



# YOUTH JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20





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## Chair's letter

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

28 September 2020

Dear Minister Wakefield

The Youth Justice Advisory Committee (YJAC) in accordance with Section 213 of the *Youth Justice Act 2005* (the Act) is pleased to present the 2019-20 YJAC Annual Report.

In the reporting period, YJAC's involvement in the Youth Justice Sector, as per Section 204 of the Act, has included monitoring and evaluation of the operation of the Act; advising you on needs and issues within the Youth Justice System, adherence to the Act and the sector to inform government policy and program direction, especially with the amendments to Youth Justice legislation in conjunction with the Recommendations from the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory (NT) (the Royal Commission).

I appreciate the efforts of all YJAC members, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic and I welcome the new committee members who enable YJAC to have representation from a more '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 2019-20 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



## Background

The *Youth Justice Act 2005* commenced on 1 August 2006, and YJAC was established in 2008 under Part 13 of the Act.

On 1 July 2008, responsibility for the Act (except Part 3 and provisions regarding youth detention) was transferred from the Minister for Justice and Attorney General to the Minister for Children and Families, Department of Children and Families.

On 1 July 2012, responsibility for the Act (except Part 3 and provisions regarding youth detention) was transferred from the former Minister for Children and Families, Department of Children and Families to the Minister for Justice in accordance with the Review of the Northern Territory Youth Justice System: Report September 2011.

In August 2012, there was a change of Government and responsibility for the Act was transferred to the Department of Correctional Services. The Youth Justice Division within the Department of Correctional Services was responsible for providing administrative and secretariat support to the YJAC.

In 2016, another change of Government resulted in the majority of youth justice areas being transferred to the responsibility of Territory Families.

In March 2019, the Youth Justice Amendment Bill 2019 was introduced and passed in Parliament in August 2019. The Bill amended the Act to clarify key provisions regarding the use of force and the powers and functions of the Superintendent within youth detention centres. The *Youth Justice Amendment Act 2018* gained assent on 23 May 2018 and commenced on 24 May 2018. The Youth Justice Amendment Act 2019 gained assent on 28 March 2019 and retrospectively commenced on 24 May 2018. The purpose of these amendments were to remove any doubt about the meaning of the amendments in the *Youth Justice Amendment Act 2018*.

On 2 March 2020, the Amendments to the *Care and Protection of Children Act 2019* and the *Youth Justice Act 2005*, *Bail Act 1982* and *Police Administration Act 1978* came into effect. These changes arose as a result of the Royal Commission in to the Detention and Protection of Children in the Northern Territory. The main features of the Youth Justice and Related Legislation Amendment Act 2019 include:

- removing the barriers to youth diversion so that young people can address their offending behaviour faster and more effectively;
- limiting the time children and young people spend in police custody so young people cannot be held in police custody for unreasonable lengths of time;

- ensuring earlier access to legal assistance for young people so that young people have timely legal representation and are informed of their legal rights in an appropriate manner and language;
- improving the application of bail so that young people can participate in programs where there are consequences closer to the time that the offending occurred. This will enable a young person on supported bail to undertake corrective actions attached to their original offending and to change their behaviour; and
- protecting the right to privacy for young people in court proceedings while permitting victims, witnesses, support people, relevant staff and a genuine representative of the media to be in the closed court proceedings. Any other member of the public may seek leave of the Court to attend the proceedings.





# Functions, Membership, Powers, Meetings and Annual Report requirements as per the Act

## 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;
- (g) at least one member who, at the time of appointment, resides in a remote community.

## Section 204 Functions of the YJAC

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 YJAC 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 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 table a copy of the report in the Legislative Assembly within 5 sitting days of the Assembly after receiving it.

## Current Members as at 30 June 2020

Region	Name	Organisation
Darwin	Ms Jane Bochmann	Department of Attorney-General and Justice
	Ms Susan McPherson	Department of Education
	Ms Danielle Taylor	Community Member
Tennant Creek	Mr Stewart Willey	Community Member
	Ms Michelle Bates	Community Member
Alice Springs	Ms Sarah Holder	Northern Territory Council of Social Service
	Ms Elanor Fenge	Community Member
	Mr Andrew Lockyer	Community Member
Katherine	Ms Meg Geritz	Territory Families
Nhulunbuy	Ms Murphy Yunupingu	Community Member

### Former members during the reporting period

Region	Name	Organisation
Darwin	Mr Ian Lea	Northern Territory Police
	Mr Brett Prowse	Northern Territory Police
	Mr Clement Ng	Department of Attorney-General and Justice

## About the Current Members

### Stewart Willey, Chair

Stewart Willey is a Community Member from Tennant Creek and the current YJAC Chair. Stewart has been a member of the YJAC for over 11 years, and was previously the YJAC Chair from 2009 to 2017, before taking back over acting Chair duties in April 2019 and being formally elected again in May 2020. Stewart was formerly employed by Papulu Apparr kari Aboriginal Corporation as the Parent and Community Engagement (PaCE) Project Manager until 11 February 2019. PaCE engages with family members, schools and youth services providers in Tennant Creek and Barkly Region to address the needs, issues and barriers to a young person's school attendance and engagement. Stewart is now re-establishing the Youth Development Unit (YDU) in Tennant Creek and the Barkly Region through intensive case management engagements with young people, their family members and Elders, and providing alternatives to offending behaviours such as playing football games linked to school attendance.



### **Michelle Bates**

Appointed to YJAC in 2017 as a community representative, and working for First Peoples Disability Network, a systemic advocacy body, Michelle offers insight and learnings from many years of work nationally in the disability sector. A descendant of the Anaiwan and Kamileroi nations, for five years Michelle has cared for children as a foster carer and is an active community member on Warumungu country (Tennant Creek). Michelle's particular interest is in identifying barriers and issues faced by children and young people with diagnosed and yet to be assessed impacts of disabilities and complex care needs who are at risk of or engaged in child protection and youth legal systems.

### **Susan Macpherson**

Susan Macpherson has worked in education and training for more than 30 years. She has had a diverse career, working across the private and public sectors and for two tiers of Government in three jurisdictions. She has worked as a teacher, in school leadership positions, and at the executive and senior executive levels in the public service. Ms Macpherson has a particular interest in the education of young people with additional needs, and in working collaboratively to broker whole-of-government solutions to complex social policy problems.

