



YOUTH JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21



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Chair's Letter

Hon Kate Worden MLA
Minister for Territory Families and Urban Housing
Parliament House
DARWIN NT 0810

5 August 2021

Dear Minister

In accordance with Section 213 of the *Youth Justice Act 2005* (the Act), the Youth Justice Advisory Committee (YJAC) is pleased to present the 2020/21 YJAC Annual Report.

In the reporting period, as per Section 204 of the Act, YJAC has mainly focussed on:

- monitoring the legislative bail amendments and law reforms, including how these impact on young people and their family members' involvement in the Youth Justice System; and
- monitoring and evaluation of the operation of the Act, and advising you on impacts, solutions, needs and issues within the Youth Justice System to inform government policy and program direction.

As discussed in our first face-to-face meeting with you and your advisors, the Recommendations from the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory are the 'roadmap' to future direction of the Youth Justice System and to address the increasing numbers of Aboriginal young people in youth detention.

I appreciate the efforts of all YJAC members, especially due to the COVID-19 restrictions. I also welcome the appointment of new committee members to the vacant community member positions as this will enable YJAC to have representation from a 'grassroots' and whole of the Northern Territory youth justice perspective.

I also recognise the Secretariat support provided to YJAC throughout this reporting period.

In accordance with the Act, I verify to you that the 2020/21 YJAC Annual Report is an accurate record of YJAC's involvement in the youth justice system over the past financial year.

Yours sincerely



Stewart Willey | Youth Justice Advisory Committee Chair

Functions, Membership, Powers, Meetings and Annual Report requirements as per the *Youth Justice Act 2005*

Section 203 Establishment of the YJAC

(1) There is established the Youth Justice Advisory Committee comprising government, non-government and community representatives.

(2) The Committee must reflect the composition of the community at large and accordingly, as far as practicable, should consist of the following:

- (a) equal numbers of male and female members;
- (b) at least 2 members who are Aboriginals;
- (c) at least one member who is under the age of 25 years at the time of appointment;
- (d) at least one member who has formerly been a detainee;
- (e) one member who is an official visitor within the meaning of Part 9;
- (f) at least one member who, at the time of appointment, resides in the Alice Springs area; and
- (g) at least one member who, at the time of appointment, resides in a remote community.

Section 204 Functions

The functions of the Committee are as follows:

- (a) to monitor and evaluate the administration and operation of this Act;
- (b) to advise the Minister (whether on request by the Minister or otherwise) on issues relevant to the administration of youth justice, including the planning, development, integration and implementation of government policies and programs concerning youth;

(c) to collect, analyse and provide to the Minister information relating to issues and policies concerning youth justice;

(d) any other functions imposed by this Act;

(e) any other functions as directed by the Minister.

Section 205 Powers

The Committee has the powers necessary or convenient to carry out its functions.

Section 206 Members

(1) The Committee consists of not less than 8 and not more than 12 members appointed by the Minister.

(2) The Members are to be comprised, as far as practicable, of:

- (a) one person nominated by the CEO; and
- (b) one person nominated by the Commissioner of Police; and
- (c) one person nominated by the Agency responsible for protection of children and young people; and
- (d) one person nominated by the Agency responsible for education of youth; and
- (e) one person nominated by the Agency responsible for crime prevention; and
- (f) one person nominated by a peak youth organisation; and
- (g) one person nominated by the Law Society Northern Territory; and
- (h) the remainder drawn from the community generally, and the Aboriginal community in particular.



(3) The Minister must be satisfied that each person appointed to be a member has experience, skills, qualifications or other credentials that the Minister considers appropriate for the person to satisfactorily contribute to the Committee's work.

Section 211 Meetings

(1) The Chairperson must call meetings of the Committee as often as necessary for the performance of its functions, but so that not more than 6 months elapses between 2 successive meetings.

(2) The Minister may at any time direct the Chairperson to convene a meeting of the Committee and the Chairperson must convene a meeting accordingly.

(3) The Chairperson must preside at all meetings at which he or she is present and, in his or her absence, the members present must elect one of their number to act as the Chairperson.

(4) Subject to this Act, the Committee may determine the procedure to be followed at or in connection with its meetings.

(5) The Committee must keep records of its meetings.

Section 212 Quorum

At a meeting of the Committee, half of the number of members appointed constitutes a quorum.

Section 213 Annual Report

(1) The Committee must, as soon as practicable after 30 June in each year, and in any event not later than the next following 30 September, give to the Minister a report on the activities of the Committee during the preceding financial year.

(2) The Minister must be able to table a copy of the report in the Legislative Assembly within 5 sitting days of the Assembly after receiving it.

Current Youth Justice Advisory Committee Members

Region	Name	Organisation
Darwin	Ms Jane Bochmann	Department of the Attorney-General and Justice
	Mr Peter Fletcher	Territory Families, Housing and Communities
	Ms Shannon Ramsay	Law Society NT
	Ms Danielle Taylor	Community Member
	Mr Victor Williams	Department of Education
	Ms Aysha Kerr	Northern Territory Council of Social Service
Tennant Creek	Mr Stewart Willey (Chairperson)	Community Member
Alice Springs	Ms Michelle Bates	Community Member
	Mr Andrew Lockyer	Community Member

Former members during the reporting period

Region	Name	Organisation
Darwin	Ms Meg Geritz	Territory Families, Housing and Communities
	Mr Ian Lea	Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services
	Ms Susan Macpherson	Department of Education
Alice Springs	Ms Elanor Fenge	Community Member
	Ms Sarah Holder	Northern Territory Council of Social Service
Nhulunbuy	Mr Murphy Yunupingu	Community Member



L-R: Stewart Willey, Andrew Lockyer, Peter Fletcher, Aysha Kerr and Jane Bochmann. Absent: Danielle Taylor, Shannon Ramsay, Michelle Bates and Victor Williams

About the Current Members

Stewart Willey, Chairperson

Stewart Willey is a community member from Tennant Creek and the current YJAC Chairperson, and has been a member of the YJAC for over 11 years. Stewart is currently a Community Coordinator and Coach with the Moriarty Foundation, a holistic program that uses soccer/football as a vehicle to engage young people through mindfulness, physical growth, skill development, nutrition, proactive health messages, and encourages school attendance and engagement, as an alternative to offending and antisocial behaviours.

Stewart is also a part time Advanced Practitioner with Jesuits Social Services to support young people and their family members prior to, during, and after their Restorative Youth Justice Conferences to ensure that the young person's conference experience promotes change through family, Elder and the young person's case management engagement and support with positive pathways and case plans.

Additionally, Stewart provides intensive case management engagement and support with young people, their family members and Elders, through providing alternatives to offending behaviours, substance misuse, diagnosed and undiagnosed disabilities and mental health issues through case management assessments, wellbeing screenings and developing case plans with the young person's input that involves support playing football games linked to school attendance and engagement, support for training and employment support with the Youth Development Unit in Tennant Creek and the Barkly Region.

