that the majority (72%) consider that their community was now safer.

Policing in Remote Indigenous Communities in the Northern Territory

As at 30 June 2012:

- The Commonwealth Government provided the Northern Territory Government funding for the salaries, recruitment, training and allowances for an additional 60 NT Police officers;
- Upgrades: Five permanent police station upgrades have been funded at Maningrida, Gunbalanya, Ali Curung, Ntaria (Hermannsburg) and Yuendumu
- Overnight Facilities: Five overnight facilities have been installed at Titjikala, Milingimbi, Kaltukatjara (Dockers River), Umbakumba, and Angurugu
- Themis Stations: 17 Themis Stations are currently operational in communities
- Permanent Police Complexes: Over \$50 million dollars has been allocated to build permanent police stations in the Northern Territory priority areas of Gapuwiyak, Ramingining, Yarralin and Arlparra. A fifth site for a permanent police station upgrade is currently being negotiated between the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments. The Yarralin Police complex has been completed and was officially opened in April 2011; and
- Construction of 14 residential accommodation units for the Police College at Berrimah was completed in June 2012.

¹⁸ 'Themis' is the operation name selected from a pre-determined list by NT Police for the increased policing component of the Northern Territory Emergency Response.

Incidents reported by police

The data presented below and in previous Monitoring Reports indicate that there has been a large increase in incidents reported by police and in the number of convictions since the introduction of the NTER. The increases are associated with increased police numbers. In many instances the numbers stabilised from 2009-10 to 2010-11, however increases are evident in the period 2010-11 to 2011-12.

- The number of confirmed alcohol related incidents recorded by police across the NTER communities increased by 30% from 2007-08 to 2008-09. The number stabilised for the next two years before increasing again by 23% from 2010-11 to 2011-12.
- The number of substance abuse incidents reported by police have steadily increased since 2007-08 although they showed a small decline of 7% from 2009-10 to 2010-11, but have increased by 37% from 2010-11 to 2011-12;
- Drug related incidents have remained stable from 2010-11 to 2011-12;
- There was a 39% increase in domestic violence related incidents from 2007-08 to 2008-09 and an increase of 31% in the last reporting period (from 2010-11 to 2011-12). The number of recorded domestic violence related incidents has been affected not only by the introduction of extra police under the NTER but also by the introduction of mandatory reporting of family and domestic violence. Changes to the *Domestic and Family Violence Act* came into effect on 12 March 2009, when it became mandatory for all adults in the NT to report serious physical harm to Police.
- The percentage of domestic violence incidents that are alcohol related have slowly declined from 40% of all incidents in 2007-08 to 33% of all incidents in 2011-12;
- The total number of confirmed assaults (including the categories of assault, aggravated assault, indecent assault and sexual assault) reached a peak of 510 in 2009-10 before declining to 385 in 2010-11. There has been an increase of 11% in the last reporting period, with the total number of confirmed assaults at 428. This is still below the peak reached in 2009-10;
- In 2011-12, a high proportion (40%) of confirmed aggravated assault incidents were alcohol related; and
- The number of lodgements in court for sexual assault offences in NTER communities increased by 2 from 2008-09 to 2009-10, decreased by 28 from 2009-10 to 2010-11 and increased by 4 in 2011-12.

Child Abuse

- The total number of reported incidents of child abuse in the NTER was 174 in 2007-08. It increased to 302 in 2009-10 before decreasing by 10% in 2010-11 and decreasing again to 249 in 2011-12, which is an 8% decrease;
- The number of convictions for child sexual assaults committed in the NTER communities in 2008-09 was 11. In 2009-10 it was 12, in 2010-11 it was also 12 and in 2011-12 it had decreased to 7;

- The total number of child sexual assault convictions over four years from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2011 was 45. This compares to a total of 25 convictions in the 4 years prior to the commencement of the NTER (that is from 1 July 2003 to 1 July 2007); and
- In 2011-12, 85% of reports of child abuse across the NTER communities were accounted for by the category 'child welfare', relating to issues that would generally be considered to be child neglect.