### **Jane Bochmann**

Jane Bochmann is a Senior Policy Lawyer for the Solicitor for the Northern Territory within the Department of 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.

### **Danielle Taylor**

Danielle Taylor has worked in the youth and family non-government sector in Darwin for over 20 years. She began as a youth worker, later moving into the emerging youth mental health (Early Intervention) space and then into team leadership and program development. Over her time in this space, she completed her Post Graduate Diploma in Community Mental health. In more recent years, she has further developed her advocacy and project development skills when providing support to those impacted by the content being explored in the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the NT. This role provided a solid basis for her next role as the Youth Team co-ordinator of Throughcare with NAAJA Darwin. In her recent roles Danielle has advocated for a decolonising, trauma informed and innovative therapeutic response for those in the youth justice space. She is currently completing her Masters of Social Work. This is her first year as a member of YJAC.

## **Sarah Holder**

Sarah Holder is the Manager of Policy with the Northern Territory Council of Social Service (NTCOSS), where she has worked since 2017 including as a Child and Youth Policy Officer. Prior to this, Sarah was employed as a Policy Officer with Jesuit Social Services, with a particular focus on social justice issues in the NT. Sarah has completed post graduate studies in youth justice, and has commenced a Masters in Policy and Applied Social Research.

Sarah has worked in Central Australia for the past 17 years in policy, youth work and community development roles, and has a strong understanding of the needs of young people in remote communities and the issues they face in relation to social exclusion, homelessness, poverty and youth justice.

## **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 the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) in the Throughcare program, supporting youth that are involved with the youth justice system. Andrew has worked with incarcerated youth since 2016 and has also supported some youth during the 2017 Royal Commission. Andrew continues to support and advocate for youth that are incarcerated both in the Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre and the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre in Darwin.

## **Meg Geritz**

Over the last 19 years, Meg Geritz has worked in the Katherine Region in the field of Community Services and Development. This has included implementation of and brokerage for Youth Services and Youth Justice initiatives. Meg is currently the Senior Director Big Rivers Region within Territory Families, and is responsible for leading the integrated responses across the Katherine region. This includes service delivery functions in the areas of child protection, youth services, child and family support, domestic violence, and non-government organisation engagement and development to deliver place based integrated and responsive services.

Previously as the Regional Manager for Australian Red Cross, Meg was responsible for the development and implementation of Community Programs responding to community priorities in Katherine, Kalano and Daly River (Naiyi). Australian Red Cross programs supporting youth in this region include the Register of Appropriate Support Persons (RASP), the Personal Helpers and Mentor Support program, and the Pop-up Shak in Naiyu.





### **Elanor Fenge**

Elanor Fenge – BA (Hons), MSc (Oxon), JD, GDLP – is the youth justice lawyer at the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission in Alice Springs. After studying and working in the area of indigenous rights in Canada as well as South America, Elanor moved to Australia to study law where she focused on social justice and human rights issues. Elanor is committed to working with young people in Central Australia, in particular advocating for the rights of youth and achieving meaningful reform in the youth justice sector in the Post-Royal Commission landscape.

### **Murphy Dhayirra Yunupingu**

Murphy Dhayirra Yunupingu is an Elder from the Gumatj Clan. Murphy has experience working as an interpreter at the local court and is a border member of Gumatj Aboriginal Corporation. He has an understanding of judicial laws, and combines this with Yolngu law in a view to reach better outcomes for the community and young people. Murphy has worked with disengaged youth through the Yothu Yindu Foundation, and was the founder of the Marngarr and Galupa Suicide Prevention Group. Murphy has also led numerous community meetings on youth behaviour, and worked in an after school hours drop in centre.





## YJAC Focus Areas

YJAC focus areas are linked to the recommendations from the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory and key youth justice reforms. The focus areas for the 2019-20 financial year included:

1. Bail support (including supported bail accommodation and the link between young people in the child protection system);
2. Diagnosed or undiagnosed disabilities (including cognitive impairment, intellectual, hearing, mental health, Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), and National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) plans in and outside of detention);
3. The Youth Outreach and Re-Engagement Team (YORET) Review and implementation of recommendations;
4. Community Work Orders (CWOs);
5. Advocating for Back on Track (BoT) expanding and receiving more funding so that the program is more effective in line with justice reinvestment principles;
6. Restorative Youth Justice Conferencing;
7. Access of Audio Visual Link in remote communities; and
8. Raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility.

## Synopsis of the Committee's involvement in the youth justice system

YJAC has aligned its focus areas for 2019-2020 to the Royal Commission recommendations, Youth Justice reforms and amendments to the *Youth Justice Act 2005* (the Act). In doing so, YJAC has concentrated on the following areas to inform the Minister of the positives and challenges within the youth justice system:

- Advocating for Residential Bail support as an alternative to youth detention with a visit to Saltbush Supported Bail Accommodation in Darwin. This was in response to a request from the Minister for more 'grassroots' information on residential bail support, and included:
  - identifying the positives and challenges;
  - considering how to increase the number of participants through the Youth Justice Court and referrals; and
  - discussing needs, issues, and challenges with Saltbush and the Minister. This has been an ongoing project for YJAC.
- Supporting Amendments to the Act regarding bail and diversion. YJAC met with various Territory Families staff to gain information on the changes in legislation and reforms.
- Advocating for CWOs, especially in the BoT program and within youth diversion as an alternative to youth detention. YJAC notes a positive example in Tennant Creek involving a proposed community shed, and a garden and bike maintenance program with Red Cross and an Elder.
- Advocating for disability support for young people involved in the Youth Justice systems, including within Youth Detention. In particular, regarding access to:
  - NDIS plans with supported through care;
  - assessments for cognitive, FASD, and other mental health needs;
  - support for issues and challenges due to substance misuse, and linked to offending behaviours; and
  - training for Youth Justice Officers (YJOs), the Specialist Assessment and Treatment Services (SATS) team, and education staff to allow for increased engagement with the young person.
- YJAC discussed and proposed being involved in the Disability Royal Commission as it relates to young people involved in the youth justice system. YJAC considered developing a submission; however, COVID-19 delayed discussions and involvement.
- YJAC has invited the Department of Health to present on progress of implementing recommendations from the Royal Commission and the associated general health, disability health and mental health of young people in youth detention. The Department of Health has yet to present to the Committee; however, this is expected to occur in the next reporting period.



