

CHIEF MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Indigenous Territorians represent more than 30% of the Northern Territory's total population. Yet across virtually all indicators, wide gaps remain in outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Territorians. Indigenous Territorians have poorer health outcomes, are less likely to succeed in school, are less likely to be employed and are far more likely to be the victims or perpetrators of crime. Furthermore, Indigenous children are over-represented as victims of child abuse and neglect.

The Northern Territory Government is committed to overcoming the disadvantage experienced by Indigenous Territorians. I am confident that implementing *Closing the Gap* will bring about dramatic changes for the Territory's Indigenous population within the next 5 years. Importantly, *Closing the Gap* will also improve the lives of the next generation of Indigenous Territorians, who we hope will never experience the same levels of poverty and dysfunction that has existed in many of our remote communities for a long time.

To achieve these changes we will need a partnership between governments and Indigenous people and a willingness for all parties to consult and accept their responsibilities to create a better future.

Clare Martin – Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

INTRODUCTION

Closing the Gap is the Northern Territory's Indigenous generational plan of action, aimed at closing the gap in outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Territorians. It contains a vision and objectives for the future socio-economic wellbeing of Indigenous Territorians and sets ambitious but achievable targets for the next 5, 10 and 20 years. It also identifies areas for action in the next 5 years, based on the best available evidence of which actions will be most effective in closing the gap.

On 15 June 2007, the *Board of Inquiry into the Protection of Aboriginal Children from Sexual Abuse* (the Inquiry) released its findings. The Inquiry report included 97 recommendations across 22 themes, addressing the child protection system, as well as broader social and economic factors including housing, unemployment, offender rehabilitation, health, alcohol misuse and education.

A clear and main message from the Inquiry report is that a long term commitment to overcoming Indigenous disadvantage is needed to address the underlying social and environmental factors contributing to child sexual abuse. The other message is that a partnership between the government and Indigenous people is essential to future success. An Indigenous Affairs Advisory Council of senior Indigenous leaders, as well as

local community boards will provide the consultation mechanism to ensure plans are appropriate for local conditions and that Indigenous people are aware of their obligations and responsibilities in overcoming Indigenous disadvantage.

While the Northern Territory Government supports the messages and recommendations of the Inquiry, additional areas need to be addressed if we are to overcome Indigenous disadvantage within a generation. *Closing the Gap* goes beyond the recommendations of the Inquiry to address additional areas of: legislative reform, governance, employment and economic development, remote area policing, health, housing, communication and engagement. *Closing the Gap* also establishes a comprehensive framework for implementation of this long term generational approach, for negotiating complementary long term plans with the Australian Government, and consulting and negotiating with Indigenous people regarding their responsibilities and obligations to build a better future for their children.

Appendix 1 details the Northern Territory Government response to each recommendation of the Inquiry. These responses reflect the need for a long term generational approach to overcoming Indigenous disadvantage, and as such go beyond the recommendations themselves.

In April 2002, the Council of Australian Governments commissioned a national report against key indicators of Indigenous disadvantage, titled the *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage* report. This report, released every two years, assesses the degree of Indigenous disadvantage in each state and territory of Australia, across a number of strategic areas for action as well as key indicators. In this way, governments can evaluate whether policies, programs and interventions are achieving positive outcomes for Indigenous people. For each of the objective areas in *Closing the Gap*, the *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage* indicators have been used as a basis for setting targets. *Closing the Gap* objectives and action areas can also be related back to the *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage* strategic areas for action (see Figure 1, page 7). *Closing the Gap* seeks to address the gaps identified in the *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage* report.

VISION

By 2030, Indigenous children born in the Territory will be as healthy and live as long as other Territorians. They will have the opportunity to participate fully in the social and economic life of the Territory, while having a strong cultural identity.

OBJECTIVES

- **Safety** Ensure personal and community safety through a strong child protection system, effective alcohol and drug management, adequate policing, youth development and juvenile diversion programs and the engagement of the community in developing local solutions to crime and family violence.

- **Health** Provide the opportunity for a healthy lifestyle through a focus on early childhood health and development, preventative health, sporting and recreational activities and primary health care programs.
- **Housing** Provide families with safe, affordable and appropriate housing and access to essential services including power, water and sewerage.
- **Education** Provide children with a good start to life through preschool and early education programs in preparation for school, and access to high quality primary, secondary and tertiary education.
- **Jobs** Provide adults with opportunities through supporting the provision of local jobs to local people, increasing Indigenous employment in the Northern Territory Public Sector, enhancing literacy, numeracy and vocational skills and supporting economic activity in the bush.
- **Culture** Recognise the importance of cultural identity and develop an environment of mutual respect through cross-cultural awareness, communication and engagement.
- **A better way of doing business** Work towards the engagement of Indigenous Territorians in policy and service delivery in areas affecting them, helping them meet their obligations and responsibilities in building a better future for their children.

A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

The following pages provide an overview of the Northern Territory Government's generational plan of action to address Indigenous disadvantage. For each objective area, there is a brief description of the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Territorians, as identified in the *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage* report, followed by a summary of the approach to be taken to address this gap. A series of 5, 10 and 20 year targets have also been developed, based on recognised indicators of Indigenous disadvantage from the *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage* report. In addition, key actions for the Northern Territory Government for the next 5 years have been listed.

The Northern Territory Government has committed **\$286.43 million** towards these 5 year actions to implement *Closing the Gap*. This commitment includes:

- **\$79.36 million** for **child protection**
- **\$38.61 million** to implement the **Remote Area Policing Strategy, community justice** and other safety measures
- **\$10.11 million** for **alcohol and drug management**
- **\$23.4 million** to achieve better **health** outcomes
- **\$42.32 million** for **housing** in Indigenous communities
- **\$70.68 million** towards **education**
- **\$13 million** to improve Indigenous **employment and economic development**
- **\$8.95 million** towards better **cross-cultural understanding** and **engagement** in service delivery.

In determining where these resources should be located, consideration has been given to community need depending upon size and remoteness. Government services will be more extensive in larger communities and they in turn will service smaller surrounding communities. There has also been a focus on ensuring core services (i.e. police, health, education) are delivered in these communities in an integrated manner.

The Northern Territory Government is seeking the Australian Government's support for the long term approach outlined in *Closing the Gap*. For each of the objective areas, recent Australian Government initiatives have been identified, as well as some areas for negotiation with the Australian Government to attain a long term commitment to addressing Indigenous disadvantage that goes beyond the Intervention currently underway.

Local government is also an important partner to *Closing the Gap*, with strong local governance frameworks essential to success. Local government reform in the Territory is expected to provide these strong local governance frameworks, in the form of shire councils and local community boards. The new local government arrangements will provide economies of scale; underpin stronger management structures; increase the focus on local Indigenous employment; and provide a voice for local communities. Community boards will also provide an important avenue for negotiating strong partnerships between communities and government.