Child Protection Data

There is no new child protection data available for this Report. The latest available data was reported in the July to December 2011 Monitoring Report. In summary:

- Since the commencement of the NTER, the child protection substantiation rate for Indigenous children in the NT has more than doubled (it has increased by two and a half times) from 16.8 per 1,000 children in 2006-07 to 43.3 in 2010-11. This is a rapid increase in a relatively short time frame and similar increases were not observed in the other jurisdictions over the same period although rapid increases have occurred in other jurisdictions when additional child protection resources have been provided.
- Analysis in the NTER Evaluation Report suggests that most of the increase in child protection substantiations in the NT from 2006-07 occurred in remote parts of the NT. This suggests that the increase is related to extra child protection services provided through the NTER and by the Northern Territory Government.
- In 2006-07 the rate of substantiation per 1,000 Indigenous children in NT was considerably lower than the national average for Indigenous children but is now higher than the national average which was 34.6 per 1,000 children in 2010-11.

Night Patrol Services

As at 31 June 2012 community night patrols were active across 80 Northern Territory communities. From 1 January to 30 June 2012 the Australian Government funded night patrol services:

- Assisted in approximately 84,710 incidents, by providing transport to a recognised safe place, or an unrecognised safe place, such as a family member's home; referring to other services; assisting children who were out late at night; or intervening to prevent or limit antisocial behaviour, including fighting, domestic violence, gambling and arguments.

Safe Places

From 1 January to 30 June 2012 165 clients accessed the Safe Places for crisis accommodation.

- 77 female clients in Women's Safe Houses;
- 76 children accompanying female clients in Women's Safe Houses; and

- 12 men were accommodated at Men's Places.

Mobile Child Protection Teams

Between 1 January and 30 June 2012, the Mobile Child Protection Teams were involved in investigating and providing follow up services in 800 matters. Of these Child Protection investigations nil resulted in legal action being taken.

Remote Aboriginal Family and Community Workers

Between 1 January and 30 June 2012 there were:

- 32 referrals generated by individuals and families contacting the Remote Aboriginal Family and Community Program (RAFCP) for help for themselves, for other people or to report child protection concerns in the NTER communities; in regard to these referrals there were 182 interactions between the RAFCP and these clients
- 123 referrals from government and non-government services to the RAFCP. There were approximately 293 interactions between the RAFCP and these services; and
- 145 referrals from child protection staff for advice, information and assistance to engage and support clients and their families in communities. Many of these referrals were for ongoing family support to vulnerable and at risk children, young people and families; in regard to these referrals there were 996 interactions between the RAFCP and these clients.

Legal Services

Between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012 the legal service providers - NT Legal Aid Commission and 3 Community Legal Services have provided: 3,439 services comprising 1,281 advices, 487 duty matters and 98 approved applications for grants of aid and 1,573 cases. They also undertook outreach services in 98 communities.

Alcohol Management

Alcohol Management Plans are community driven and focused on communities finding solutions to address the harm caused by excessive alcohol consumption through supply reduction, demand reduction and harm minimisation strategies, with a particular focus on protecting vulnerable women and children.

Alcohol Management Plans are currently being developed in communities including Borroloola, Elliott, Beswick, Barunga, Manyallaluk, Jilkminggan, Wurrumiyanga, Milikapiti, Pirlangimpi, Ranku, Binjari, Titjikala, Gunbalanya, Maningrida, Ngukurr, Ntaria, Laramba, Ali Curung, Belyuen, Amoonguna, Gunyangara, Yirkala, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Darwin town camps and specific Alice Springs town camps.

As part of the Stronger Futures package, the Australian Government will continue to work jointly with the Northern Territory Government to support communities who choose to develop an Alcohol Management Plan and to ensure they meet new minimum standards which will strengthen their focus on harm minimisation.

Northern Territory Wholesale Alcohol Supply

The NT Department of Justice published a report, Northern Territory Wholesale Alcohol Supply for the Period of 2004 to 2011 on 1 August 2012¹⁹ which shows that Per capita consumption of alcohol in the NT has been declining each year since 2005 – Table 6 below.

In these data the volume of each product supplied into the NT is multiplied by its estimated fraction of alcohol content so that the amount of pure alcohol or Pure Alcohol Content (PAC) can be measured. Data on per capita consumption are also published for the NT as a whole.

Table 6: Estimated Litres Per Capita Consumption– Northern Territory 2004 to 2011

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
15.17	15.27	14.75	14.70	14.35	14.00	13.55	13.32

The Department of Justice publication also shows changes in consumption patterns by type of alcohol.²⁰

Table 7 shows the breakup of total PAC supply in thousands of litres for each regional centre for the period of 2004 to 2011. For example the total PAC supply for Darwin in 2011 was 1,123,800 litres.

As the Table shows, the wholesale supply of alcohol has fallen from 2004 to 2011 in all regions apart from Palmerston, Darwin and Tennant Creek.