- Advocating for greater use of Restorative Youth Justice Conferencing (RYJC) in diversion, BoT, and as a presentence option. YJAC recognises RYJC supports and empowers Elders and family members to be involved, and enables young people to be responsible for their actions and choices through repairing the harm caused. Some business owners and victims request this option to understand the young person's motives; provide input and support into plans to address their offending behaviour into the future; and gain closure for themselves, the young person and their family members.
- Participating in the Specialist Advisory Group process and providing input into the development of a new and a refurbished youth justice centre, including proposed program and service models, utilising the Diagrama report as an example.
- Advocating for greater access to Audio Visual Link (AVL) in remote communities, allowing young people and families to stay connected and for bail reviews to occur from community.
- Advocating for raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility, and for early intervention and prevention programs and services to provide alternatives to negative influences such as Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) and offending behaviours.
- Advocating for BoT as a strong alternative sentencing option that addresses the needs, issues, and challenges of young people using a holistic, restorative, therapeutic and trauma informed approach. YJAC members have discussed the BoT evaluation report with Territory Families, and will provide work about how best to progress this work.
- Advocating for youth service providers to raise issues to YJAC regarding young people involved in the youth justice system. Over the reporting period, YJAC discussed and took action regarding several issues raised by service providers. Where appropriate, these issues were raised with Territory Families, the appropriate government department, or as a last resort, with the Minister.
- Meeting with Territory Families staff to understand measures that have been implemented in response to Recommendation 35.5 of the Royal Commission, which focuses on young people who cross over between the youth justice and child protection systems. This resulted in the YJAC providing feedback to Territory Families to inform the ongoing focus of the Family Crossover Unit and clarifying the definition of crossover kids.
- training for Youth Justice Officers (YJOs), the Specialist Assessment and Treatment Services (SATS) team, and e
- Reviewing the NT Aboriginal Justice Agreement.
- YJAC discussed the issue around diverting traffic offences to diversion, particularly relating to mandatory sentencing for drink driving.
- YJAC provided feedback to Territory Families and the Minister regarding the YORET evaluation, noting the evaluation report was not released publicly.
- YJAC received updates from Territory Families on programs including BoT, cultural camps, RYJC, Elders and mentoring program, youth detention centres, and residential bail support for young women.

- YJAC examined Territory Families Youth Justice performance data to inform and advise the Minister.
- YJAC examined the Territory Families and Police joint protocol regarding residential facilities to inform and advise the Minister.

## YJAC Advice to the Minister for Territory Families

As per YJAC's statutory obligations, YJAC continues to provide advice to the Minister on a number of issues, as well as seek clarification on the Minister's position regarding those issues. YJAC recognises that all YJAC minutes and bulletins form part of YJAC's advice to the Minister, as the Minister considers the meeting minutes and the bulletins prepared by the YJAC Secretariat. In addition to this informal advice, YJAC met directly with the Minister on two occasions during the reporting period.

### YJAC direct advice to the Minister for Territory Families – July 2020

On 31 July 2020, YJAC met with Minister Wakefield via video link to Alice Springs. The following issues were raised with Minister Wakefield as relevant to the administration of the *Youth Justice Act 2005*:

1. There is an opportunity to increase the presence of victims and victims' voices in YJAC. Public sentiment indicates the community feels the effects of youth crime. Victims should be involved and provide advice to YJAC on strategies to redress impacts of youth crime, in particular property crime. The Minister noted that she has broad exposure to victims of crime through the constituency and suggested Victims of Crime NT might be approached to participate in or provide briefings to the Committee. It was noted the focus needs to remain on what victims would like to see occur to encourage rehabilitation of the youth offenders.
2. YJAC advised the Minister about the strong support for supported bail accommodation. YJAC queried the progress of three potential bail accommodation sites as well as any planned evaluation process. It was noted a high percentage of young people who stay at supported bail accommodation adhere to their bail conditions. The Minister noted the work underway to develop a Barkly Accommodation facility, which will be tailored to meet the requirements of young people in that region. YJAC advised there is an opportunity to promote good news stories about successful bail support outcomes for young people.
3. YJAC reiterated its concern regarding limited CWO options available for youth offenders as a sentencing option. The Minister referred to the BoT program and a recognition that BoT needs to have a component of community restitution. YJAC indicated that BoT will be for a small targeted cohort, and that CWO programs need to be available for other young people. This will remain a focus area for YJAC.
4. YJAC discussed wilderness camps for youth, noting a preference for camps to be run closer

to country, rather than in South Australia like Operation Flinders. The Minister discussed the success of Operation Flinders and the participants. The Minister discussed other options that are also being pursued, including training for Youth Justice Officers (YJOs), the Specialist Assessment and Treatment Services (SATS) team, and camps operating at Seven Emus Station in Borroloola and Litchfield in the Top End. YJAC raised concerns regarding the language of the terms 'work camp' and 'boot camp'.

5. YJAC asked the Minister about the plans for the Darwin Youth Justice Facility and Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre and the Minister reported back on the plans for Darwin and considerations for Alice Springs.

## YJAC direct advice to the Minister for Territory Families – February 2020

On 5 February 2020 YJAC met with Minister Wakefield. The following issues are some of those that were raised with Minister Wakefield as relevant to the administration of Youth Justice:

1. YJAC identified limited pre-sentence and restorative justice conferencing in the Southern Region, including a specific example of a conference ordered by the Court which did not occur. This information was provided to Territory Families and this resulted in significant positive changes in Central Australia.
2. YJAC discussed the limited CWO programs available and lawyers may not ask for this type of sentence, and Judges may not order them. Victims often ask for offenders to complete community work and/or community service. The Minister noted Territory Families is developing CWO providers and she would request a briefing from Territory Families regarding community work order programs.
3. It was noted that it appears there are vastly different outcomes for young offenders in the Darwin Youth Court as compared with Alice Springs Youth Court. YJAC recommended a youth specific judge be appointed in Alice Springs.
4. YJAC advised that BoT appears successful and advocated for additional funding. YJAC also recommended that Territory Families connect with the sector as soon as possible to obtain feedback on the model. Territory Families agreed to bring together a meeting in Darwin, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs to talk with service providers about feedback on the BoT program.
5. It was noted that YJAC is interested in considering the YORET Review Report. The Minister confirmed she would follow this up. Ultimately YJAC was provided with a copy of the Report.
6. YJAC noted the ongoing issue of disability and cognitive impairment in the youth justice system. Issues and improvements surrounding NDIS access for young people were discussed.