The Northern Territory Government is also seeking the support and commitment of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Territorians to work together in overcoming Indigenous disadvantage. Indigenous Territorians can assist in implementing the actions under *Closing the Gap* by committing to supporting school attendance, working with police to stamp out violence and substance misuse, adopting preventative health measures, accessing health services regularly, identifying opportunities and participating in economic development and working with governments to develop and implement policies and programs for Indigenous people.

The private, commercial and industry sectors can also contribute significantly to *Closing the Gap* by increasing Indigenous employment and encouraging economic development in remote communities. Non-Indigenous Territorians have a role, through learning about Indigenous culture and history and promoting cross cultural awareness and mutual respect.

For *Closing the Gap* to be effective, it needs to be a partnership between the three tiers of government (Federal, Territory and Local), which have resources and responsibility for service delivery, together with Indigenous Territorians who have the responsibility and obligation to provide a better future for their children.

IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

The following mechanisms will be established to oversee the implementation of *Closing the Gap*:

- An Indigenous Affairs Advisory Council will be established, comprising Indigenous leaders, representatives from Indigenous organisations and peak bodies. This group will advise government on issues affecting Indigenous Territorians, facilitate community input and participation in *Closing the Gap* and oversee its implementation. It is expected that this group will also be involved in developing future versions of *Closing the Gap*, including identifying further targets and actions for the next 10, 15 and 20 years.
- An Operational Group comprised of Deputy Chief Executives from relevant Northern Territory Government agencies with responsibility for Indigenous programs, and responsible to the Chief Executives Taskforce on Indigenous Affairs, will be established to drive the implementation of *Closing the Gap* across the Northern Territory Government. This group will report 6 monthly to the Chief Minister and Cabinet on progress. Cross-agency working groups for each of the *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage* strategic areas for action will also be established, reporting back to the Operational Group. These working groups will focus on integrating agency action and implementing cross-agency initiatives.
- The Northern Territory Government will use the *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage* report, together with Northern Territory Government agency annual and performance reports, as a basis for assessing progress against *Closing the Gap*. These reports will be reviewed by the Indigenous Affairs Advisory Council and the Operational Group and relevant information collated into a biennial report on progress under *Closing the Gap*.

LEGISLATIVE REFORM

In order to achieve the vision and objectives of *Closing the Gap*, legislative reform will be required. This includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Introduction of the **Care and Protection of Children Bill** into Legislative Assembly Sittings in August 2007, to replace the **Community Welfare Act** and to provide for the Children's Commissioner and other child protection measures
- Introduction of the **Local Government Amendment Bill** into Legislative Assembly Sittings in August 2007, to allow for transition to new local government arrangements
- Introduction of the **Local Government Amendment Bill (2)** and the revised **Local Government Act** in late 2007 to embed the new local government arrangements
- Under the amendments passed to the **Liquor Act** in 2006, declaration of Dry Areas, commencing with Alice Springs on 1 August 2007 and progressing to other areas during 2007
- Introduction of amendments to the **Liquor Act** into Legislative Assembly Sittings in August 2007 to provide power to the Minister for Racing, Gaming and Licensing to implement urgent liquor supply measures, to implement alcohol restrictions in town camps and to provide power to police to search vehicles
- Passage of the **Evidence of Children Amendment Bill** during the Legislative Assembly Sittings in August 2007 to provide greater protection for child victims and witnesses
- Introduction of legislation amending the **Bail Act** so as protect witnesses and reverse the onus in favour of bail concerning alleged sex and domestic violence offenders
- Introduction of new **domestic violence legislation** into Legislative Assembly Sittings in late 2007 to improve the effectiveness of restraining orders, including their effectiveness in remote areas
- Development of legislation to reform the committal system (and thus reduce the involvement of victims of crime in the criminal law system)
- Further reform of the laws of evidence by possible adoption of the national uniform **Evidence Bill**

Closing the Gap of Indigenous Disadvantage – A Generational Plan of Action
Objectives and Action Areas

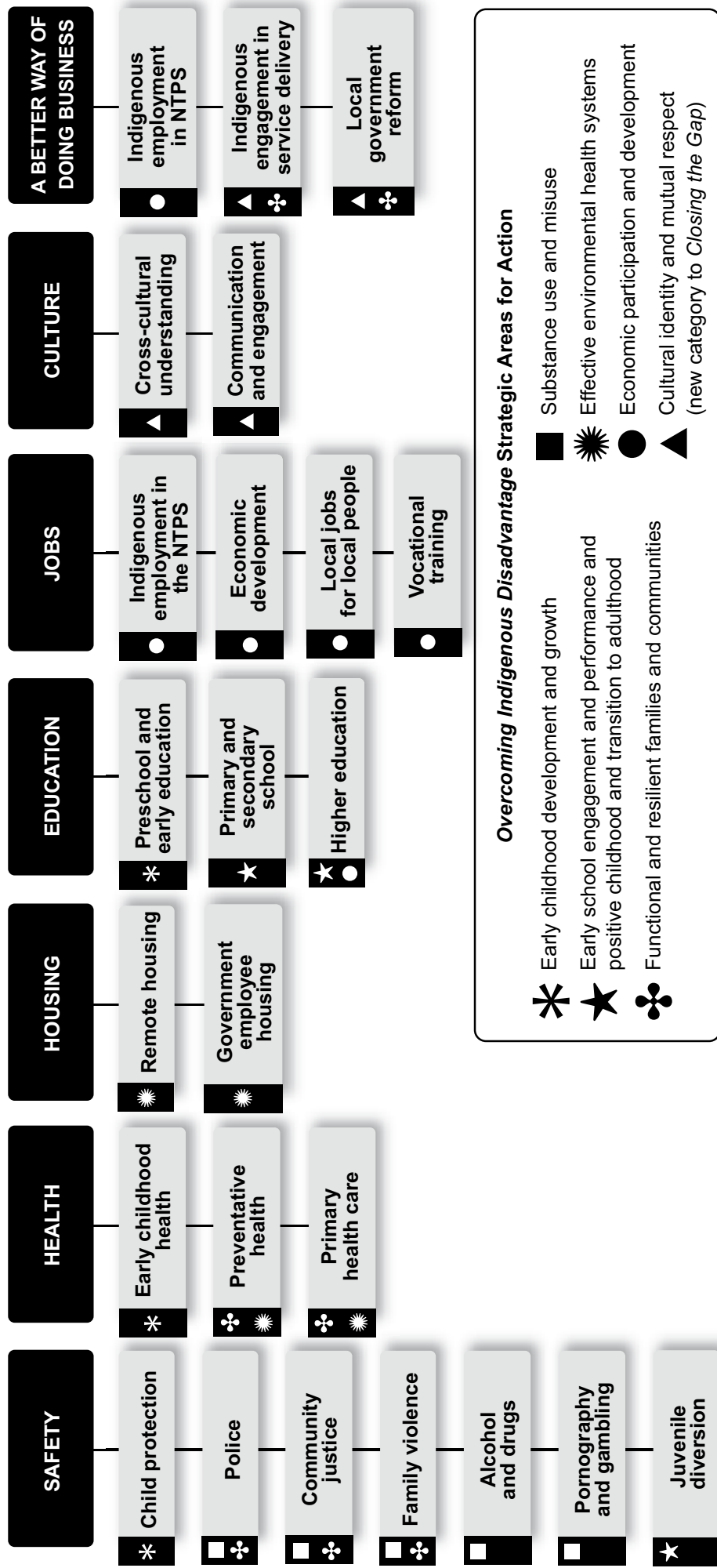


FIGURE 1: Closing the Gap of Indigenous Disadvantage

This figure illustrates the links between *Closing the Gap* and the *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage* report, which measures Indigenous disadvantage nationwide against several strategic areas for action. *Closing the Gap* is seeking to close the gaps identified in the *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage* report. The *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage* report will therefore be used to measure the performance of *Closing the Gap* in achieving change for Indigenous Territories.