¹⁹ www.nt.gov.au/justice/licenreg/documents/liquor/fs_east_arhnem.pdf

²⁰ Since 2004, wine has fallen from 26% to 18% of total supply, while beer has risen from 47% to 53% of total supply; Since 2004 there has been a shift within beer consumption toward mid strength beer and away from full-strength and light beers.

Table 7: Total Wholesale PAC Supply in Thousands of Litres for each NT Regional Centre

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Darwin	1063.9	1091.4	1093.5	1155.8	1186.4	1174.8	1168.0	1123.8
Palmerston	254.0	265.9	276.1	305.7	323.2	336.2	330.4	327.5
Alice Springs	501.9	529.5	503.0	444.4	422.9	461.5	462.2	442.1
Katherine	212.1	204.1	202.8	201.4	174.4	185.7	194.5	210.1
Tennant Creek	68.2	60.4	61.9	61.3	62.7	62.3	68.3	67.3
Nhulunbuy	83.4	103.1	112.4	107.9	88.4	70.7	69.9	68.0
NT balance	432.6	434.3	456.9	472.0	475.8	460.7	441.3	424.0
Total	2616.0	2688.7	2706.7	2748.4	2733.8	2751.9	2734.6	2662.9

Figure 1 provides an index of alcohol supply for selected regions (2004 is set at 100).

Alcohol supply in Nhulunbuy declined by 18.1% from 2007 to 2008 and by a further 20.1% from 2008 to 2009. These large falls, which are evident in Figure 1, coincide with restrictions put in place in Nhulunbuy on 1 March 2008²¹.

The supply of alcohol in Alice Springs declined by 11.7% from 2006 to 2007 - this decline coincided with the New Liquor Supply Plan (October 2006). In 2011 the supply was broadly consistent with that of 2007.

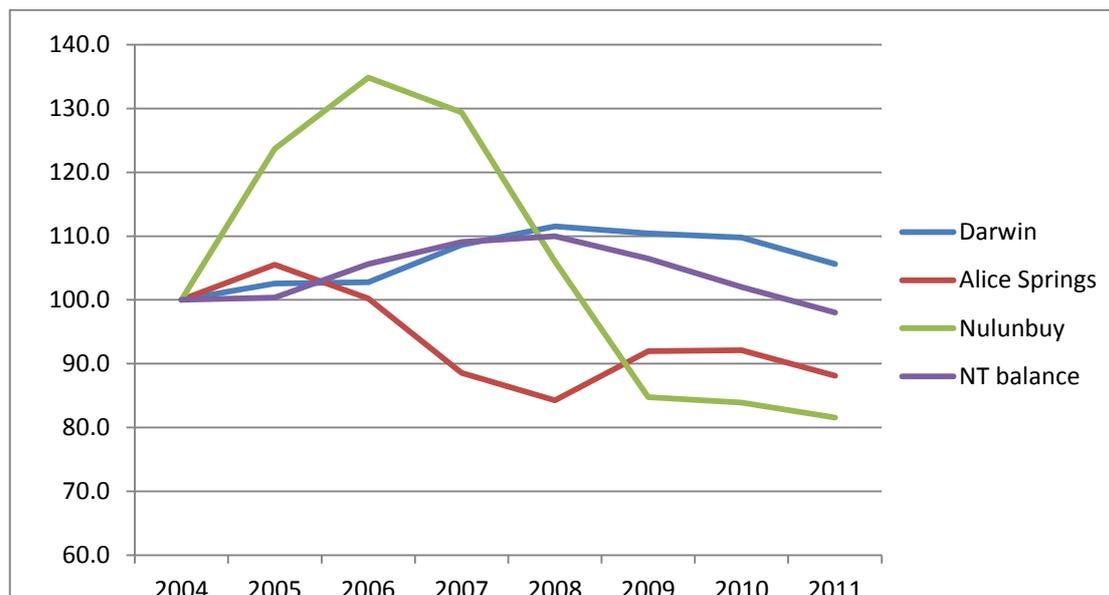
In the NT balance a change is evident from 2007 onward. In the NT balance, alcohol supply was rising at an average annual rate of 2.9% from 2004 to 2007, however, from 2007 to 2011 there was an average annual decline of 2.6%²². It is worth noting that this turnaround corresponds with the introduction of alcohol restrictions under the NTER.