## RASP

The Register of Appropriate Support Persons (RASP) provides the NT 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 NT, the RASP is provided by Australian Red Cross. Red Cross has entered into a five year funding agreement with Territory Families 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 the NT Police, Territory Families and legal organisations such as the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) 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 putting a particular focus on the role of the RASP program and the potential impact that NAAJA's Custody Notification Service has had on demand for the RASP service. The Committee maintained an interest in how the RASP has taken steps to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the NT. Recommendation 25.6 specifically relates to the need to 'ensure the register of support persons established under section 14 of the Youth Justice Act (NT) includes people from Aboriginal Law and Justice Groups and/or other Aboriginal community bodies for each area of the Northern Territory'. YJAC notes that Territory Families did investigate providing RASP funding to an Aboriginal Community Controlled organisation, however ultimately this funding has remained with Red Cross. As above, YJAC also notes that the funding for RASP is for administration of the program, and notes Red Cross' responsiveness to YJAC's requests for further information and discussion of data and trends.

## Data for the 2019-20 financial year

Relevantly, the annual data of the RASP program for this financial year 2019-20 are as follows:

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		28	2	14	
		Individuals supported	28	2	14	
	Age breakdown		10	0	0	0
			11	0	0	0
			12	1	0	0
			13	2	0	0
			14	3	0	4
			15	4	1	1
			16	6	0	7
			17	12	1	1
			18	0	0	0
			Unknown	0	0	1
	Gender		M	24	1	10
			F	4	1	2
	Ethnicity		ATSI	24	2	14
			Other	4	0	0
	Usual place of residence		Darwin/ Palmerston	21	0	0
			Katherine	1	1	0
			Alice Springs	1	0	7
			Tennant Creek	0	1	0
			Remote community	5	0	7
			Interstate	0	0	0
		Number of young people unable to be supported		0	0	0
	Reason		N/A	N/A	N/A	
Referrals made to other services		Legal	0	0	0	
		Housing	0	0	0	
		Welfare	0	0	0	
Maintenance of Roster	Total number of persons on register		15	5	8	
	Gender		M	1	2	2
			F	14	3	6
	Ethnicity		ATSI	1	1	2
			Other	14	4	6
	Volunteer hours contributed		34.75 hours	1.75 hours	10.5 hours	

Overall, YJAC notes that the number of call outs has continued to decrease in the last four years. Whilst it is clear that there are a sufficient number of volunteers to provide the service, YJAC is continuing the discussion with Australian Red Cross to investigate the reasons why the number of call outs for RASP are reducing and are particularly low in regions such as Katherine. NT Police advised YJAC that young people have been advised by their legal representatives to decline to participate in interviews with police, which may explain the further reduction in call outs for the RASP program. YJAC notes that the introduction of the custody notification scheme may also have reduced the number of call outs for RASP.

YJAC noted that further information and data on RASP would provide greater understanding of the efficacy of the program, including the number of young people who RASP is called out to support, who are also in the care of the CEO. YJAC discussed this with Red Cross, who amended their quarterly reporting to provide further qualitative data and analysis.



## RASP Flowchart

Australian Red Cross has also provided the Committee with a flowchart (appendix 1) and table of engagement activities which has been very helpful in assisting the Committee to understand the specific issues in relation to the program.

If a young person is under arrest, before contacting RASP first make sure that:

- ✓ Responsible adult/s have been identified and contacted
- ✓ No responsible adult is available
- ✓ If young person is under the care of Territory Families, they have been contacted
- ✓ The young person has been offered the opportunity to talk to a lawyer

Determine if it is appropriate to interview and charge the young person at this time:

- ✓ The young person is not under the influence of alcohol or other drugs
- ✓ The young person is in a stable emotional and mental state
- ✓ A judge will be available to process the young person if required

Contact Red Cross for a support person to attend as a last resort:

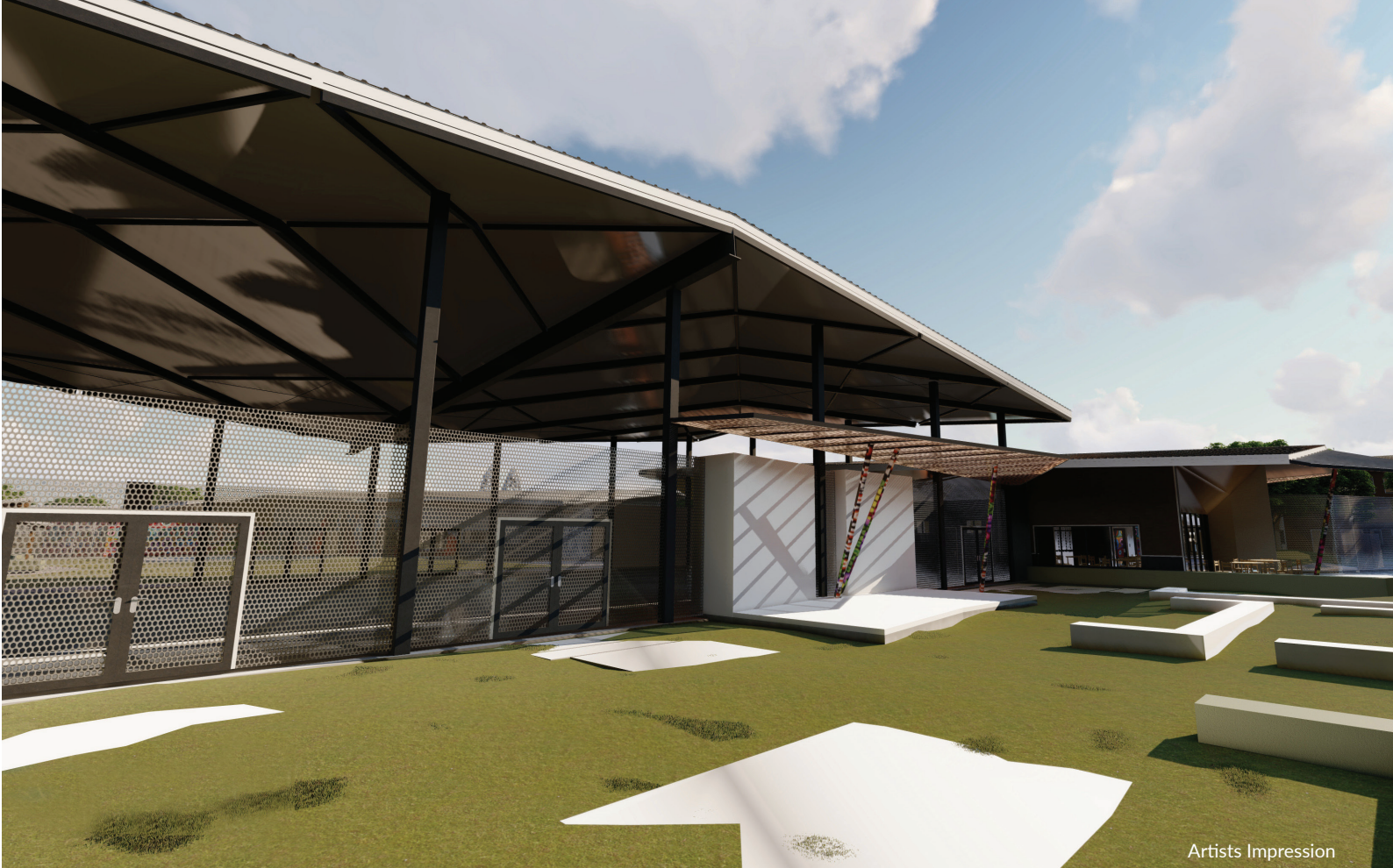
- ① The young person is not under the influence of alcohol or other drugs
- ② The young person is in a stable emotional and mental state
- ③ A judge will be available to process the young person if required