Michelle Bates

Appointed to YJAC in 2017 as a community representative, Michelle works with Aboriginal led organisations, communities, not-for-profit and on community development projects, remotely. Michelle is motivated to participate in the work of YJAC, keen to draw focus and attention to the experiences of the over-represented First Nations

children in the child protection and legal systems, and the complexities and impacts of disability on children and young people and their families. A descendant of the Anaiwan and Gamileroi nations, Michelle is a registered foster carer, cofounder of a successful community hub on Warumungu country and Counsellor as part of the Disability Royal Commission.

Jane Bochmann

Jane Bochmann is a Senior Policy Lawyer for the Solicitor for the Northern Territory within the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice. Prior to this, Jane worked as a Senior Summary Prosecutor in the Summary Prosecution section of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in Darwin. Jane previously worked in Crown Prosecution at the DPP in Darwin, a role taken after moving from Adelaide where she was a Criminal Defence Lawyer at the Legal Services Commission of South Australia for over six years and part of the Complex Criminal Law Panel. She has also worked as a SA District Court Judge's Associate and in private practice in a major Adelaide law firm.

Aysha Kerr

Aysha Kerr is a proud Quandamooka woman from Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island) and Moorgumpin (Moreton Island) in Queensland. Aysha is the Youth Voice Project Officer at Northern Territory Council of the Social Service (NTCOSS). Prior to this, Aysha worked in various executive and project support roles within the Youth Justice Division at Territory Families, Housing and Communities. Aysha has completed a Bachelor of Justice (Criminology and Policing) and is currently completing a Master of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Aysha is passionate about raising the voices of young people in the Northern Territory and advocating for a developmentally appropriate youth justice system that prioritises early intervention and prevention, rehabilitation, and alternatives to detention.

Peter Fletcher

Peter Fletcher is the current Director for Community Youth Justice for the Greater Darwin Region.

This role oversees the Youth Outreach and Re-Engagement Teams (YORET) across Greater Darwin, as well as the Crossover Case Management Unit, who work with young people involved in both the Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) and Youth Justice systems. Prior to this, Peter was the Manager of the YORET across Katherine and East Arnhem Land, and also brings six years' experience in frontline child protection work, also undertaken within the Katherine Region.

Peter is currently the Chairperson of the Back on Track referral panel for the Northern Region, the chairperson of the Darwin Multi Agency Community Child Safety Team (MASSCT), and a member of the Electronic Monitoring Steering Committee.

Shannon Ramsay

Shannon Ramsay is a Senior Solicitor at the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA).

Prior to this, Shannon was the NAAJA Darwin Youth Managing Solicitor advocating for young people caught up in the Youth Justice system for over two years. Before moving to the NT in 2018 she worked as a criminal lawyer at Legal Aid ACT, a prosecutor at the ACT Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and as a Senior Policy Officer in the ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate.

Danielle Taylor

Danielle Taylor is a social worker who has worked in the youth and family non-government sector in Darwin for over 20 years. Danielle began as a youth worker, later moving into the emerging youth mental health (Early Intervention) space and then into positions where she has advocated for a decolonising, trauma-informed and innovative therapeutic response for those involved the Youth Justice system.

Victor Williams

Victor Williams is a Darwin local of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent. He has strong connections to the land and sea from the country of his ancestors, the Larrakia. Victor has an employment background of 22 years in Correctional Services and during this time he completed a period managing the day-to-day operations of both Youth Detention Centres in the Northern Territory as the Director of Youth Detention between 2015-17. Although most of his employment was in the adult custodial sector, Victor remained passionate about working with youth and developing leadership, resilience and confidence through the number of junior sports codes that he coached over the last 25 years. Victor is now employed with the Department of Education as the acting Director Engagement and Programs, where he manages the Department's relationship with school base programs, such as the Stars Foundation and Clontarf.

Andrew Lockyer

Andrew Lockyer is a local Arrernte man from Alice Springs with cultural connections to the people and country west of Alice Springs. Andrew's current work is with NAAJA in the Throughcare Program, supporting youth that are involved with the Youth Justice system. Andrew continues to support and advocate for youth that are incarcerated both in the Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre (ASYDC) and the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre (DDYDC) in Darwin.



Overview of Membership in the Reporting Period 2020/21

During the reporting period, there have been changes to YJAC membership due to:

- two community members resigning for personal reasons
- re-appointment of one community member and their relocation to a major centre from a regional and remote location
- two Government YJAC representatives appointed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of their departments resigning due to personal reasons. YJAC notes that recruitment to fill these roles was delayed by the time and paperwork requirements for the Minister and Cabinet to appoint members, and for the relevant CEOs to nominate and endorse a new representative
- amendment of the Youth Peak representative with the closest role the Northern Territory has had to a youth peak organisation from the NTCOSS Policy Manager to the NTCOSS Youth Advocacy position
- one member's termination was required in accordance with Part 13 section 210(1) of the Act due to lack of engagement in three subsequent meetings without apology despite ongoing support to engage and attend meetings. This was forwarded to the Minister for her determination.

Aspiration of YJAC Membership 2021/22 as per the Act

The aspiration of YJAC membership is to have a more representative membership as per the Act and be more representative of the Northern Territory at a 'grassroots' level to better inform the Minister.

This is achievable. YJAC identified and approached potential members, and potential members have approached YJAC, who are passionate about youth justice needs, issues and barriers, live in regional and remote communities and are primarily Aboriginal. YJAC members have also identified Aboriginal young people who could be potential members.

YJAC is advertising for community member YJAC positions available through an expression of interest process, using the newspaper, youth justice networks and YJAC member networks.

YJAC Focus Areas

In the 2020-21 financial year, YJAC members identified eight focus areas to collect, analyse and provide advice on to the Minister responsible for Youth Justice. These focus areas were informed by the Committee's discussion with the Minister as well as members' involvement with the youth justice system.

1. Bail support, including:
 - YJAC advocating increased development and use of supported residential bail accommodation
 - crossover between young people involved in the Child Protection and Youth Justice systems.



2. young people with diagnosed and undiagnosed disabilities, including:
 - cognitive impairment
 - intellectual
 - hearing
 - mental health issues
 - foetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD)
 - access to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in youth detention and the community.
3. the Youth Outreach and Re-Engagement Team Review Report and lack of implementation of the recommendations
4. Community Work Orders
5. reviewing the Back on Track program evaluation to ascertain whether the program assists to reduce the number of recidivist offenders
6. Restorative Youth Justice Conferencing
7. access of Audio Visual Link (AVL) in remote communities
8. raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility.

The following provides a summary of the Committee's focus areas and other related topics discussed throughout the 2020-21 reporting period. Several of these areas are discussed in more detail throughout the report.



