

Generational Change Annual Report 2018-19

Key Achievements

Safe, Thriving and Connected: Generational Change for Children and Families is the Northern Territory Government's whole-of-government response to support vulnerable children, families and communities. The Generational Change Reform comprises three significant and interrelated reform programs arising from *Safe, Thriving and Connected: Generational Change for Children and Families*; *Starting Early for a Better Future: Early Childhood Development in the Northern Territory*; and responses to the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

The reform is reported against five work programs. Through the work program, the Northern Territory Government has delivered on 90 of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory. Key achievements are included against each program below.

Putting Children and Families at the Centre

- Establishing Families as First Teachers: Stay Play Learn programs in Braiiling, Malak, Belyuen, Epenarra, Kintore (Wulungurru), Harts Range (Atitjre), Robinson River and Peppimenarti
- Establishing the NT Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home-visiting programs in the East Arnhem, Katherine and Barkly regions
- Partnering with local Aboriginal leaders and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to progress the establishment of new Child and Family Centres in Tennant Creek, Katherine Wadeye, East Arnhem and Darwin's Northern Suburbs
- Partnering with the Menzies School of Health Research (Menzies) for the Hearing for Learning Joint Venture initiative
- Supporting an increasing number of families through the Territory Families FACES Family Support Hotline
- Introducing three significant amendment Bills to progress the child protection and youth justice reforms: Youth Justice Amendment Bill; Youth Justice and Related Legislation Amendment Bill; and the Care and Protection of Children Amendment Bill.
- Establishing a supported accommodation service for care leavers in Darwin to support young people leaving care to access and maintain appropriate housing

Improving Care and Protection

- Implementing the Signs of Safety practice framework and focusing on holistic family safety assessments and support
- Activating the online reporting tool, Professional Reporter's Guide and ELearning materials, and a new staffing structure for Central Intake.
- Distributing mobile tablets to frontline child protection workers to improve their ability to access information and record their work while away from the office.
- Developing the Transforming Out of Home Care program and the *Children Safe, Families Together*
- Partnering with Aboriginal Organisations to better support to kinship and foster carers, and improve outcomes for children in care

Improving Youth Justice

- Establishing the Police Youth Division within Northern Territory Police Fire and Emergency Services to refocus Police's engagement with young people.
- Commencing the Custody Notification Service to promote the wellbeing of Aboriginal children and adults who are in custody.
- Introducing programs to deliver consequences for antisocial and offending behaviour and provide alternative pathways tailored to the needs of children and young people aged eight to 17 years.
- Expanding night patrol hours and youth drop-in centres in Alice Springs.
- Establishing the Youth Engagement Night Officers team in Alice Springs.
- Improving training for Youth Justice Officers and implementing behaviour management strategies to better respond to and support young people in detention.
- Improving the physical amenities and staffing arrangements to better support young women in detention.

Preventing Child Sexual Abuse

- Endorsing the National Standards for Working with Children Check and continuing to work with the federal, state and territory governments
- Amending the Teacher Registration Act to increase to the Teachers Registration Board's power to take disciplinary actions and increase transparency in decision making.
- Commencing operation of the NT Redress Scheme to support eligible survivors of child sexual abuse.

Strengthening Governance and Systems

- Establishing the Youth Detention, Out of Home Care and Bail Support Monitoring function in the Office of the Children's Commissioner
- Signing a further six local decision making agreements with Aboriginal organisations in Blue Mud Bay, Katherine, Groote Eylandt, Daly River Region and Gurindji and appointing Professor Mick Dodson as the first Northern Territory Treaty Commissioner.
- Awarding grants of up to \$50,000 to 14 remote Aboriginal community controlled organisations to strengthen the capacity and capability of Aboriginal organisations develop and implement community-led initiatives and programs.
- Partnering with Menzies School of Health Research to write of the Story of Our Children and Young People report.
- Establishing the Children and Families Tripartite Forum
- Co-developing the Coordinated Funding Framework with the Commonwealth Government in partnership with the Children and Families Tripartite Forum.
- Working to increase the number of qualified early childhood professionals and to support an integrated early childhood workforce.