SAFETY

The Gap: A snapshot of the prison data for 2006 show that approximately 82% of the Territory prison population and 96% of juveniles held in detention are Indigenous. In the Northern Territory in 2005, Indigenous people were four times more likely than non-Indigenous people to be a victim of assault.

The Approach: Personal and community safety are critical concerns for Territorians. To achieve a safe living, working and family environment for Territorians, we need to strengthen the child protection system, tackle the causes of crime and violence (such as alcohol abuse and social dislocation), boost frontline community policing, implement youth development programs and develop local solutions to crime and family violence.

20 YEAR TARGETS

- Indigenous children will no longer be over-represented as victims of child abuse or neglect
- Rates of Indigenous deaths from homicide and hospitalisations for assault will be similar to non-Indigenous rates
- Rates of Indigenous alcohol related hospitalisations and assaults will be similar to non-Indigenous rates

10 YEAR TARGETS

- The difference between rates of Indigenous and non-Indigenous deaths from homicide and hospitalisations from assault will be halved
- Detention rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous juveniles will be similar
- Rate of sexual abuse substantiations for Indigenous children will decrease or be level with the 2012 rate
- Rate of neglect substantiations for Indigenous children will decrease from the 2012 rate

5 YEAR TARGETS

- Rate of sexual abuse substantiations for Indigenous children will initially increase from the 2005/06 rate
- Rate of neglect substantiations for Indigenous children will initially increase from the 2005/06 rate and then level out
- Per capita alcohol consumption rate will decline by 15%
- The proportion of the population drinking beyond safe levels for short term harm will be reduced by 20%

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT 5 YEAR ACTIONS

Recent key initiatives

- Established the joint Family and Children's Services/Police Child Abuse Taskforce
- Established the Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk
- Progressively implementing the Alcohol Management Framework
- Recent declarations of Dry Areas, including Alice Springs town camps, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Alice Springs

New initiatives to close the gap

- Child protection
 - Establish a Children's Commissioner – \$1.6m
 - Introduce the **Care and Protection of Children Bill** – \$0.8m
 - Roll out a community education campaign on child abuse – \$0.44m
 - Recruit 10 additional child protection and family support workers – \$6.8m
 - Provide a residential care unit and therapy for children – \$10.2m
 - Provide additional care and case management for children in care – \$8.8m
 - Establish a network of Aboriginal Child Protection and Care Services – \$10.15m
 - Extend the Sexual Assault Referral Centres, and establish a centre in Katherine – \$6.3m
 - Expand the Child Abuse Taskforce including 23 Family and Children's Services staff and 24 police – \$29.04m
 - Recruit 10 additional student counsellors to teach protective behaviour – \$5.23m
- Community justice
 - Establish 10 community courts – \$2.1m
 - Recruit 10 additional corrections officers – \$4.62m
 - Expand the Indigenous family violence offender program – \$5.24m
 - Establish a witness assistance service in Katherine – \$0.9m
- Police
 - Expand policing in remote communities via the Remote Area Policing Strategy, recently developed by the Northern Territory Police, including recruiting 16 additional police – \$11.2m
- Family violence
 - Develop integrated community based family violence programs – \$7.9m
- Offender rehabilitation
 - Expand rehabilitation programs for sexual offenders – \$4.44m
 - Expand the Elders Visiting Program – \$0.96m

- Alcohol and drugs
 - Recruit eight additional alcohol compliance inspectors – \$1.35m
 - Recruit two court clinicians – \$1.24m
 - Implement a licensing identification system across the Territory – \$3.77m
 - Expand the Return to Home Program – \$0.25m
 - Implement regional alcohol management strategies – \$2.5m
 - Implement an alcohol education program – \$1m
- Gambling and pornography
 - Implement a pornography and gambling education program – \$1.25m
- Juvenile diversion
 - Continue the Juvenile Diversion Program – existing resources

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT 5 YEAR ACTIONS

Recent key initiatives

- Provided two Australian Federal Police committed to the Child Abuse Taskforce
- Provided 50 police under the National Emergency Response for 6 months
- Funded the Indigenous Family Violence Partnership Program
- Implemented alcohol and pornography bans for 6 months

Areas for negotiation for long term commitment

- Child protection
 - Continued commitment of Australian Federal Police to the Child Abuse Taskforce
- Police
 - Contribution to the Remote Area Policing Strategy, including ongoing commitment of 50 National Emergency Response Police, together with associated infrastructure
- Family violence
 - Expansion of Indigenous Family Violence Partnership Program and support for safe houses
- Alcohol and drugs
 - Support for the Alcohol Framework and implementation of alcohol management plans

HEALTH

The Gap: Indigenous children in the Territory are more than twice as likely as non-Indigenous children to die before the age of one. Life expectancy at birth is 16 to 20 years lower for Indigenous Territorians than non-Indigenous Territorians. Non-communicable diseases, such as heart disease, diabetes and cancer, account for almost 80% of the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous life expectancy, with poor access to primary health care services also responsible for the disparity.

The Approach: Early childhood experiences have a significant impact on health and educational outcomes later in life. Health, growth and development in the first three years in particular are critical, as these are the years of greatest brain development. In order to reduce the gap in life expectancy, chronic disease management and increased access to quality primary health care are essential. Primary health care services in remote Aboriginal communities provide essential clinical services such as emergency care, illness treatment, chronic disease management, preventative care such as immunisation, antenatal care, health screening and follow-up care for emerging health conditions, and specific programs to address the underlying causes of ill health and family dysfunction, such as substance misuse, nutrition and environmental health programs.

