

Children and Families Tripartite Forum

10-Year Generational Strategy Working Group

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Generational Strategy Working Group (Working Group) is to:

- 1.1. Lead the development of the 10-year Generational Strategy for Children and Families in the Northern Territory (Generational Strategy) on behalf of the Children and Families Tripartite Forum (Tripartite Forum).
- 1.2. The Generational Strategy will drive the achievement of improved safety, health and wellbeing outcomes for children, young people and families living in the Northern Territory (NT), and reduce inequities in these outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Territorians:
 - by leading high level, structured engagement and collaboration among the NT Government, Australian Government and Community Sector;
 - to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of funding and services for children and families in the Territory, and enable a close matching of services to needs in local communities;
 - to enable and facilitate cross-government, inter-agency and inter-sectoral cooperation, coordination and collaboration in delivering the reform agenda and services for children and young people experiencing vulnerability including those in the youth justice and child protection systems.
- 1.3. All Working Group members acknowledge the fundamental importance of Aboriginal people and organisations leading and driving the development of the Generational Strategy.
- 1.4. All Working Group members support the right, and will enhance the capability, of Aboriginal people to actively participate in and have genuine influence over decision making, planning and service delivery for Aboriginal children, young people, families and communities.

2. Context and Shared Commitment

- 2.1. The Generational Strategy was first recommended to be developed by the Royal Commission into the Detention and Protection of Children in the Northern Territory (Royal Commission). The Royal Commission recommended that the Generational Strategy be based on a commitment to a local service delivery model underpinned by local design, selection, development, delivery, funding and evaluation and place based approaches.
- 2.2. The Tripartite Forum endorsed a schema for the Generational Strategy at a meeting on 18 May 2020 and agreed to establish a working group to lead the development.

- 2.3. The Australian Government, NT Government and NT Community Sector organisations of the Tripartite Forum are committed to developing the Generational Strategy through collaboration with each other and in alignment with policy, existing and completed projects and programs.
- 2.4. The Generational Strategy will be guided by the agreed schema and will build on the existing reform programs of the NT and Commonwealth, including but not limited to:
 - Safe, Thriving and Connected (NT Government)
 - Starting Early for a Better Future (NT Government)
 - National Agreement on Closing the Gap (All Australian Governments and Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations)
 - National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023
 - Successor plan to the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children* 2009-2020 (all Australian Governments)
 - NT Aboriginal Affairs Strategy (NT Government)

3. Governance

- 3.1. The Working Group will be advised and directed by the Tripartite Forum.
- 3.2. The Working Group will provide a written report to each Tripartite Forum meeting, outlining the activities undertaken, and progress towards developing the Generational Strategy.

4. Membership

- 4.1. The Working Group will be made up of representatives from the Tripartite Forum membership. Members will nominate the following number of representatives:
 - a) Community Sector – 4 representatives
 - b) Australian Government – 2 representatives
 - c) Northern Territory Government – 2 representatives
- 4.2. Proxies will be permitted to attend a Working Group meeting if they are formally acting in the role of the formal representative or have equivalent authority to the other formal representatives.
- 4.3. Representatives nominated by Tripartite Forum members should be selected with reference to the following criteria:
 - a) Knowledge, skills and experience of policy development and/or strategic planning and/or services management and/or service delivery in relation to services for children and families in the NT;
 - b) Knowledge, skills and experience in serving on a high level strategic committee;
 - c) Knowledge, skills and experience of working with community organisations and preferably also Aboriginal communities in the NT; and

- d) Demonstrated capability to communicate effectively with community organisations, Indigenous service organisations and preferably also Aboriginal communities in the NT.

5. Responsibilities

- 5.1. The Northern Territory Government's Reform Management Office will coordinate the development of the Generational Strategy as Secretariat for the Tripartite Forum.
- 5.2. Members of the Working Group will contribute to the development of the 10-Year Generational Strategy by:
 - a) Researching existing literature relevant to the Generational Strategy;
 - b) Considering relevant data, guided by best-practice research evidence, and local and regional data including evidence informed by Aboriginal perspectives, knowledge and experience;
 - c) Leading consultation and engagement with community organisations and the broader Northern Territory community;
 - d) Constructively engaging in Working Group meetings and discussions;
 - e) Contributing to the development of content for the Generational Strategy and seeking relevant clearances;
 - f) Briefing member organisations on the direction and progress of the Generational Strategy;
 - g) Leading communication with the broader community sector on the development, progress, and content of the strategy;
 - h) Work collaboratively with other relevant bodies such as child protection or youth justice services;
 - i) Provide strategic advice and facilitate integrated efforts in relation to community engagement to help ensure that it is coordinated, purposeful and shaped as far as possible by the interests and preferences of local communities and place based practices; and
 - j) Enable and facilitate the timely flow of information and ideas to and from the Tripartite Forum, with the diverse range of stakeholders interested in the reform agenda.