When the Red Cross Support Person arrives s/he will want to speak to the young person in private. They will talk with the young person to determine if:

- ✓ S/he would like the volunteer to be present as a support person
- ✓ All possible family members have been contacted to be a responsible adult
- ✓ S/he has been treated appropriately by the police during arrest and in custody
- ✓ S/he has been offered the opportunity to speak to a lawyer
- ✓ S/he is in an appropriate mental and physical state to participate in these procedures
- ✓ S/he understands what is happening and what their rights and obligations are

If a young person feels that any of the above conditions have not been satisfied, they will first talk with Police to see if this can be rectified, and may ask for the procedure to be displayed. Support Person can assist NT Police or Young Person in making relevant referrals.





Artists Impression

## Youth Justice Infrastructure

### New Darwin Youth Justice Centre

- YJAC members participated in Specialist Advisory Groups regarding the new Darwin Youth Justice Centre, and attended a site inspection and engaged in discussions around the proposed program model including site selection, site plan, education, health, and cultural involvement post release, including a throughcare program. YJAC advised the Minister on this involvement.

### Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre Refurbishment

- The YJAC Chair was involved in the Specialist Advisory Group for the Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre refurbishment, and provided feedback on the site refurbishment submissions, plans and the proposed program model. YJAC advised the Minister on this involvement.

### Barkly Region Youth Justice

- Two YJAC members are representatives on the Youth Justice residential, program and service working group. This role includes supporting and engaging Elders during the process

of site selection and program design. The working group meeting information is provided to all YJAC members for feedback.

- YJAC provided input into the program location.
- YJAC provided input into the program model. This included consultation regarding the Diagrama report commissioned by Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the NT, and participating in discussions on the program model post receiving the report.

## YJAC feedback on the Diagrama

- YJAC noted the recommendation for both open as well as secure facilities in regions outside of Darwin and Alice Springs, such as Katherine and the Barkly Region.
- YJAC noted changes to the Act would be required to enable NGOs, such as Diagrama, to operate Youth Justice facilities.
- YJAC noted positive recommendations in the report regarding involvement of the judge/s with young people and service providers throughout the court process.
- YJAC noted that it is simply too costly to operate a Youth Detention Centre outside of Darwin and Alice Springs.
- YJAC discussed the merits and downfalls of the Diagrama Model and considered whether it is appropriate for all young people involved in the youth justice system in the NT, given many come from regional and remote communities, and for them there may be a more suitable local response to address their offending behaviours.

## Bail Support Accommodation

YJAC discussed bail support accommodation with Minister Wakefield on 31 July 2019. The Committee referred to the report provided to the Minister on Bail Supported Accommodation, as published in the 2018-2019 YJAC Annual Report, and noted that there is support and evidence for bail support accommodation in the NT. The Committee asked the Minister whether the program will be evaluated, and noted that this would provide the opportunity to make improvements as needed and share successes of bail support accommodation. The Committee noted public perceptions of youth crime and the importance of sharing positive stories to challenge this narrative. The Minister agreed that it is important to show through practice and allow time for perceptions to change, noting the majority of young people who attended bail support accommodation met their bail conditions.

YJAC noted the importance of police and court support for bail support accommodation in order for the program to be utilised by more young people. The Minister provided an example that Palmerston Police are advocates for bail support.

## Royal Commission Recommendations

At the outset, YJAC note the following specific recommendations of the NT Royal Commission.

### Recommendation 25.21

Bail support services for children and young people be provided in Darwin, Alice Springs, Tenant Creek, Katherine and Nhulunbuy, together with other such locations as are appropriate, which include the following features:

1. accommodation services in a small, homelike residences;
2. bail support plans developed with a specialist youth worker, covering education, employment, recreation and sporting goals;
3. the engagement of the young person and their family, where possible, in the development of the plan; and
4. the availability of, and referral to, services and practical life skills support to assist the young person.

### Recommendation 25.22

The Northern Territory Government, in the establishment and delivery of bail support services, give priority to working with Aboriginal community controlled organisations.

YJAC also note that the Royal Commission in its final report (volume 2B) at page 300 identified specific considerations or criteria that are necessary for children and youth bail support in the NT:

'An effective bail support program, including bail accommodation, should:

- be available to support young people from the moment they are granted bail;
- operate as a 24-hour service;
- be available to young people irrespective of whether they have entered a plea of guilty and are awaiting sentence or not;
- have the capacity to deal with young people who may have complex needs;
- be designed to include wrap around services, such as education, housing, employment and health;
- operate with clear and effective lines of communication to the courts, police, families and other interested parties;

- operate in a culturally competent manner;
- collect high-quality data about its operations and make that data available for formal evaluation of its effectiveness;
- have a specialist youth worker who works with the young people and their families, among other things, to support them in arranging services and provide practical life skills support such as attendance at Centrelink, obtaining a driver's licence and purchasing clothing; and
- develop bail support plans for the young people, through a specialist youth worker engaging with the young person and their family.'

