

Q&A

What is Back on Track?

Back on Track is a \$5 million program that will provide alternatives to detention and pathways to divert young people away from the youth justice system.

The program will be developed in the Greater Darwin, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Nhulunbuy and Katherine regions for at risk children and young people aged 8-17 years.

The key aim of the program is to get young people back on track, while taking responsibility for their actions and understanding the consequences of their offending behaviour.

How is Back on Track going to solve anti-social behaviour and youth crime?

There are about 40,000 young people in the Northern Territory under the age of 18. Of these there are a small number involved in the youth justice system.

On most days there are about 40 young people in detention both sentenced and on remand across the Northern Territory.

The Back on Track program will work with work with young people between 8-17 years that are of the highest risk. We will develop programs rights across the Territory in the Greater Darwin, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Nhulunbuy and Katherine regions

The key aim of the program is to get young people back on track, while taking responsibility for their actions and understanding the consequences of their offending behaviour.

The Back on Track program will address the root causes of offending and deliver consequences for anti-social and criminal behaviour.

As part of the program, young people will be required to give back to the community to repair the harm they have caused by offending while at the same time equipping them with the skills to move forward, make positive life choices and become productive members of the community.

The NT Government believes in the economic and social value of building a more effective system to divert young people away from the justice system while rehabilitating and educating them about the impacts of their actions.

How will young people be chosen to participate in the program?

All children and young people referred to the program will be required to undertake an assessment of suitability before entering the program.

The Back on Track program is an alternative sentencing program. It will provide the Courts with another option to direct young people to as an alternative to detention.

Police, government agencies and non-government agencies will also be able to refer young people, including those under the age of criminal responsibility (8-9 years) to the program.

Existing options such as bail through supported services, community work orders, good behaviour orders, suspended sentences and alternative detention orders will remain.

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What are the benefits of the program?

The program will provide the Courts with an alternative to detention for young people aged 10-17 years.

The Police, government agencies and non-government agencies will also be able to refer children and young people aged 8-13 years to the program.

The Back on Track program will support young people to get back on track, take responsibility for their actions, understand the consequences and equip them to lead productive lives.

It will provide early intervention strategies to direct at risk young people away from the youth justice system, educate them how to make better life choices, re-integrate them back into pro-social activities and away from future reoffending. This will reduce anti-social behaviour and youth crime and increase community safety.

Who is going to run the program?

Territory Families and the Department of Education will partner with non-government organisations to develop, deliver and manage the Back on Track program.

Expressions of Interest for a suitable service provider/s to contribute to the co-design and delivery of the program for 8-13 year olds and 14-17 year olds will be released on 5 December 2018.

The Back on Track program is expected to be operational by mid-2019.

Why do we need alternatives to detention?

Young people across the Northern Territory have a disproportionately high risk of coming into the contact with the youth justice system.

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For service providers

Can my organisation apply to design and deliver one element of the program?

Your proposal should include detailed information about what aspects of the Back on Track program your organisation can deliver, which cohorts of children and young people your organisation proposes to deliver to and in which locations.

Territory Families will consider collaborative program design and delivery arrangements where providers submit a joint partnership proposal.

When does the Expression of Interest for applications open?

A two-stage competitive procurement process will be undertaken to facilitate the design and delivery of the Back on Track program.

Stage 1. Expressions of Interest for a suitable service provider/s to contribute to the co-design and delivery of the program for 8-13 year olds and 14-17 year olds are open now until 4 February 2019.

Stage 2. A Request for Tender process will open in March 2019.

The Back on Track program is expected to be operational by mid-2019.

What does my Expression of Interest application need to include?

Expressions of Interest will be undertaken to assess the tenderers broad capacity and capability to deliver the program across all cohorts of children and young people, program elements and locations across the Northern Territory.

It is expected the successful tenderer/s will have:

- Appropriately skilled staff and employment of local Aboriginal people
- Ensure young people comply with their court ordered conditions and be able to report on this
- Work with children and young people to participate in vocational education and training or employment and /or re-engage them with mainstream schooling
- Undertake a training needs analysis for program participants and develop a training and/or employment pathway to meet their individual needs
- Excellent engagement skills with young people and their families.
- Expertise in responding to the complex nature of young people who have experienced trauma and abuse/neglect
- Cultural competency and experience engaging with Aboriginal people, communities and organisations