Bail support

YJAC continues to advocate for residential bail support accommodation to be used as an alternative to youth detention. This includes highlighting to the Minister the positive outcomes and challenges associated with bail support, strategies for increasing the number of referrals to supported bail accommodation services in Alice Springs and Darwin, and other issues specifically related to the recent legislative changes. This has been an ongoing focus area for YJAC members.

YJAC notes young people from the Tennant Creek and the Barkly Region are remanded in detention due to a lack of suitable residential bail alternatives in these regions. YJAC is concerned that young people from the Tennant Creek and Barkly Region in detention or residential bail support programs in Alice Springs or Darwin are away from Elders, respected community members, family members, and support workers from their home community and connection to country, language, and culture.

Young people with diagnosed and undiagnosed disabilities

YJAC continues to advocate for young people who are involved with, or at risk of entering, the youth justice system to have access to appropriate assessment, treatment, and disability support. Throughout the reporting period, the Committee analysed the level of support provided to young people who are involved with the Child Protection, Youth Justice and Youth Detention Centre systems and may have diagnosed or undiagnosed disability. YJAC has highlighted the importance of these young people receiving appropriate access to mental and allied health assessments, NDIS plans, and through-care support. Anecdotal evidence

in the Territory and research from other jurisdictions suggest many young people involved in these systems have cognitive impairments, foetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) and other mental health needs that are often linked to offending behaviours.

YJAC notes the Department of Health (Health) is not a statutory member of the Committee. During the reporting period, the Committee increased engagement with Health to receive advice and consider the Department's progress in implementing relevant recommendations from the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.

Legislative amendments

YJAC questioned and provided advice to the Minister on legislative changes to the Act regarding bail, diversion, and a suite of other measures discussed in detail later in this report. YJAC members have met with various Territory Families, Housing and Communities staff to gain information on these changes.

Programs for young people

YJAC has continued to advocate for Community Work Orders, the Back on Track (BoT) program and youth diversion as alternatives to youth detention. The Committee notes a process evaluation was undertaken of the Back on Track Program; however, this has not been shared with the Committee.

In addition, the YJAC supports the ongoing use of Restorative Youth Justice Conferencing as a diversion, BoT and pre-sentence conferencing option for young people. RYJC supports and empowers Elders and family members to be involved in the restorative process, and for young people to be responsible for actions and choices through repairing the harm caused. YJAC notes business owners and people who are victims of crime have requested this option to better understand the young person's motives, provide input and support into plans to address their offending behaviour into the future, and to provide closure for themselves, the young person and their family members.

Raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility

YJAC continues to advocate for the Government to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in the Northern Territory. Importantly, this includes advocating for early intervention and prevention programs and services for children and young people who are under the age of criminal responsibility to address risk factors associated with offending.

Listening to others

YJAC encourages youth service providers to raise issues and priorities with members regarding young people at risk of, or involved with, the youth justice system. Hearing perspectives from organisations on the ground enables YJAC to discuss and raise key issues and priorities for the youth sector with Territory Families, Housing and Communities, other relevant Departments, and the Minister. The Committee also provides meeting minutes to the Minister.

Different outcomes for young people

YJAC informed the Minister of different outcomes for young people in Darwin and Alice Springs who encounter the youth court and youth detention. The Committee advocated for a youth specific judge to be appointed in Alice Springs and notes there is now a judge in Alice Springs who hears youth matters, which has had a positive impact for young people.

YJAC's Focus on Law Reforms

- An Integrated Act (Child Protection and Youth Justice)
- Family responsibility agreements as per Part 6A of the Act
- Raising the age of criminal responsibility and the alternatives such as early intervention/prevention programs
- Restorative Youth Justice Conferencing, including section 84 pre-sentence conferencing and section 64 conferencing, as well as the proposed Practice Direction to allow section 64 referrals to be made to other youth service providers, not just to the police diversion program
- Young people involved in the youth justice system with diagnosed and undiagnosed disabilities, NDIS/NDIA plans and who are subject to the criminal responsibility presumption of *doli incapax*.

YJAC's Advice Around the Integrated Act and Related Measures

In early 2021, YJAC provided initial advice to the Territory Families, Housing and Communities Law Reform team on the Integrated Act and related measures – a copy of which is provided below.

Integrated Act

The Youth Justice Advisory Committee (the Committee) supports the development of an integrated Act, noting this was a recommendation from the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory. Development of an integrated act provides a rare opportunity for the Northern Territory to implement an innovative approach to youth justice and child protection. It will also enable the progression of other key legislative reform, such as raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility. Furthermore, bringing together child protection and youth justice legislation will enable operational, frontline and administrative staff to make decisions with a holistic understanding of the complexity within a family unit. The Committee agrees that it is important the two acts are integrated, rather than simply combined into one Act.

Family Responsibility Agreements and Family Responsibility Orders

The Committee notes that the Minister has committed to the reintroduction of Family Responsibility Agreements (FRAs) and Family Responsibility Orders (FROs), and that the ability to implement these measures exists within the current legislation. The Committee recommends that FRAs and FROs are included within the integrated Act; however, they should be reinvigorated to ensure they are more innovative and flexible. The Committee recommends implementation and oversight of FRAs/FROs should sit in the child protection space, such as with the strengthening families teams in collaboration with the Intensive Family Support Programs. The Committee is of the view that child protection practitioners, who have qualifications in social work and psychology, are better placed to support families who have a FRA or FRO. The Committee notes that similar measures in the Education sector with attendance legislation have been unsuccessful, with families being fined for non-school attendance and school attendance remaining an issue.

Future function of the Committee

The Committee supports the retention of the Youth Justice Advisory Committee, and recommends the establishment of a statutory child protection committee under an integrated Act. This Committee should have a close working relationship with the Youth Justice Advisory Committee. The Minister supported this view at the meeting on 20 January 2021.

Role of the Committee in the Law Reform process

The Committee would like to receive ongoing briefings regarding the law reform process, and would like the opportunity to provide more detailed feedback throughout the draft amendment bill consultation process.

Youth Justice Legislation Changes

On 23 March 2021, the Northern Territory Labor Government introduced a suite of measures to respond to youth crime.

The new measures included:

- Automatic revocation of bail for young people who commit a serious breach of bail, which includes re-offending while on bail, breaching certain Electronic Monitoring (EM) conditions and curfew, failure to attend Court, and failing to complete Youth Diversion.
- Expanding the list of prescribed offences so that there is no presumption of bail for offences such as unlawful entry, unlawful use of a motor vehicle, assault of a worker, assault police and other serious offences.
- Expansion of EM by Police, where Police can immediately place an EM device on a young person on police bail.
- Ability to record Breach of Bail Antecedents so that Court is made aware of prior bail breaches.
- Amendments to the *Traffic Act 1987* to remove the requirement that a responsible adult must be present for Police to conduct a breath test on a young person driver, in circumstances where the Police made reasonable efforts to contact an adult.
- Amendments to Section 64 of the Act to remove the Court's power to refer a young person to Youth Diversion, if the young person previously failed Diversion, and requiring a young person who fails to complete their Diversion to be brought before the Court.