## Best-practice principles

In addition, as noted in the 2018-2019 YJAC Annual Report, the following best practice principles were referenced in the Queensland youth justice review report 2018 by Bob Atkinson.

'Best-practice principles suggest that bail support programs should:

- be voluntary, ensuring that the client is at least somewhat motivated and willing to engage with treatment and make changes to their life;
- be timely and individualised—that is, available immediately upon bail being granted and responsive to the accused person's immediate needs, even before they have left the court;
- be holistic, addressing the full range of the individual's criminogenic needs;
- be collaborative, using interagency approaches involving other government and non-government service providers;
- consistently apply a strong program philosophy program-wide, at the individual case-manager level;
- prioritise support over supervision, with response to and treatment of an individual's criminogenic needs emphasised over monitoring;
- be localised and make use of local community resources and knowledge;
- have a court-based staffing presence and establish good working relationships with court officers and service providers. Working relationships with court officials and the judiciary are important for establishing credibility and instilling judicial confidence; and
- be based on sound guidelines and processes that assist clients to engage with the structured.





## Facilities and infrastructure

YJAC conducted a site visit to the Darwin Saltbush site Yirra House on 4 February 2020. YJAC members noted that the staff and management were open in their communication with YJAC and appeared to have positive rapport with the young people in the residential facility.

The facility is located approximately 17 kilometres from Darwin Central Business District (CBD) in a semi structure building. Efforts have been made to create a home-like environment. Young people have their own rooms and share a living area, open plan kitchen and office or computer room. The backyard includes a trampoline, basketball court, vegetable garden and chickens.

Although families are able to visit during specified times, YJAC members note the location of the Centre may affect the number and regularity of visits. Many of the young people staying at Yirra House at the time of YJAC's visit normally resided in remote communities, meaning family were required to travel considerable distances to visit and maintain contact.

Saltbush advised YJAC there can be issues accessing healthcare for young people, as Saltbush is not the legal guardian. Saltbush provided an example where a young person needed dental treatment; however, the practitioner would not proceed without approval from a Legal guardian. Saltbush advised they are working with Territory Families to address this issue.

In conversation with young people staying at the facility, YJAC members noted that the young people expressed pride in having their own room and space to keep their possessions.

## Referral and assessment

Saltbush provides a 24 hour referral service. In YJAC's 2018-2019 annual report it was noted stakeholders advised assessments are required before a young person is admitted into the centre. These assessments require 3-7 days resulting in young people waiting in custody on remand. YJAC notes these assessments are completed for the court.

YJAC understands the same assessment process and timeframes are still in place. YJAC was not provided with any data regarding referrals direct from Police that would bypass the 3-7 day assessment timeframe. YJAC recommends relationship building between Saltbush and NT Police to ensure the relevant officers working with young people are aware of Saltbush and contact details.

## Cultural Programs

YJAC members noted that the Residential Manager was well informed in the cultural context, and had a sound understanding of where to direct young people, where cultural needs are highlighted. Saltbush also has an in-house cultural program. The Residential Manager is an Aboriginal man and was open to discussing Saltbush and its responses to the cultural needs of young people residing in the facility.

## Future Directions

- The *Bail Act 1982* was amended by the Youth Justice and Related Legislation Amendment Act, with changes coming into effect in March 2020. It is unclear if a greater utilisation of direct referrals between Police and Saltbush has occurred since the legislative changes. YJAC recommends that relevant Police and Saltbush staff meet to discuss a direct referral pathway and an increase in its use.
- Provision of in-house training for Saltbush staff with Territory Families, consistent with training provided to Youth Justice Officers.
- Consistent therapeutic and clinical input into the referral and case management processes for young people across Saltbush sites.
- Consistent educational transitional planning processes for young people across Saltbush sites, with potential input from Department of Education youth court liaison officer.
- Ongoing involvement, relationship building and collaborative processes with the wider youth sector.

## Diagnosed and undiagnosed disabilities

YJAC members continue to advocate for and explore solutions to better address the often complex support needs of children and young people with disabilities (or yet to be diagnosed disabilities), who are at risk of involvement in the youth justice system.

YJAC notes there is a need for improved access to assessments, particularly for young people in regional and remote communities. Only after a full assessment is undertaken, can we understand the needs of the child or young person using a disability lens, to determine ongoing best practice support.

The requirement for a full assessment of children and young people at risk of, and involved in, the youth justice system is apparent when a child or young person and their family members fail to understand the seriousness of the offending behavior. This includes an understanding of 'right from wrong'. If the impact of a young person's disabilities is not fully appreciated, behaviours will ordinarily escalate. Further, without trauma-informed therapeutic approaches and support, the young person will be more vulnerable to flight, fight, freeze responses and further risk of offending.

Undiagnosed disabilities in at-risk children and young people in remote community settings, add additional challenges due to the limited services available in communities to families, children and young people. YJAC note health assessments do occur in detention settings and in the community; however, if more assessments were conducted prior to detention, we could set the child or young person up for acquiring closely aligned support, tailored specifically to their needs. Examples include knowledge of FASD, acquired brain injury, cognitive and learning disabilities.

It is noted that BoT fills a key role here, with all participants having a comprehensive assessment as part of the program.

YJAC strongly advocated to Minister Wakefield for more access to assessments at several points, including for children and young people in the care of the CEO, and those who are at risk or involved in the legal system.

YJAC advocates for increased assessments with the ultimate aim to further support families, communities and services in understanding and addressing offending behaviours. Increased understanding can only assist in preventing further legal system engagement.

In 2020, progress was made when Territory Families, legal representatives and the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) worked together to establish NDIA/Scheme support for a young person in detention; leading to further depth of understanding by Youth Justice Officers in their engagement with the young person, and engaging the young person in his interests, and preferred ways of communicating, while in a detention setting.



## YORET Review

YJAC has maintained an active interest in the implementation of the YORET, and considered a copy of the YORET review which was completed in 2019. One strong finding of the report was the connection between the YORET and young people, and positive outcomes. Gaps in policies and procedures have left some ambiguity within the YORET, the community and the sector, and will be a key focus moving forward. The recommendation for a strong focus on culture was also acknowledged by Territory Families as a theme to build on.