20 YEAR TARGETS

- Indigenous children will have life expectancy at birth comparable with non-Indigenous children
- Rates of Indigenous people hospitalised for preventable conditions will be comparable with rates of non-Indigenous people

10 YEAR TARGETS

- The difference between rates of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people hospitalised for preventable conditions will be halved
- Mean birth weight of Indigenous babies will be within 150g of non-Indigenous babies
- The difference between smoking rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people will be halved

5 YEAR TARGETS

- Rates of Indigenous infant mortality will be less than 13 per 1000 live births
- More than 25% of Indigenous people will exercise at moderate/high levels

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT 5 YEAR ACTIONS

New initiatives to close the gap

- Early childhood and family services – \$9.6m
 - Expand antenatal and maternal care programs
 - Deliver programs that strengthen development and learning in early childhood
- Preventative health
 - Provide sport and recreational officers, facilities and programs in each shire – \$4.5m
- Primary health care
 - Expand alcohol and drug rehabilitation services in remote communities – \$0.5m
 - Expand programs targeting hearing loss and preventable chronic diseases – \$8.8m
 - Work with the Australian Government and the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector to develop a primary health care strategy and improved service system across the Northern Territory

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT 5 YEAR ACTIONS

Recent key initiatives

- Providing voluntary health checks for Indigenous children
- Under Council of Australian Governments Human Capital Reform, funding hearing loss and diabetes programs
- Supporting breakfast and lunch programs in schools (via welfare reform)
- Through the 07/08 Budget, supporting the establishment of child care service hubs

Areas for negotiation for long term commitment

- Early childhood health
 - Through the 07/08 Budget child care service hubs initiative, assisting to establish early childhood/family centres in remote Northern Territory communities
- Primary health care
 - Provision of additional primary health care funding to address conditions identified through health checks
 - Funding for additional alcohol and drug rehabilitation services required as a result of alcohol bans
 - Working with the Northern Territory Government and the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector to develop and fund a primary health care strategy and improved service system across the Northern Territory, i.e. to complete the Australian Government's Primary Health Care Access Program or alternative program to address shortfall in Medicare and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme funding to remote Territorians
- Preventative health
 - Support for sport and recreation programs under the Overarching Agreement on Indigenous Affairs – Youth Schedule and the Indigenous Sports Program

HOUSING

The Gap: Nearly a quarter of Indigenous people aged 15 years and over in Australia are living in overcrowded housing. This situation is most pronounced in the Northern Territory, with more than 60% of Indigenous Territorians living in overcrowded conditions. Overcrowded houses are more difficult to maintain and keep clean, and lead to increased likelihood of spread of infection and infectious diseases.

The Approach: Access to adequate housing, infrastructure and essential services provides the basis for healthy families, a healthy lifestyle, strong communities and economic growth. By providing better access to housing, infrastructure and essential services we can improve health, safety, education and employment outcomes.

20 YEAR TARGETS

- Less than 10% of Indigenous Territorians will live in overcrowded conditions
- Rates of home ownership for Indigenous Territorians will increase
- Rates of Indigenous people with diseases associated with poor environmental health will be comparable with rates of non-Indigenous people

10 YEAR TARGETS

- The difference between rates of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people hospitalised with diseases associated with poor environmental health will be halved

5 YEAR TARGETS

- The backlog in housing for remote Indigenous Territorians will be reduced by 20%
- Indigenous people in remote areas will have the opportunity to access home ownership

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT 5 YEAR ACTIONS

Recent initiatives

- Commitment to expand remote housing – \$100m over 5 years
- Construction of approximately 120 dwelling units and upgrade of 50 houses per year, including cluster accommodation and construction in town camps – existing resources
- Rolling out the Territory Housing management framework across the Territory
- Undertaking repairs and maintenance for remote housing, management and related initiatives – \$117.3m

New initiatives to close the gap

- Remote housing
 - In partnership with the Australian Government, work to address the backlog in remote Indigenous housing
 - Roll out the \$100m commitment to remote housing over 5 years
- Government employee housing
 - Provide houses for the growth in government employees to be based in remote communities – \$42.32m

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT 5 YEAR ACTIONS

Recent key initiatives

- Investment in Indigenous housing through the Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Agreement
- Committed to the \$1.6 billion Australian Remote Indigenous Accommodation program (ARIA) across Australia over the next 4 years

Areas for negotiation for long term commitment

- Remote housing
 - Under ARIA (\$1.6b), provision of funding for remote housing, town camps and essential service delivery to upgrade existing housing stock in remote communities to an acceptable standard to allow Territory Housing to assume management. This will also provide some new housing to address the backlog. Indications are that approximately 50% of this will be allocated to the Territory
 - Funding for provision of furniture and internal fittings to facilitate healthy living practices
- Government employee housing
 - Provision of houses for government employees based in remote communities as a result of increased Australian Government activity
- Negotiate with the Australian Government for a long term commitment to address the backlog of housing for Indigenous people over 20 years. This will require the provision of 200 new houses per year

EDUCATION

The Gap: On average, Indigenous students achieve lower literacy and numeracy levels than other students. In the Northern Territory in 2006, under 40% of Indigenous students achieved the Year 3 reading benchmark, compared with 87% of non-Indigenous students. In 2006, only 13.5% of Northern Territory Certificate of Education recipients were Indigenous.

The Approach: Starting school early, improving attendance rates, providing high quality teaching and leaving school later are essential to improving literacy and numeracy skills and therefore providing a good start in life. Preschool and early education programs have been associated with increased levels of school completion and improved literacy and social skills necessary for school success.

20 YEAR TARGETS

- The rates of achievement of national literacy and numeracy standards for Indigenous students will be comparable with that of non-Indigenous students
- The rates of achievement of national literacy and numeracy standards for remote students will be comparable with that of urban students
- The success rate for Indigenous students receiving their Northern Territory Certificate of Education will be comparable with that of non-Indigenous students

10 YEAR TARGETS

- Attendance rates for Indigenous students will be maintained at 2012 levels
- Indigenous 16 and 17 year old students will be undertaking the Northern Territory Certificate of Education at rates comparable to non-Indigenous students
- At least 75% of Year 5 and 7 Indigenous students will be achieving literacy and numeracy standards

5 YEAR TARGETS

- All three and four year old Indigenous children will have access to quality early learning programs
- Indigenous primary and secondary school students will be attending school at rates comparable to non-Indigenous students
- At least 75% of Indigenous children will be achieving literacy and numeracy standards in Year 3

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT 5 YEAR ACTIONS

Recent key initiatives

- Implementing the six point school attendance plan
- Negotiating 15 local school and community partnership contracts

New initiatives to close the gap

- Preschool and early education
 - Negotiate with the Australian Government and Charles Darwin University to establish an early childhood centre for excellence
 - Provide six additional mobile preschools with 21 teachers and assistants – \$9.5m
- Primary and secondary education
 - Recruit 26 additional teachers – \$12.83m
 - Build 15 additional classrooms – \$6m
 - Establish a school attendance team to track school attendance – \$1.8m
 - Implement a ‘value of schooling’ education campaign – \$0.55m
 - Upgrade two homeland learning centres to small schools – \$10m
 - Upgrade 15 community education centres – \$20m
 - IT resources for staff and students – \$2.7m
 - Regional hostels for senior studies – \$0.7m
- School and community partnership programs
 - Develop partnership programs to improve student engagement and community involvement – \$6.6m

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT 5 YEAR ACTIONS

Recent key initiatives

- Linked school attendance to welfare

Areas for negotiation for long term commitment

- Provision of 42 additional teachers for teaching English as a second language to 7 and 8 year olds – \$22.41m
- Provision of regional hostels for secondary Indigenous students
- Housing for additional English as a second language teachers – \$17.1m

JOBS

The Gap: In the Northern Territory in 2001, Indigenous labour force participation rates were lower than 40%, while unemployment was 13.6%. Based on 2001 data, it is estimated that 2000 additional jobs would need to be created per annum for 10 years to lift the Indigenous employment level in the Northern Territory to non-Indigenous levels.