²¹ Under these changes a Liquor Permits was required to buy possess and drink takeaway alcohol within the East Arnhem Region including the township of Nhulunbuy.

https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&q=cache:15ihEL2GbxwJ:www.nt.gov.au/justice/licenreg/documents/liquor/fs_east_permit_system_factsheet.pdf+&hl=en&gl=au&pid=bl&srcid=ADGEE5gbTTCq3llFdnZzUmp_pd17BnX_BQ9yU3hZ-TZxQ_g63e3XWckIQ55LtsEilZ_ehb5I3CEDYiAPR1ws_OwK-5gQeyqHqleZA5DvYff0u0b-HIbShs9ui_pEal97QLdCyJljqAAo&sig=AHIEtbRYH5MM1Qq45kJSFsTrVbloT_kGIw

²² In contrast there was only a 0.8% average annual decline in alcohol supply in the NT as a whole from 2007 to 2011 and a 0.7% average annual decline in Darwin.

Figure 1: Index of Pure Alcohol Supply (PAC) in Litres for selected regions – 2004 to 2011



Northern Territory Aboriginal Interpreter Service

Between 1 January and 30 June 2012, the Northern Territory Aboriginal Interpreter Service (NTAIS) reported that 5,168 people sought access to an Aboriginal interpreter across the Territory; and 5,961 hours were spent interpreting specifically for law, justice and health agencies and AGD funded legal assistance services. Between 1 January and 30 June 2012, 15 interpreters attained national accreditation, bringing the total number of accredited interpreters to 81.

Governance and Leadership

Government Business Managers

As at 30 June 2012, there were up to 56 Government Business Managers (GBMs) servicing 73 NTER communities as well as Borroloola and town camps in Darwin and Alice Springs. Some GBMs service more than one community.

Indigenous Engagement Officers (IEOs)

As at 30 June 2012, there were 15 Indigenous Engagement Officers (IEOs) in the 15 Remote Service Delivery (RSD) sites and 10 IEOs in non-RSD communities in the Northern Territory. Under Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory, the number of IEOs in communities will increase to 54 over the next two years, creating full and part-time job opportunities for up to another 60 local Aboriginal people.

Income management

Income management is not a measure under the Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement. The inclusion of data on Income management in this report is indicative of the fact that the program complements and enhances a range of measures under the Agreement.

As at 29 June 2012, there were 17,553 people on income management in the Northern Territory.

- Almost one quarter (4,175) of all people on income management in the Northern Territory chose to participate in Voluntary Income Management
- As at 29 June 2012, a total of 2,403 people had been granted exemptions from participating in income management. Exemptions were granted for meeting parenting requirements and for full time study, full time new apprenticeships and people participating in regular paid work; and
- As part of the income management model, the Government has allocated over \$50 million to expand financial literacy initiatives.

Other Evaluation Reports

Commonwealth Ombudsman's Report

The Ombudsman's office has a dedicated Indigenous Unit responsible for providing independent oversight of many Australian Government Indigenous programs in the Northern Territory. Drawing on complaint investigations, information obtained during outreach to Indigenous communities and engagement with a range of stakeholders, the Ombudsman provides feedback to agencies about problems identified in program administration, service delivery issues and the effectiveness of governments working together to achieve outcomes. The Ombudsman also achieves remedies for Indigenous Australians who have individual complaints and problems. The full report can be found at Appendix B in Part Two of this report.

Evaluation of the School Nutrition Program

In October 2011, KPMG undertook an evaluation of the School Nutrition Program. The School Nutrition Program (SNP) is a breakfast and/or lunch program for school-aged children attending school within NTER communities of the Northern Territory. The aim of the program is to contribute to improving students' engagement at school leading to better literacy and numeracy outcomes for remote Indigenous children. The program also provides job opportunities and training for local community members in food preparation skills and nutrition.

The SNP is a well-established program across 67 schools in the Northern Territory. It presents a solid platform from which government and communities can build

other health and education initiatives, as well as increase avenues for local employment for community members.

The evaluation findings have resulted in 16 recommendations for Government to consider regarding the future development of the SNP. The recommendations are grouped under themes of:

Program administration;

- Performance management and data;
- Community and parent level;
- Interagency collaboration; and
- Local Indigenous Enterprise development.

A full list of the recommendations can be found in Section 11 of the evaluation.

A copy of the evaluation report is available on the DEEWR website.²³

²³ Evaluation of the School Nutrition Program, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, October 2011.

http://www.deewr.gov.au/schooling/documents/evaluation_of_the_school_nutrition_program.docx