On the same day, YJAC requested a briefing from Territory Families, Housing and Communities regarding the proposed legislative changes to prepare advice for the Minister before any legislation was introduced into the Legislative Assembly.

On 9 April 2021, YJAC was advised that Territory Families, Housing and Communities was unable to provide a formal briefing on the proposed legislative amendments, as they were under the Cabinet-in-Confidence process.

On 23 April 2021, Territory Families, Housing and Communities contacted YJAC to advise that a verbal briefing could be provided on the proposed changes, which was scheduled for 30 April 2021.

On 29 April 2021, Territory Families, Housing and Communities advised YJAC that the briefing scheduled for 30 April 2021 had been rescheduled to 7 May 2021.

On 5 May 2021, the Youth Justice Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 was introduced into Parliament. The Bill was introduced into Parliament before YJAC was consulted on the proposed changes, which limited YJAC's ability to provide timely and comprehensive advice to the Minister. In addition to the changes outlined above, the new legislation also proposed the following additional change:

- removing FROs and introducing provisions allowing FRAs to be ordered by the Court during youth justice proceedings.

On 7 May 2021, Territory Families, Housing and Communities briefed YJAC on the changes and YJAC provided the following feedback:

- the amendments relating to diversion do not address why young people are failing Youth Diversion.
- YJAC noted reports that young people have been failing Youth Diversion because there are significant delays between when a young person is referred to Youth Diversion and when they are assigned a case manager. As a result, some young people are re-offending before they even have the opportunity to commence and engage in Youth Diversion. Furthermore, there are often legitimate reasons why a young person may have 'failed' their Diversion requirements.
- YJAC queried whether the Northern Territory Government considered Court Ordered Diversion in the proposed legislative changes. Territory Families, Housing and Communities noted the Department is looking to expand the number of Court Ordered programs under Section 83 of the Act to provide additional options to the Court. YJAC noted, however, that this is a sentencing option and not Youth Diversion. YJAC expressed concern that the proposed legislative changes are removing the option for the Court to divert young people from the Youth Justice system.
- YJAC queried if there had been an analysis of whether the recorded number of successful diversions were as a result of police diversion (as per section 39) or a court ordered re-referral to diversion (as per section 64). YJAC were advised that this dataset is not available. YJAC members expressed concerns that the proposed legislative changes have been developed without consideration of this dataset given that the amendments remove the power of the court to order a young person be re-referred to diversion under section 64.
- YJAC sought clarification around the definition of a 'serious breach of bail', and whether the new proposed definition applies to all sections in the Act. Territory Families, Housing and Communities noted that the definition applies to all sections in the Act and includes breach of bail conditions (such as curfew and EM). YJAC members expressed concerns that Sections 7B and 38AA of the new Act work against each other as Section 38AA states that it is to apply 'despite anything to the contrary in this Act', which therefore, overrules Section 7B. Territory Families, Housing and Communities noted that Section 38AA applies when a young person commits a prescribed offence. However, YJAC members expressed concern about the wording of this Section as it states 'if the person brought before the court under section 38(1) is a youth and the court finds that the youth has engaged in a serious breach of bail' – which includes young people who have breached their curfew or EM conditions. YJAC members expressed concerns that this may result in young people who have breached their bail conditions for legitimate reasons being remanded in custody. For example, young people who are experiencing domestic or family violence situations and leave their bail address.
- YJAC queried the definition of exceptional circumstances within the Bill, and whether Police will be required to arrest and have the Court determine exceptional circumstances. Territory Families, Housing and Communities noted that exceptional circumstances will include instances where a young person is not at home due to situations like domestic violence.
- YJAC queried what support will be put in place to help families meet the new court ordered FRAs. Territory Families, Housing and Communities noted that there are a range of services across different departments that could support families, and that the FRA states that the department entering the Agreement must ensure that the services are available before including these on the Agreement. YJAC recommended that there are strong processes and policies in place to ensure coordination and

collaboration across departments who are supporting a Family Responsibility Agreement, and to ensure families are supported to complete the components set out in this Agreement.

- YJAC members expressed concerns that the proposed legislative amendments have been implemented as a reaction to negative media attention and stakeholders have not been properly consulted on the changes. In addition, the changes will likely see an increase in the number of young people in youth detention and an increase in the number of young people being transported from regional/remote areas to attend Court. In turn, this will result in an increased workload for a range of service providers, government departments, and the Court. YJAC noted that this funding would be better directed toward services that support young people in the community.

On 10 May 2021, YJAC wrote to the Minister to advise of our disappointment in the lack of proper consultation with the Committee as well as the non-government sector, Aboriginal communities, and other key stakeholders regarding these changes (a copy of the letter to the Minister is provided below).

At the time of writing, YJAC has not received a response to the letter.

As highlighted in the letter, YJAC supports the Northern Territory Government's reform work to implement recommendations from the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory (the Royal Commission). The Safe, Thriving and Connected: Generational Change for Children and Families 2018-2023 Plan (the Plan) provides a clear roadmap for implementing reforms to better support children, young people, and families, and to deliver the recommendations of the Royal Commission.

YJAC expressed our concern to the Minister that the proposed changes were not in line with the recommendations from the Royal Commission, and in fact, rolled back many of the strong reforms already implemented. YJAC notes that other NGOs and stakeholders also expressed their concern regarding the new changes, including the Northern Territory's Acting Children's Commissioner.

Despite the concerns raised in the very small window of opportunity for YJAC and others to provide feedback on the Bill, the Youth Justice Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 was passed on 11 May 2021. The Bill was given assent on 14 May 2021, and came into effect on 15 May 2021.





10 May 2021

Dear Minister

On behalf of the Youth Justice Advisory Committee (the Committee), I write regarding the suite of measures that the Chief Minister announced on 23 March 2021 in response to youth crime.

The Committee strongly opposes the proposed legislative changes, and we are deeply disappointed in the lack of consultation with the Committee, the non-government sector, Aboriginal communities, and other key stakeholders.

On 23 March 2021, the Committee requested a briefing from Territory Families, Housing and Communities regarding the proposed legislative changes in order to prepare advice for you before the legislation was introduced into Parliament.

On 9 April 2021, the Committee was advised Territory Families, Housing and Communities is unable to provide a formal briefing on the proposed legislative amendments, as they are under the Cabinet-in-Confidence process.

On 23 April 2021, Territory Families, Housing and Communities contacted the Committee to advise that a verbal briefing could be provided on the proposed changes and this was scheduled for 30 April 2021. At request of Territory Families, Housing and Communities, this briefing has now been rescheduled to 7 May 2021, which limited the Committee's ability to prepare advice to you before the legislation was introduced into Parliament on 5 May 2021. Despite this, the Committee feels it is important to advise our position regarding the proposed changes and highlight our disappointment regarding the lack of proper consultation.