The Approach: Providing opportunities for adults is about ensuring that all Territorians benefit from available jobs, more business and entrepreneurial opportunities, and a higher standard of living. Achieving this objective will require work in adult education and skill training in Indigenous communities, developing and identifying local jobs for local Indigenous people and assisting Indigenous groups to take full advantage of emerging economic opportunities. It will also require a significant commitment from business and industry to increasing Indigenous employment and encouraging economic development in remote regions.

20 YEAR TARGETS

- Labour force participation rates will be similar for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Territorians
- Rates of Indigenous employment in Northern Territory Public Sector (NTPS) will reflect the population demographics of the local region

10 YEAR TARGETS

- Indigenous youth (18 to 24 years) will be engaged in either further study, training or work at rates comparable to non-Indigenous youth
- At least 30% of people completing Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications, apprenticeships and traineeships will be Indigenous
- Indigenous labour force participation rates will be more than 60%

5 YEAR TARGETS

- At least 50% of people undertaking VET qualifications, apprenticeships and traineeships will be Indigenous
- At least 10% of the NTPS will be Indigenous

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT 5 YEAR ACTIONS

Recent key initiatives

- Commitment to *Jobs Plan 3*
- Implementation of the Northern Territory Public Sector Indigenous Employment and Career Development strategy
- Implementation of a housing program to provide training and increased employment (\$48m)

New initiatives to close the gap

- Indigenous employment in the Northern Territory Public Sector
 - Transition CDEP jobs supporting Northern Territory Government activities to mainstream Northern Territory Public Sector positions – \$10m
 - Increase Indigenous employment in the NTPS through recruitment policies, job redesign, mentoring and support and skills training – existing resources
- Economic development
 - Implement Indigenous economic development initiatives – \$3m
 - Develop a component under the 10 Year Infrastructure Plan due to be finalised by government by the end of 2007 to improve road access to remote areas
 - Work with the Australian Government to provide taxation incentives to foster investment and economic development activity in communities
- Local jobs for local people
 - Identify those jobs within the 1500 existing jobs that are suitable for transition to local employment and implement through training and mentoring – existing resources
 - Make Indigenous employment a focus of government procurement policy – existing resources
 - Use current and future Indigenous housing construction programs and capital works programs to facilitate opportunities for training and employment of local Indigenous people

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT 5 YEAR ACTIONS

Recent key initiatives

- Commitment to transitioning people from CDEP to mainstream jobs by mid 2008
- Implementing the Building an Indigenous Workforce Program

Areas for negotiation for long term commitment

- Support for the transition of 600 CDEP positions supporting local government services to mainstream jobs
- Support for job placement and training through Structured Training and Employment Projects and Job Network programs (wage subsidy and other assistance)
- Ensuring there is no social or economic impact in communities that rely on CDEP
- Ensuring capital works programs in remote areas facilitate training and employment of local Indigenous people
- Provision of special incentives to address local employment issues and skills shortages in remote communities

CULTURE

The Approach: The Northern Territory benefits from an exceptionally rich cultural heritage. In order to protect and nurture this cultural heritage we need to actively promote the importance of cultural identity, improve cross-cultural understanding and engender mutual respect.

20 YEAR TARGETS

- All students will be able to demonstrate achievement in Indigenous studies throughout compulsory years of schooling

10 YEAR TARGETS

- All Northern Territory Public Sector employees will have accessed a cross-cultural program

5 YEAR TARGETS

- Indigenous cultural studies will be taught in all primary and secondary schools in the Northern Territory
- 50% of Northern Territory Public Sector employees will have accessed a cross-cultural program

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT 5 YEAR ACTIONS

New initiatives to close the gap

- Cross-cultural understanding
 - Expand Indigenous culture programs in Northern Territory Government schools – \$0.5m
 - Implement cross-cultural programs in Northern Territory Public Sector – existing resources
- Communication and engagement
 - Implement a whole-of-government Indigenous communications strategy – existing resources
 - Increase the use of interpreters when engaging with Aboriginal people for whom English is not their first language – existing resources.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT 5 YEAR ACTIONS

Areas for negotiation for long term commitment

- Working with the Northern Territory Government to communicate effectively with Indigenous Territorians about government policy and programs
- Continuation of support for Aboriginal Interpreter Services
- Support for programs and approaches that promote the integral place of Indigenous history and culture in Australian history and culture

A BETTER WAY OF DOING BUSINESS

The Approach: A better way of doing business is about Indigenous Territorians informing the Northern Territory Government of their aspirations and needs, the Northern Territory Government listening and Territorians and the Northern Territory Government taking action together. This relies upon formal structures for communication between communities and government, promoting a more positive dialogue. It also relies on Indigenous Territorians acting in partnership with government and meeting their responsibility to provide a better future for their children.

20 YEAR TARGETS

- Rates of Indigenous employment in the Northern Territory Public Sector will reflect the population demographics of the local region
- Rates of Indigenous teachers/education workers in schools and health workers will reflect the population demographics of the Northern Territory

10 YEAR TARGETS

- At least 20% of the Northern Territory Public Sector will be Indigenous

5 YEAR TARGETS

- At least 10% of the Northern Territory Public Sector will be Indigenous
- An Indigenous Affairs Advisory Council will be in place to provide advice to the Chief Minister
- Sustainable local government structures will be in place to service remote areas
- Indigenous people will have effective pathways to input into government policy, planning and service delivery

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT 5 YEAR ACTIONS

Recent key initiatives

- Implementation of Local Government Reform across the Territory to create nine new shires and four existing municipal councils replacing over 60 smaller, and many dysfunctional, communities

New initiatives to close the gap

- Indigenous engagement in service delivery
 - Establish an Indigenous Affairs Advisory Council to the Chief Minister – \$0.45m
- Local government reform
 - Establish local community boards to allow community representation in local government, promote Indigenous leadership and provide the basis for Indigenous people to help build a better future for their children – \$3m (extra cost over establishing boards for local government purposes)
 - Provide infrastructure to support local community governance – \$5m
 - Implement legislation to transition to new local government arrangements

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT 5 YEAR ACTIONS

Recent key initiatives

- Appointing Australian Government business managers to each shire

Areas for negotiation for long term commitment

- Transitioning the function of business managers into new Northern Territory local government arrangements
- Support for the transition of 600 CDEP positions supporting local government services to mainstream jobs

Appendix 1

Northern Territory Government Response

to the recommendations of the Board of Inquiry into the Protection of Aboriginal Children from Sexual Abuse