YJAC has recommended that a disability lens be placed on the continued development of this team, given the large numbers of young people in the youth justice system with an undiagnosed / diagnosed cognitive disability. Young people need access to assessments and support to engage with NDIS if an impairment is established.

Also, given the strong community consultation that was undertaken in the development of the report, the Committee also recommended that the report be released in full to those who have contributed to its development and to the community who have an interest in the youth justice space.







## Information about the Back on Track (BoT) Program

### Background

In July 2019, the NT Government announced \$5 million would be invested into a Territory-wide youth justice program – Back on Track.

The BoT program has been operational since September 2019, and is currently delivered in Darwin, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy.

The program is open to 8 to 17 year olds who present with anti-social or offending behaviour. The program is tailored to each young person's needs and can include early intervention, restorative justice conferencing, as well as an alternative sentencing option for the court.

The program divides participants based on age and involves a holistic coordination of services centred around four elements.

Cohort 1 (young people aged 14 to 17 years) includes the following elements:

- Element 1 – Assessment and Case Management
- Element 2 – Consequences, reparation and giving back to the community

- Element 3 – Life skills and Cultural Connection
- Element 4 – Vocational education and training leading to employment

Cohort 2 (young people aged 8 to 13 years) includes the following elements:

- Element 1 – Assessment and Case Management
- Element 2 – Consequences, reparation and strengthened connection to the community
- Element 3 – Family capacity and responsibility
- Element 4 – Re-engagement with education

## Referrals

Referrals can be submitted to Territory Families within the agency as well as by external providers. Referrals are assessed by a Referral Panel comprised of representatives from the Department of Education, NT Police, Territory Families, the Department of Health and the Department of Housing. The group meets twice a week and assesses the eligibility of a young person for the program before referring the young person to the Element 1 provider for a particular region.

Referrals can also be received from the Youth Justice Court. The Back on Track program is a sentencing option for judges as it is a 'Ministerially Approved Program' pursuant to section 83(1)(e) of the Act.

## Participants

The program is targeted to 85 participants annually, Territory-wide, including 60 Cohort 1 participants and 25 Cohort 2 participants.

As at 31 March 2020, Territory Families had received a total of 121 referrals. Of those referrals received, 60 were assessed as ineligible by the Referral Panel, 2 were placed on a waitlist pending capacity of the Element 1 provider in Darwin and 59 resulted in young people participating in the program.

Of the 59 participants in the program:

- 39 young people are in Cohort 1;
- 20 young people are in Cohort 2;
- 26 young people are in Darwin;
- 6 young people are in Katherine;

- 13 young people are in Alice Springs;
- 13 young people are in Tennant Creek; and
- 1 young person is in Nhulunbuy.

## Case study

A young person is completing the BoT program. Since the young person has been engaged with the program, the young person has attended school daily and established a routine with workers. The young person's challenging behaviour reduced and case workers are working with the young person in relation to appropriate medical assessments to better understand the young person. YJAC note this is an example of the wrap-around support provided by the BoT program.

## YJAC advice regarding the BoT Program

### Implementation

YJAC raised with Territory Families that there was confusion as to whether judges order BoT as a sentencing option, or are adjourning the matter for an assessment to be completed to determine whether the young person is suitable for BoT, whereby a report is then submitted back to the court.

YJAC queried whether young people who are on bail can complete the program.

YJAC notes that there have been some issues with caps on the program, and YJAC advocates for additional funding to expand the BoT program.

### Evaluation

The BoT Program will be evaluated within two years. YJAC recommended the program is evaluated mid-way to inform ongoing delivery. The YJAC also recommended that the evaluation team meets with service providers and NGOs across all regions inform the evaluation and improvements to the program.





## Restorative Youth Justice Conferencing

YJAC has proactively advocated for restorative conferences to occur in locations outside of Darwin and Katherine, such as Tennant Creek and Alice Springs, since 2018. This has been in consultation and collaboration with:

- Youth Service Providers;
- local businesses;
- Territory Families;
- Youth Justice Court Judges;
- Community Justice Centre (CJC);
- Jesuit Social Services (JSS);
- young people and their family members; and
- Elders/respected community members to cease, reduce and address the offending behaviours of young people by advocating for supported conference outcomes.

RYJC is one of the unparalleled alternatives to addressing the offending behaviours of young people. Conferencing can provide closure for the victim, as well as initiate an opportunity for the young person to be accountable for their offending behaviours. It offers a collaborative approach by involving the young person's family members, Elders, respected community



members, youth service providers and the victim to determine a way forward. This includes developing a conference engagement and outcome plan.

All of the Tennant Creek conferences have been self-initiated by the young person after discussing this option with them, their family members, and their lawyer, as they wanted to give back for the 'trouble' they had caused. The efforts of one supportive Judge in particular has resulted in positive outcomes for all conference participants.

However, there is a very apparent need to engage with young people under the age of criminal responsibility to address their offending behaviours through their understanding of 'right and wrong'. This should include early intervention, and implementation of prevention strategies through access to alternative programs and services as well as case management. YJAC recommends these programs and services adopt a trauma informed, culturally appropriate and strengths based approach.

The starting point is to address their offending behaviours through an age appropriate restorative conference program model that includes components of a family conference, victim offender conference and mediation. This should involve the young person's family members, Elders, respected community members, youth service providers, Victims of Crime NT, Police, Primary Schools (as required) and the person or business that they offended against. The restorative conference outcome, as determined by restorative conference participants, should involve an education and reparation component, and address the young person's needs, issues, and barriers.

This also includes considering a young person's diagnosed and undiagnosed disabilities, and their understanding of their offending behaviours.

Territory Families' focus in Restorative Conferencing is mainly BoT and Diversion participants, but this does not involve young people under the age of criminal responsibility.

The JSS contract was expanded to provide Restorative Conferencing in the Barkly Region and Alice Springs on 9 March 2020. YJAC notes the reduction in offending behaviours by young people who undertake restorative and pre-sentence conferencing, and a reported understanding of how their actions have impacted the victim, their family and community members. YJAC supports the uptake of this option for young people in these regions. This will require further promotion of RYJC options with legal agencies. It will also require updating of the practice direction to advocate for RYJC in diversion programs, section 64 referrals and the BoT program.