Over the past four years, the Committee has focused on implementation of the recommendations from the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory (the Royal

Commission). The Safe, Thriving and Connected: Generational Change for Children and Families 2018-2023 plan (the Plan) provides a clear roadmap for implementing reforms to better support children, young people and families experiencing vulnerability and to deliver the recommendations of the Royal Commission. The statement of commitment in this plan states:

“The biggest change required is a cultural one where our community as a whole recognises that the inadequate policies of the past have led us to where we are today and nothing short of a fresh start will suffice. We have a clear road map before us. A determined, steady, collaborative approach to implementation will start to drive the long term generational change we need in the Northern Territory. The responsibility lies with all of us.”¹

The proposed legislative changes are in direct contradiction to this commitment, and they roll back several of the important reforms implemented in response to recommendations from the Royal Commission. These changes will have devastating impacts for young people and will not make the community safer.

As highlighted in our discussions with you earlier in the year, we acknowledge the difficulty in trying to balance the long-term reform agenda with short term political decisions, especially when responding to media and community pressure from ‘tough on crime’ advocates. However, Australian and International research tells us what works. The evidenced-based measures that will reduce re-offending and keep our community safe already exist.

As you know, the Northern Territory has the highest rate of young people in youth detention in the country and almost all these young people are Aboriginal.² The reforms implemented by your Government were having positive effects and we were starting to see a decline in the rate of young people in youth detention in the Northern Territory.³ The Committee is deeply concerned that the proposed legislative changes will result in more young people in youth detention, which will disproportionately impact Aboriginal young people. Evidence shows youth detention is expensive, has harmful effects on young people, and has little impact on reoffending.⁴

Evidence tells us we need to continue our investment of time, money and resources in programs that address young people’s criminogenic risk factors and needs, and keep them connected with family, community, and culture.⁵ That is, early intervention and prevention programs, on-country camps, bail support programs, diversion, restorative youth justice conferencing, and Throughcare support. In addition, continued investment in early childhood development, education, health, housing and families will help to make the Territory a safer and healthier place.

As committed by the Chief Minister, the Committee encourages your Government to continue implementing recommendations from the Royal Commission to ensure ‘children are at the centre of every Northern Territory Government decision.’⁶

Yours sincerely



Stewart Willey | Youth Justice Advisory Committee Chair

¹ Safe, Thriving and Connected: Implementation Plan, https://rmo.nt.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/498173/Safe,-Thriving-and-Connected-Implementation-Plan-Web.pdf

² Youth detention population in Australia 2020, <https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/37646dc9-dc6f-4259-812d-1b2fc5ad4314/aihw-juv-135.pdf.aspx?inline=true>

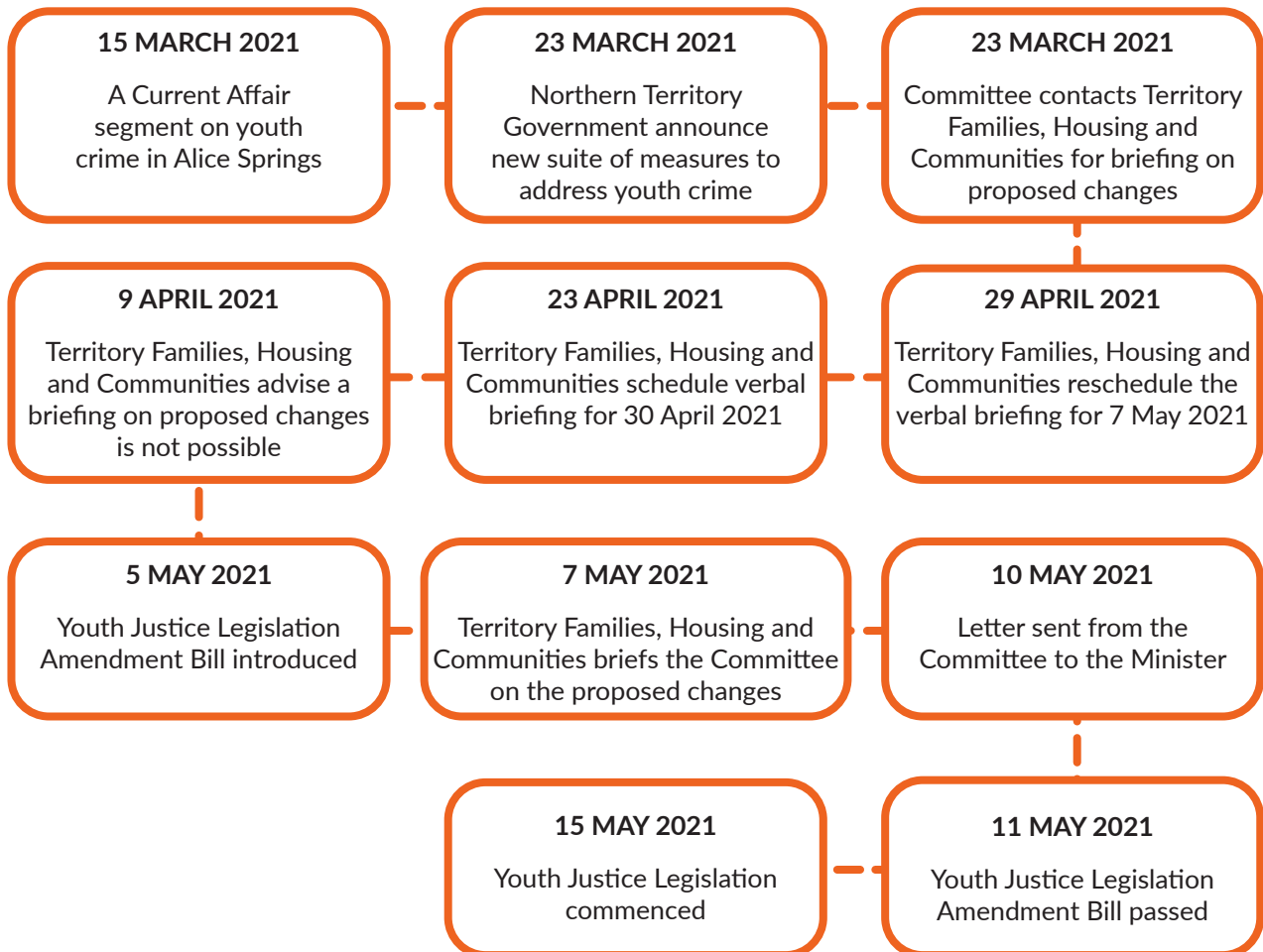
³ Ibid.