No.	Recommendation	Northern Territory Government Response
1. LEADERSHIP		
1	Designate child sexual abuse an issue of national urgency. Establish a Memorandum of Understanding between the Northern Territory Government and the Australian Government to address the problems.	The Northern Territory Government will negotiate a long-term Generational Plan of Action with the Australian Government. <i>Closing the Gap</i> details the Northern Territory Government's commitment to the first 5 years of the Generational Plan of Action. <i>Closing the Gap</i> takes a long-term generational perspective to secure a positive future for Aboriginal children. It both incorporates and goes beyond the recommendations of the Inquiry and includes a focus on working in partnership with Indigenous people.
2	Make a public commitment to children's interests.	Public release of <i>Closing the Gap</i> in August 2007. In August 2007, the Chief Minister established a new Ministry for Child Protection, demonstrating a commitment to child protection issues.
3	Develop long-term funding programs.	The Northern Territory Government will negotiate a long-term Generational Plan of Action with the Australian Government. <i>Closing the Gap</i> details the Northern Territory Government's commitment to the first 5 years of the Generational Plan of Action.
2. GOVERNMENT RESPONSES		
4	Develop a Child Impact Analysis process.	The Northern Territory Government will review current processes to determine how best to incorporate a child impact analysis into the Cabinet Submission process by December 2007.
5	Develop a whole-of-government approach to child abuse, including protocols for information sharing and action.	The Northern Territory Government has finalised and implemented a cross-agency agreement with protocols between the Department of Health and Community Services, NT Police, Department of Employment, Education and Training and Department of Justice to improve cross-agency case management and coordination around child abuse response and prevention. The Northern Territory Government will review current information sharing structures and remove any impediments preventing agencies responding effectively to child sexual abuse by December 2007 – including through legislative amendments if necessary.
6	a. Develop policies, procedures and guidelines that promote child safety. b. Ensure compliance of non-government organisations via funding agreements.	All agencies will assess their existing policies, procedures and guidelines that impact on child safety and address gaps by December 2007. The Children's Commissioner will have an ongoing role in identifying and highlighting additional gaps. All agencies will immediately incorporate appropriate clauses to ensure child safety in all new and renewed funding agreements with non-government organisations.

No.	Recommendation	Northern Territory Government Response
7	Designate a senior executive officer in each relevant agency to be responsible for the coordination of child protection issues.	Relevant Northern Territory Government agencies have nominated a senior officer with the responsibility for the coordination of child protection issues.
8	Mandate employment screening for all employed persons and volunteers working with children as described in the draft Care and Protection of Children Bill.	Following introduction of the Care and Protection of Children Act in the Legislative Assembly in August 2007 (Recommendation 13), NT Police will immediately establish a mandated system for the screening of all employed persons and volunteers working with children, with the first screenings to commence July 2008.
9	Establish a Commissioner for Children and Young People as described in the draft Care and Protection of Children Bill, with an expanded role in relation to child protection, child abuse prevention and Aboriginal children's wellbeing.	<p>The Office of the Children's Commissioner will commence January 2008 following introduction of the Care and Protection of Children Act in the Legislative Assembly in August 2007 (Recommendation 13), with the following Terms of Reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - investigate complaints about services provided by a service provider to a "protected child" - monitor the ways in which service providers respond to reports of suspected and actual harm or exploitation - monitor the administration of the Act in so far as it relates to protected children - monitor implementation of any government decision arising from the Inquiry into the Protection of Aboriginal Children from Sexual Abuse - report to the Minister on any matter mentioned above, or as requested by the Minister. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Additional Cost: \$1.6m over 5 years</i></p>
10	<p>a) Establish a child death review process as described in the draft Care and Protection of Children Bill.</p> <p>b) Extend the Child Death Review and Prevention Committee's terms of reference to enable case specific reviews of serious child abuse cases.</p>	<p>A Child Death Review Process will commence April 2008 following introduction of the Care and Protection of Children Act in the Legislative Assembly in August 2007 (Recommendation 13).</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government will request the Children's Commissioner undertake an evaluation of current review processes of serious child abuse cases to provide advice on any necessary improvements by July 2008.</p>
3. FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES		
11	Develop therapeutic support plans for the child, family and community in cases of extrafamilial sexual abuse.	<p>The expansion of the Sexual Assault Referral Centres (Recommendation 21) will provide for the development of therapeutic support plans for the child, family and community in cases of extra familial sexual abuse.</p> <p>The new Therapeutic and Behaviour Support Service (Recommendation 25) will provide for the development of longer-term support programs for victims and their families.</p>
12	Establish a higher structural profile of FACS within DHCS by making FACS a division in its own right.	The new Care and Protection of Children Act will increase the profile of Family and Children's Services within the Department of Health and Community Services. The Northern Territory Government will review the profile of Family and Children's Services following 12 months of operation of the new Care and Protection of Children Act and with advice from the Children's Commissioner.