In summary, YJAC members have been advocating with Territory Families and the Minister to ensure the Restorative Youth Justice Conferencing option is available to young people, their family members, and Elders to address their offending behaviours and criminogenic needs. This also provides the option for victims to have supported participation and provide input into the conference outcome.

## Raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility

YJAC notes the following specific recommendation of the Royal Commission into the Detention and Protection of Children in the Northern Territory (Royal Commission).

### Recommendation 27.1

Section 38(1) of the *Criminal Code Act* (NT) be amended to provide that the age of criminal responsibility be 12 years.

Raising the age of criminal responsibility remains a focus area of YJAC and the implementation of the Royal Commission's recommendation to raise the age of criminal responsibility in the Northern Territory to 12 years is supported by the Committee.

During a briefing from Luke Twyford, Territory Families Executive Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance on 20 May 2020, YJAC was advised that raising the age of criminal responsibility is a decision being discussed by the Council of Attorneys-General working group. YJAC was further advised there is concern regarding options for responding to serious offences committed by a child if that child is not criminally responsible. YJAC understands implementation of this recommendation is an ongoing consideration.

## YJAC Issues Register

The YJAC Issues Register was established for primarily NGOs engaging with young people and their family members in the Youth Justice System at the 'grass roots' level as well as for community members and youth justice committees such as the Central Australian Youth Justice Committee (CAYJ) and the Barkly Youth Service Providers Network (BYSPN) to voice their issues, needs and concerns regarding Youth Justice.

YJAC's role is to discuss these issues at a committee level, involve Territory Families and other NT Government departments through correspondence and if required provide advice to the Minister, including proposed solutions.

## Summary of issues raised in 2019-20 reporting period

- Young people with diagnosed disabilities being ordered to youth detention and residential bail support facilities. In one instance, charges against a young person were dismissed in court due to doli incapax.
- The use of electronic monitoring for children. In one instance, a 10 year old young person was ordered to wear an electronic monitoring device.
- Young people in the youth justice system facing discrimination regarding education, participation in ceremony, and culture.
- Aboriginal young people who are facing social disadvantage and have complex needs, mental health issues and cognitive disabilities (diagnosed and undiagnosed) are overwhelmingly involved in the Youth Justice and Child Protections Systems.
- Many young people are diagnosed with disabilities whilst in detention and in the care of the Territory Families Chief Executive Officer. YJAC advocates that there should be greater support services available for young people and their family members to have cognitive assessments completed in regional and remote communities of the Northern Territory, especially to gain the support of being referred to NDIS plan.
- YJAC notes that 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.
- This issue will likely be addressed through the Barkly Regional Deal Youth Justice Residential Facility and the proposed residential bail support facility. Further, the recent engagement of Elders to the Territory Families Aboriginal Elders and Mentors program will assist with keeping young people connected to their community and family.
- YJAC notes young people are often held in the Tennant Creek Watch House for extended periods. For example, two young people were held for three consecutive days for breaches of bail conditions, primarily for failure to comply with curfew conditions. Further, for court appearances, young people are transported from the Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre to Tennant Creek Court in the early hours of the morning, held in the Tennant Creek Watch House for an extended period (for example over 48 hours) and then transported back to the Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre.
- It is anticipated that this issue will be addressed through the Barkly Regional Deal Youth Justice Residential Facility and the proposed crisis and short to medium term residential program facility.
- YJAC notes that young people attending court in Alice Springs are currently held in the Police Watch House on the day of their court appearance until their matter is called. This is due to renovations of the local Court precinct. YJAC considers that the Alice Springs Watch House is not suitable for young people. YJAC notes that some improvements have been made to the Alice Springs watch house, for example a television has been installed and

lawyers can now take instructions from young people in a private interview room, however, work is ongoing to soften the watch house for young people.

- YJAC is concerned that Central Australian and Barkly Region young people on remand are often transported to the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre due to safety and security reasons. These young people are isolated from Elders, respected community members, family, and case management from their home community.
- YJAC is also concerned about the arising conflicts between Top End and Central Australian young people. YJAC recommends that engagement occurs with a known case manager from the young person's home community to ensure the young person is connected to family, Elders, and peers, and to ensure more sustainable support.
- YJAC notes it is important for young people to access photos and messages from their community, as well as maintain connection to country and language.
- YJAC notes Territory Families has implemented an Aboriginal Elders and Mentors Program to ensure young people are provided greater cultural support. YJAC's position is that these Elders and mentors should be from the young person's country and/or home community.
- During the reporting period, the issues regarding the Northern Territory Police Watch Houses in Central Australia and Barkly Region were raised with Minister Wakefield.





## Presentations and discussions at YJAC meetings during 2019-20

During 2019-20, the YJAC received presentations and held discussions with the following government and non-government representatives:

- Ms Sandy Beattie, Manager Youth Services Directorate, Mr Matt Panayi, former Manager Youth Services Directorate, and Ms Kelly Cooper, Senior Director, Youth Services Directorate, Territory Families, on Back on Track, Wilderness Camps and Community Work Orders.
- Ms Louise Ogden, former Director Community Youth Programs (Northern), Territory Families, on the Cross Over Family Unit.
- Mr Chris Simcock, Executive Director Youth Justice Operations, Territory Families, on youth detention centre operations within the Northern Territory.
- Mr Brent Warren, General Manager Youth Justice, Territory Families, on youth justice infrastructure including the replacement centre for Darwin, the redevelopment of the Alice Springs centre and the Barkly Youth Justice Facility.
- Mr Ken Davies, Chief Executive Officer, Territory Families, on youth justice and child protection matters across the Northern Territory.
- Ms Melinda Fleming, Chief Executive Officer, Victims of Crime NT, on services offered by Victims of Crime NT and how to increase the victim voice within YJAC.
- Mr Luke Twyford, Executive Director Strategy, Policy and Performance, Territory Families, on the YORET review, status of reform and youth justice data, and the Diagrama Report.
- Ms Jennifer Dally, Red Cross, on the Register of Appropriate Support Persons (RASP).
- Ms Jeanette Kerr, Deputy Chief Executive Officer Family and Regional Services, and Mr Brent Warren, General Manager Youth Justice, Territory Families, on the crossover of young people in the youth justice and child protection systems.