⁴ Youth Justice in Australia, https://www.aic.gov.au/sites/default/files/202009/ti605_youth_justice_in_australia.pdf

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Safe, Thriving and Connected: Implementation Plan, https://rmo.nt.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/498173/Safe,-Thriving-and-Connected-Implementation-Plan-Web.pdf

Youth Justice Legislation Timeline



Advice to the Minister

Throughout the reporting period, YJAC discussed the importance of providing timely and relevant advice to the Minister responsible for Youth Justice in accordance with the Act. The Committee agreed it would be beneficial to build a stronger line of communication with the Minister's office to ensure YJAC is serving its purpose and intent as outlined within the Act.

On 15 July 2021, the Committee wrote to the Minister inviting the Minister or a key advisor to attend each quarterly YJAC meeting. On 21 July 2021, the Minister wrote to the Committee welcoming our suggestion and committing to attending the quarterly meetings. A copy of the letter from YJAC to the Minister is provided below.

Hon Kate Worden
Minister for Territory Families and Urban Housing
Parliament House
DARWIN NT 0810
Thursday 15 July 2021

Dear Minister

As you are aware the Youth Justice Advisory Committee (YJAC) members are appointed under Part 13 of the Northern Territory *Youth Justice Act 2005* (the Act) to carry out the following functions:

- (a) to monitor and evaluate the administration and operation of this Act.
- (b) to advise the Minister (whether on request by the Minister or otherwise) on issues relevant to the administration of youth justice, including the planning, development, integration and implementation of government policies and programs concerning youth
- (c) to collect, analyse and provide to the Minister information relating to issues and policies concerning youth justice.
- (d) any other functions imposed by this Act.
- (e) any other functions as directed by the Minister.

YJAC members are currently reflecting on the past 12 months as part of the YJAC Annual Report process and reviewing priority areas for the next 12 months.

An area where there is complete consensus, is that YJAC members are committed to continuing to work towards building a strong line of communication with your Office, particularly in order to continue to provide advice as required under Part 13 of the Act.

YJAC members consider that the flow of advice between the YJAC membership and your Office could be strengthened by your Office committing yourself or a key advisor to attend a one-hour session as part of each YJAC quarterly meeting.

The aim of this session would be for YJAC to receive an update on youth justice priorities for your office, as well as an opportunity for YJAC to give real time advice regarding matters as they relate to the enactment of the *Youth Justice Act 2005*.

We would also welcome any other ideas you might have regarding ways to strengthen communication as we move forward.

A clear plan for communication moving into the 2021-2022 year will ensure that we will be able to document this plan in the annual report, which is currently in its initial draft form.

YJAC members are looking forward to continuing this conversation with you, as the Minister, your advisors, and your Office.

If you need more information or clarification, please contact the YJAC Secretariat at Territory Families, Housing and Communities.YJACSecretariat@nt.gov.au and/or the YJAC Chair at stewart.willey@gmail.com or more preferably on 0409 459 380.

Yours sincerely



Stewart Willey | Youth Justice Advisory Committee Chair



YJAC Issues Register

The YJAC Issues Register was principally established for the following groups to voice their issues, needs and concerns regarding Youth Justice:

- non-government organisations (NGOs) engaging with young people and their family members in the Youth Justice system at the 'grass roots' level
- community members
- youth justice networks such as the Central Australian Youth Justice Committee (CAYJC) and the Barkly Youth Service Providers Network (BYSPN).

YJAC's role is to discuss these issues at a Committee level, involve Territory Families, Housing and Communities and other Northern Territory Government Departments through discussion and correspondence, if applicable, and if required and provide advice to the Minister, including proposed solutions.

The majority of issues that NGOs and other groups raised during the 2020-21 reporting period relate to the legislative amendments to the *Bail Act 1982* regarding repeat offenders and their presumption of bail, and any breaches resulting in detention. This includes concerns regarding the lack of supported residential bail support options in their regional and remote communities. In addition, YJAC has received information and statistics that show there are currently low numbers of young people in residential bail support programs in Darwin and Alice Springs, suggesting existing services are not being utilised to their full capacity.

Another key issue raised was the lack of referrals to diversion, at a first instance by Police, and access to restorative conferencing in regional and remote areas under Sections 64 and 84 of the Act.

Young People in Detention: Increase in Numbers

The Northern Territory has the highest rate of young people in youth detention in the country. The majority of these young people are Aboriginal.

Following the Royal Commission, a number of policy and legislative amendments were introduced aimed at reducing the number of young people in detention. A number of these reforms were starting to have positive effects and there was a significant decline in the rate of young people in detention in the Northern Territory.

In May 2021, the Northern Territory Government introduced a raft of legislative amendments in relation to youth justice. These amendments included amendments to the Bail Act which make it harder for young people to get bail. These legislative amendments and their effects are in direct contradiction with the Recommendations of the Royal Commission.

Following the introduction of these amendments, YJAC have noted with significant concern that there has been a steady increase of young people in detention. YJAC are concerned that rather than investing time, money and resources into programs that address young people's criminogenic risk factors and needs, maintain connection with family, community and culture, bail support programs, and investment in support services, the Government is instead rolling out punitive responses and investing in the increased incarceration of young people.

YJAC note this is in direct contradiction with the Recommendations of the Royal Commission. It is well-established that the ongoing incarceration of young people will not reduce re-offending or keep the community safe. YJAC continue to advocate for the implementation of the recommendations from the Royal Commission to reduce the incarceration of young people in youth detention by investing in community-based programs and supports.

YJAC will continue to monitor the numbers of young people being returned to detention as a result of these amendments and will be requesting briefings from Territory Families, Housing and Communities to add to the experience of members on the ground, in preparation for providing briefings back to the Minister.

Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility

YJAC has continued to advocate for the raising of the age of criminal responsibility, as aligned with the Recommendations of the Royal Commission. In addition to meeting with the Law Reform Committee, written advice was provided which, while supporting the Integrated Act, indicated the position of the Committee and committed to providing more detailed feedback regarding this position, once the draft of the Act is circulated for comment.

Audio Visual Link (AVL) in Remote Communities

YJAC has a strong interest in the utilisation of audio-visual facilities (AVL) in remote communities to help facilitate young people's access to justice while remaining on country.

YJAC met with Mr Chris Cox, Executive Director of Courts, who provided an update about AVL facilities across the NT.

There are 60 AVL facilities across the Northern Territory. The majority of those are in Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine court rooms and vulnerable witness rooms.

The following communities have AVL in their remote courts and Police Stations:

- Wadeye
- Nhulunbuy
- Alyangula
- Yuendumu
- Tennant Creek
- Borroloola
- Gapuwiyak
- Yarralin.

YJAC were advised that there is an intention to continue to expand the network to other areas of the Northern Territory.

On-Country Bail Applications

In March 2020, there were specific amendments made to the *Youth Justice Act 2005* (the Act) to promote on-country bail applications and avoid unnecessary removal of young people from country. The Act provides that bail applications can, and should, be made at first instance via telephone or AVL before a young person is sent to a major centre to appear in court in person.