No.	Recommendation	Northern Territory Government Response
13	Increase government investment to support reform of the statutory child protection system.	<p>The Northern Territory Government will introduce the Child Care and Protection Act in the Legislative Assembly in August 2007. In addition to the establishment of the Children's Commissioner (Recommendation 9) and mandated employment screening (Recommendation 8), the Act will also implement key reform elements the statutory child protection system, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of new Children's Services regulations - Extension of the Young People Leaving Care Program <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Additional Cost: \$1.6m over 5 years</i></p>
14	Establish a branch within FACS to focus on the provision of parenting and family support services and manage professional and community education programs.	<p>The Department of Health and Community Services has established the Policy and Service Development Branch within Family and Children's Services. The Branch will focus on setting the policy framework for the FACS program, developing and supporting family violence and family support services and coordinating community education programs.</p>
15	Implement the FACS Child Protection Reform Agenda and the 2006 FACS Child Protection Workforce Strategy.	<p>Since 2002, the Northern Territory Government's reform of the child protection system has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - creation of an additional 71 child protection positions in FACS - development of a comprehensive training framework - establishment of 24-hour central intake unit to take calls about child abuse and coordinate action across the Territory - pilots of new joint investigative approaches such as the Child Abuse Taskforce and the Katherine Peace and Home program - review of policy and practice standards. <p>The Northern Territory Government reaffirms its immediate commitment to implementation of the FACS Child Protection Reform Agenda and the 2006 Child Protection Workforce Strategy (Recommendation 19).</p>
16	Increase liaison of FACS and Police with family or clan groups during investigations.	<p>NT Police and Family and Children's Services child protection investigators will finalise and implement protocols by December 2007 to support increased liaison with family or clan groups wherever possible, providing this does not compromise the investigation.</p> <p>The creation of a network of Aboriginal Child Protection and Care Services (Recommendation 20) will be complementary to the work of Police and FACS and assist in facilitating engagement with families and clan groups during investigations and subsequent follow up work.</p>
17	Develop enhanced information sharing in support of more effective coordinated case management practices.	<p>The Northern Territory Government has finalised and implemented a cross-agency agreement with protocols (Recommendation 5) to improve cross-agency case management and coordination around child abuse response and prevention.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government will review current information sharing structures and remove any impediments preventing agencies responding effectively to child sexual abuse by December 2007 – including through legislative amendments if necessary.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Northern Territory Government Response
18	Explore the possibility of providing key agencies and notifiers with confidential feedback on investigations.	The Northern Territory Government will review current information sharing structures and remove any impediments preventing agencies responding effectively to child sexual abuse by December 2007 – including through legislative amendments if necessary. This includes provision of confidential feedback to key service providers and notifiers.
19	<p>a) Increase the number of child protection workers</p> <p>b) Increase the training and support for workers, including through recruitment and retention incentives, and access to cultural experts for cultural advice.</p>	<p>Since 2002, the Northern Territory Government has increased the number of child protection workers by 71 (a 50% increase). The Government will continue to build on this growth by introducing an additional 10 workers over the next 5 years.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Additional Cost: \$6.8m over 5 years</i></p> <p>FACS staff will work in partnership with the staff employed in the new Aboriginal Child Protection and Care Services (Recommendation 20) to continue the process of building a statutory child protection system in the Northern Territory that is culturally sensitive and locally relevant.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government reaffirms its immediate commitment to implementation of the 2006 FACS Child Protection Workforce Strategy and the FACS training framework which include increased training and support for workers – including cultural training – and retention and other recruitment strategies.</p>
20	<p>a) Increase trained and supported Aboriginal personnel in local community workforces.</p> <p>b) Establish a network of community volunteers.</p>	<p>As an important element of strengthening the Child Protection System, the Northern Territory Government will establish a network of Aboriginal Child Protection and Care Services to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - operate in partnership with Family and Children’s Services in responding to families where child abuse and neglect is occurring or there is high risk of abuse occurring. - provide advice on investigating child abuse and neglect and on caring for children in ways that respects cultural authority. <p>This initiative includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 new services in Darwin and Katherine - expansion of existing Alice Springs service - training of Aboriginal staff to work in the services. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Additional Cost: \$10.15m over 5 years</i></p>
21	Increase capacity and resources of the Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC).	<p>The Northern Territory Government will double the capacity of the Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC) to provide best practice crisis support and therapy to victims of sexual abuse, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - expanding the Darwin, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek SARCs - establishing a SARC in Katherine - providing 12 additional sexual assault workers, including some Aboriginal workers - coordinating integrated responses to counselling, medical intervention and immediate therapy - ongoing advice and support to Family and Children’s Services, health centres and Police - community education and professional consultation services. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Additional Cost: \$6.3m over 5 years</i></p>

No.	Recommendation	Northern Territory Government Response
22	a) Base SARC services on an integrated response model. b) Improve the coordination of medical care to child sexual abuse victims.	The expanded Sexual Assault Referral Centres (Recommendation 21) will be the vital link in the provision of crisis support and therapy to victims of sexual abuse, including increased coordination of integrated responses to counselling, medical intervention and professional consultations.
23	Develop victim and community support programs.	The Northern Territory Government will expand the capacity of the Out of Home Care system to meet growing costs, and also increase the care options available for children and young adults. <i>Additional Cost: \$8m over 5 years</i> In addition, the Northern Territory Government will provide support to victims, their families and communities through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - expansion of Sexual Assault Referral Centres (Recommendation 21) - introduction of a Therapeutic and Behaviour Support Services Team that will provide support to children at risk of acting out sexually and preventing re-victimisation and potential for subsequent offending (Recommendation 25) - establishment of integrated Aboriginal Family Violence and Support Services in communities (Recommendation 75)
4. HEALTH – CRISIS INTERVENTION		
24	Provide regular guidelines and training to primary health care providers and FACS staff on the management of sexual health of children and young people.	The Department of Health and Community Services has a formal protocol for primary health care practitioners and will continue regular training for government and non-government primary health care providers and FACS staff on the management of sexual health of children and young people.
25	Consider introduction of comprehensive child and adolescent mental health services.	The Northern Territory Government will establish: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Therapeutic and Behaviour Support Services Teams to provide treatment and behaviour management support for children and young people traumatised by abuse and neglect <i>Additional Cost: \$3m over 5 years</i> - A six bed residential care unit for highly traumatised and at risk young people by July 2008. <i>Additional Cost: \$7.2m over 5 years</i> The Northern Territory Government will continue to pursue sustainable mental health services for all members of the community over the longer term.
5. POLICE, FACS, PROSECUTIONS AND THE VICTIM		
26	a) Integrate the Child Abuse Taskforce with local joint Police/ FACS responses. b) Develop culturally appropriate multi-agency responses.	The Northern Territory Government has finalised and implemented a cross-agency agreement with protocols (Recommendation 5) which provides the basis for better integrating the work of the Child Abuse Taskforce with local Police/FACS efforts. The Northern Territory Government will continue to develop multi-agency responses to a wide range of issues, in particular child abuse and family violence.

No.	Recommendation	Northern Territory Government Response
27	Establish a permanent Child Abuse Taskforce that is adequately resourced.	<p>The Northern Territory Government will immediately formalise and expand the joint Police/FACS Child Abuse Taskforce which focuses on serious sexual abuse cases across the Territory. The Taskforce will incorporate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 24 Police and 23 Family and Children's Services staff, including specialist child interviewers. - Two Teams based in Darwin and Alice Springs, with transport capacity to reach all Territory communities. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Additional Cost: \$29.04m over 5 years</i></p>
28	<p>a) Recruit more Aboriginal police officers and auxiliaries.</p> <p>b) Station more female officers in remote communities, particularly Aboriginal officers.</p>	<p>The Northern Territory Government will continue to develop programs targeting the recruitment of Aboriginal police officers and auxiliaries.</p> <p>NT Police will continue to encourage the recruitment of female officers, including Aboriginal officers, and will station these officers in accordance with existing protocols.</p>
29	Develop protocols, through effective consultations, for working with and supporting Aboriginal communities in maintaining peace, law and order.	<p>The Northern Territory Police will continue to work with and support Aboriginal communities to maintain law and order.</p> <p>The establishment of integrated Aboriginal Family Violence and Support Services in communities (Recommendation 75) will also be achieved through active engagement of community members.</p>
30	Conduct a review of court procedures for vulnerable witnesses and victims of sexual abuse following 12 months of operation of the Evidence of Children Amendment Bill.	The Department of Justice will commission a review of court procedures for vulnerable witnesses and victims of sexual abuse following 12 months of operation of the Evidence of Children Amendment Bill.
31	<p>a) Ensure all police receive ongoing training and education on child abuse.</p> <p>b) Establish policy that interviews with child abuse victims are conducted only by police and prosecutors trained in appropriate interviewing techniques from 1 July 2008.</p>	<p>Effective immediately, child victims in major child sexual abuse cases will be interviewed only by interviewers with a certificate in appropriate interviewing techniques.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government will offer an intensive training program on specialist child interviewing techniques to 50 NT Police and Family and Children's Services employees per annum with a view to making the certificate compulsory for all child interviewers by 2010.</p>
32	Locate a permanent Witness Assistance Service officer in Katherine.	<p>The Northern Territory Government will immediately recruit a permanent Witness Assistance Service Officer for Katherine.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Additional Cost: \$0.9m over 5 years</i></p>
33	Establish a process for fully de-briefing a community following a prosecution for child abuse.	Local Police Officers will fully debrief a community following a prosecution for child sexual abuse in consultation with the Child Abuse Taskforce.
34	Recruit and train Aboriginal interpreters, particularly to support child protection and investigations.	The Aboriginal Translator Service currently provides interpreter support to NT Police and Family and Children's Services for child protection matters.
6. BAIL		
35	Amend S.24 of the <i>Bail Act</i> to direct the court to take into consideration the protection and welfare of the child.	The Northern Territory Government will introduce amendments to Section 24 of the Bail Act in August 2007 to direct the court to take into consideration the protection and welfare of the child.