YJAC raised concerns that pre-existing AVL facilities at remote courts and police stations are not being used for on-country bail applications or other court appearances and young people are still being transported in custody to major centres to then apply for bail and be granted bail back to community. This imposes a significant cost on the community in funding the transportation of young people firstly in custody and then in repatriation back to their home. There is also significant cost to young people and their families if they are required to travel to major centres to attend court rather than be able to use AVL to do so.

YJAC were advised that an issue with the use of AVL for on-country bail applications is Police cooperation and attitudes. There appears to be a reluctance of police to use AVL (or even telephone) for the first instance bail application rather than transporting a young person to a major centre.

YJAC note that this is not in line with the Act's provisions and are concerned with the continued unnecessary removal of young people from country.

Court Appearances

YJAC raised the possibility of expanding court AVL facilities in remote communities to assist young people to appear in major centre courts without having to travel great distances at great cost.

The current practice is that the use of AVL for court appearances is arranged between various support services in the community and the legal representative in Darwin, Alice Springs or Katherine. This may be at the local council or through a support service's electronic devices. However, local councils are often reluctant to allow the use of their facilities and often impose a cost on legal services to use the AVL for court appearances or the taking of instructions. Other facilities such as at schools, health services, are difficult to arrange and are often not secure or private to the degree required for Court Proceedings.

YJAC queried whether or not it may be worthwhile to consult with local councils about utilizing their AVL facilities for court appearances. The Executive Director agreed to continue to explore alternatives in this area.

It is clear that we must increase access to AVL in all remote communities, particularly for those who are eligible to make an on-country bail application. Increasing access to AVL does not just mean spending money on the equipment but requires support systems and taking responsibility for utilising the available equipment.

YJAC note and are concerned that there remains a significant underutilization of AVL facilities in remote communities.

Impact of COVID-19 on YJAC and Young People

This financial year, the COVID-19 pandemic has again impacted on YJAC as well as the youth of the Territory.

Some of the positive impacts include the increase in use of online platforms and AVL. During lockdown periods of the COVID-19 pandemic we saw an increased, and generally successful, use of AVL in some areas of the Northern Territory. During COVID-19 restrictions, YJAC observed all youth Tennant Creek matters were being heard via AVL to a Judge in Alice Springs.

There were some logistical barriers to using AVL during COVID-19 restrictions, which included access to interpreters and also identifying people in remote communities available to provide support to effectively utilise the AVL services in remote areas.

Mr Chris Cox, Executive Director of Courts, noted COVID-19 forced all courts around the country to do things differently, with some court hearings conducted using WebEx. It was noted that the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice (AGD) is currently in conversation with the Department of Corporate and Digital Development (DCDD) to explore other options including desktop solutions such as Microsoft Teams, Skype and WebEx, noting that installation of videoconference facilities is expensive and desktop solutions are not always reliable because of internet connection problems in remote communities.

Community Work Orders (CWOs)

For a number of years YJAC has noted the absence of appropriate and approved programs for CWOs.

This year, the absence of CWOs was a focus area, yet again.

In September 2020, YJAC again raised the issue with Mr Ken Davies, Chief Executive Officer, Territory Families, Housing and Communities.

YJAC continued to reiterate concerns regarding the limited (or in some cases, the complete absence of) CWO options available for judges to impose as an alternative sentencing option for youth offenders.

As previously indicated, standalone CWOs need to be available for the Judges to impose, in addition and separate to being a component of Back on Track. The benefits to the community, victims and young offenders have been noted many times. Anecdotal reports suggest it is often the specific request of victim that the young person engage in some form of community work.

As a result of the Committee's interest in this area, a list of current community work order providers was provided to key stakeholders including the courts.

Young People and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

As a result of recommendations made by the Royal Commission, in 2020 Territory Families, Housing and Communities established the Disability and Development Team (DDT). DDT is a team of professionals with a background in disability services, which sits within the Department's Clinical and Professional Practice Directorate.

The team provide practical support and assistance to Territory Families, Housing and Communities staff across the Northern Territory in relation to children and young people with diagnosed disability and/or identified developmental concerns.

Specifically, DDT provides support around NDIS access, planning and plan implementation. It also manages the Medical and Allied Health Specialist Services (MAHSS) contract, a panel contract the Department uses to procure assessments and interventions for children in care, at risk of entering care or involved with youth justice. Specifically, the MAHSS contract can be used to procure; diagnostic and functional assessments, which can then be used to confirm eligibility for NDIS or to inform the court in relation to sentencing and support needs. The MAHSS contract can also be used to provide functional assessment and subsequent interventions for children and young people who are not NDIS eligible, or have additional needs not funded within their NDIS plan. In the past 12 months DDT has worked to increase understanding and awareness of disability across the Department, providing half-day training to all new Care and Protection staff as a part of their induction and ongoing support to existing staff.

There is significant evidence concerning the overrepresentation of people with disability in the criminal justice system and the need for early diagnosis and intervention to address this. The support provided by DDT has resulted in increasing numbers of children and young people involved with the Department getting access to appropriate diagnostic support and ongoing intervention. In the longer term, it is hoped that this support will reduce offending, re-offending, institutionalisation and the resulting flow through involvement with youth justice.

YJAC notes this support is provided for children in care, at risk of entering care, or involved with youth justice. YJAC's advocates for greater support services to be available for young people and their family to access assessments and interventions in regional and remote communities of the Northern Territory. This includes support for young people and their families in community to be referred to the NDIS and to access their NDIS plan. In addition, YJAC has highlighted the importance of NDIS plans following young people when they are transferred to, and within, youth detention. This includes ensuring that youth justice officers and education staff receive appropriate training in relation to a young person's disability.

Numbers of children on orders with an NDIS Interface as at 30 June 2021

Participant Pathway	Number
Access Not met	29
Approved Plan	185
Cancelled - Evidence Not Provided	12
Cancelled - Phase In Declined	1
Cancelled - Unable to Contact	10
Commenced Planning	2
Further Information Requested	9
Not Commenced Planning	11
Submitted for Approval (Plan)	1
Withdrawn	16
No Data	729
TOTAL	1005



Youth Hubs

Palmerston

Territory Families, Housing and Communities funds YMCA Northern Territory to manage the Palmerston Youth Drop In Centre (PYDIC). PYDIC commenced in July 2020, and on average 23 young people attend the centre each week.

PYDIC is part of the Breaking the Cycle of Crime initiative, to provide a supervised youth drop in centre to engage young people who are at risk and involved in anti-social behaviour.

The centre provides a safe, inclusive space for young people in Palmerston to join in activities that are fun and engaging, which meets a goal of the Palmerston Youth Action Plan.

Young people can access responsive support, focused on developing prosocial behaviours, social skills, living skills and engage in positive interactions between staff and people through organised activities.

YJAC supports the ongoing engagement and support the PYDIC provides to young people in this community.

Key Achievements

PYDIC celebrated its first birthday in June 2021. Three young people spoke at the event, and two gave heart felt speeches about the support from PYDIC and staff to youth. Larrakia Nation also provided a smoking ceremony outside the Centre to cleanse the space and honour the intent of the program.

During the June/July COVID-19 lockdown, staff undertook outreach style community services and virtual check-ins. The Centre liaised with Northern Territory Government, Larrakia Nation and Palmerston City Council over this period to support families at home, who would normally visit the Centre. This included repurposing funding to support the delivery of groceries into homes.

A program of engagement is implemented each week, which has included cultural activities, music programs, family engagement, swimming, tennis, gym, food programs, health and wellbeing, mums programs, employment and career development and much more.

Alice Springs

The Youth Outreach and Re-engagement Team (YORET) Hub in Alice Springs, located at 2 Railway Terrace, commenced operations on 21 November 2020. The Department and YORET were able to activate and make ready the Hub within eight days.

Operating hours for the YORET Hub since 21 November 2020 have been:

- **School Holidays:** December 2020/January 2021 – open 24/7 hours
- **Term 1:** 1 February 2021 to 31 March 2021 – Friday 6pm to Sunday 6pm
- **School Holidays:** 9-18 April 2021 – open 24/7 hours
- **Term 2:** 19 April 2021 to 24 June 2021 – Friday 6pm to Sunday 2pm.

During December 2020/January 2021 Christmas holidays approximately 5923 entries were made into the Hub. This number includes multiple entries. Term 2 saw the Hub average approximately 86 entries per day.

Some of the activities completed in the Hub during school holidays have been:

- Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (CAAC)
- Right Tracks program
- Drug and Alcohol Services Association (DASA)
- Rhythm to Recovery program
- Balanced Choice program
- professional music sessions for instruments and vocals
- jam sessions
- hairdressing, make-up and nails
- movie marathons
- day bush trips
- cultural activities
- competitive PS4
- painting sessions
- arts and craft
- table tennis
- boxing
- bike mechanics.

A key achievement of the initial opening that YORET all agreed on after the initial opening and running over the Christmas holidays was the engagements with the young people and meeting their families.

The staff gained valuable knowledge, experience and most importantly built relationships whilst working with the young people and children in the Hub space and environment.

Since opening the YORET Hub on 21 November 2020, the safe sleeping arrangement has not had to be activated, all young people presenting to the YORET Hub have had safe places and families to return to.

The YJAC discussed concerns raised by service providers that the operation of the Hub brought young people into the CBD area at night. YJAC notes that a review of the Hub was undertaken, and publicly released with recommendations to address these concerns.

Register of Appropriate Support Persons (RASP)

Benefits of evolution of the reports

The RASP provides Northern Territory Police with access to support persons who can be present and assist unaccompanied young people when they are required to attend interviews and engage with Police in relation to possible criminal matters. The appropriate support person acts as an independent observer for the young person, by providing appropriate support and non-legal guidance. In the Northern Territory, the RASP is provided by the Australian Red Cross. The Australian Red Cross has entered into a five-year funding agreement with Territory Families, Housing and Communities for administration of the program only. The RASP program relies on the recruitment, training and availability of appropriate people who are committed to volunteering their time. The Australian Red Cross partners with key stakeholders, particularly Northern Territory Police, Territory Families, Housing and Communities and legal organisations, such as the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency, to ensure that the volunteers are appropriately trained and able to fulfil their functions. Maintaining the RASP is a key function of the YJAC.

This financial year has seen the Committee request an expansion of the detail being harnessed in the reports, so that patterns and themes can be better recognised and advice given to the Minister in relation to themes observed. Accommodation status of the young person (i.e. living with family, homeless or in care) is one of the pieces of data that will be recorded by the RASP at the request of the Committee. The Committee is also particularly interested to observe whether there is any correlation between the increase of young people requiring the RASP services, and the changes to bail legislation, given that the numbers of young people requiring the service in Darwin in the final quarter of the year, jumped from seven to 17.

This year also saw the expansion of the RASP into Tennant Creek after feasibility was measured and community consultation occurred early in 2021. Data from this region will be included in all updates to YJAC in the year ahead.



Annual data of the RASP Program for the 2020-21 Financial Year

Outcome	Measure	Data by Location			
		Darwin	Katherine	Alice Springs	
Provide 24 hour support service to young persons being interviewed, questioned or charged by Police.	Total number of call outs	38	6	23	
	Individuals supported				
	Age breakdown	10			
		11	1		1
		12			
		13	6	1	4
		14	7		3
		15	8	1	4
		16	2		4
		17	11	1	7
		18			
		Unknown/other	3		
	Gender	M	37	5	11
		F	1		3
	Ethnicity	ATSI	33	5	23
		Other	5		
	Usual place of residence	Darwin/ Palmerston	19	4	
		Katherine	4	1	1
		Alice Springs	2		16
		Tennant Creek			1
Remote community		12		5	
	Interstate	1			
	Number of young people unable to be supported	0	0	0	
	Reason				
Referrals made to other services	Legal	12	5	4	
	Housing	4		2	
	Welfare	6		1	
Maintenance of Roster	Total number of persons on register	27	12	21	
	Gender	M		2	6
		F	27	10	15
	Ethnicity	ATSI	1	6	
		Other	20	6	21
	Volunteer hours contributed	32.15hrs	7.5hrs	16.20hrs	



Presentations and Discussions at YJAC Meetings During 2020-21

During 2020-21, YJAC received presentations and held discussions with the following government and non-government representatives:

- The Hon Kate Worden MLA, Minister for Territory Families and Urban Housing
- Mr Jeanette Kerr, Deputy Chief Executive Officer Families, Territory Families, Housing and Communities
- Mr Ken Davies, Chief Executive Officer, Territory Families, Housing and Communities
- Ms Karen Kinnersley, Senior Contracts Officer, Youth Services Directorate
- Mr Stephen Karpeles, Coordinator, Custody Notification Scheme
- Ms Salli Cohen and Ms Kelly Cork-King, Department of Health
- Mr Jye Cardona, Programs Coordinator, Don Dale Youth Detention Centre
- Ms Kate Crawley, (then) Director, Specialist Assessment and Treatment Services Team
- Superintendent Craig Ladler, NT Police
- Ms Seranie Gamble, Director Law Reform, Territory Families, Housing and Communities
- Mr David Ah Toy, Director, Reform Management Office
- Mr Brent Warren, (then) General Manager Youth Justice, Territory Families, Housing and Communities
- Mr Luke Twyford, Ms Leonie Warburton and Ms Courtney Grant, Law Reform Team, Territory Families, Housing and Communities
- Ms Kaitlyn Anderson, Australian Red Cross – the RASP.