No.	Recommendation	Northern Territory Government Response
7. OFFENDER REHABILITATION		
36	Provide more sex offender rehabilitation programs.	<p>The Northern Territory Government will provide more rehabilitation support for adult and juvenile sex offenders, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sex offender rehabilitation programs - programs for offenders who are also sexual abuse victims <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Additional Cost: \$4.44m over 5 years</i></p> <p>The Northern Territory Government will also provide an additional 10 Corrections Officers to support offenders while on parole.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Additional Cost: \$4.62m over 5 years</i></p>
37	Provide community-based rehabilitation programs for convicted sex offenders as appropriate, and those at risk of sex offending.	<p>The Northern Territory Government will provide more rehabilitation support for adult and juvenile sex offenders, which will include some community-based rehabilitation options.</p> <p>The Department of Justice will expand the Elders Visiting Program from 4 to 12 communities.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Additional Cost: \$0.96m over 5 years</i></p>
38	Provide youth-specific, culturally appropriate rehabilitation programs for juvenile sex offenders.	<p>The Department of Justice will provide rehabilitation services for juvenile sex offenders (Recommendation 36).</p> <p>In addition, the Department of Health and Community Services will establish Therapeutic and Behaviour Support Services Teams (Recommendation 25) which will provide additional support for juvenile offenders with behavioural issues once they are out of the corrective services system.</p>
39	Develop, with communities, alternative restorative models of sentencing that rely less on custodial sentences and more on restoring wellbeing of victims and families.	<p>The Department of Justice will continue to develop and pilot alternative restorative models of sentencing for crimes other than child sexual abuse. In particular, there will be an expansion of the Community Court model to the Territory's largest communities (Recommendation 74).</p>
8. PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE		
40	Develop a comprehensive long-term strategy to build a core service platform in Aboriginal communities, including education and primary health care services.	<p><i>Closing the Gap</i>, released August 2007, is a long-term strategy that incorporates building a core-service platform in Aboriginal communities, including remote area policing, education and primary health care services. The Government's strategy involves the permanent provision of law and order, schooling, health services and public housing in all major Indigenous communities, commencing with the largest 16 communities and expanding to cover a mix of permanent and mobile services for all 73 remote communities over 10 years.</p>
9. HEALTH – A ROLE IN PREVENTION		
41	Introduce maternal and child health home visitation service.	<p>The Northern Territory Government, in conjunction with the Australian Government, will develop and implement integrated early childhood and family services in regional and Indigenous communities (Recommendation 42). This will include the development of appropriate models of maternal and child health home visitation as an integral component of a comprehensive early childhood approach.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Northern Territory Government Response
42	Increase focus on pre-natal, maternity support and early childhood health development.	<p>The Northern Territory Government will develop and implement integrated early childhood and family services in regional and Indigenous communities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - negotiating the establishment of remote area family centres with the Australian Government - delivery of comprehensive antenatal care and maternal health programs - delivery of programs that strengthen the development and learning of 0-5 year olds, including child care and early education services. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Additional Cost: \$9.6m over 5 years</i></p> <p>The Australian Government recently announced they will establish a number of new child care services and playgroups throughout the Northern Territory, and upgrade and expand others. The Australian Government acknowledges these services will be linked with other health, family and education services.</p>
43	a) Lobby AG to increase primary health care funding. b) Continue roll-out of the Primary Health Care Access Program.	<p>The Northern Territory Government will continue to work with the Australian Government to increase primary health care funding, and support the continued roll-out of the Primary Health Care Access Program.</p>
44	a) Provide protocols, tools, training and support for Primary Health Care providers to strengthen protection of children. b) Use Primary Health Care centres as service 'hubs'.	<p>Family and Children's Services will continue to develop and implement protocols, tools, training and support for Primary Health Care Providers to strengthen the protection of children as part of its community education role.</p> <p>As part of <i>Closing the Gap</i>, the Northern Territory Government has a policy of developing and supporting multi-purpose facilities on remote communities. The suitability of the Primary Health Care centres as service 'hubs' will be assessed as part of the appropriate processes.</p>
45	Develop, implement and support programs and services that address the underlying effects of trauma suffered in Aboriginal communities.	<p>The Northern Territory Government will approach the effects of trauma in Aboriginal communities through a number of means, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of Aboriginal Child Protection and Care Services (Recommendation 20) - Expansion of the Sexual Assault Referral Centres (Recommendation 21) - Introduction of therapeutic and behavioural support services (Recommendation 25) - Formalising and expanding the joint Police/FACS Child Abuse Taskforce (Recommendation 27) - Establishment of integrated Aboriginal Family Violence and Support Services in communities (Recommendation 75).

No.	Recommendation	Northern Territory Government Response
10. FAMILY AGREED SERVICES		
46	Develop extensive family support infrastructure, including support and recovery services and multi-purpose family centres funded by both the Northern Territory Government and the Australian Government.	<p>The Northern Territory Government will provide additional support for families through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of Aboriginal Child Protection and Care Services (Recommendation 20) - Development and implementation of integrated early childhood and family services in regional and Indigenous communities (Recommendation 42) - Establishment of integrated Aboriginal Family Violence and Support Services in communities (Recommendation 75). <p>As part of <i>Closing the Gap</i>, the Northern Territory Government has a policy of developing and supporting multi-purpose facilities on remote communities.</p>
47	Develop and support independent youth centres and programs in communities.	<p>The Northern Territory Government (DLGHS, DEET, DHCS) will initially increase support and funding for sport and recreational programs on remote communities to promote physical activity and engage young people in healthy behaviour and organised activity.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Additional Cost: \$4.5m over 5 years</i></p> <p>In addition, the Northern Territory Government will develop initiatives around youth support centres in priority communities in conjunction with the Local Government reform process.</p>
48	Support community efforts to develop men's and women's groups and centres.	The NT Government has a policy of maximising use of infrastructure with a focus on multipurpose facilities, providing space for any community efforts around men's and women's groups and centres.
49	Provide better support and crisis accommodation services for Aboriginal men.	The Northern Territory Government will review current support and accommodation services for Aboriginal men by June 2008, and commence an improvement program as required.

No.	Recommendation	Northern Territory Government Response
11. EDUCATION		
50	<p>a) Implement school attendance strategies.</p> <p>b) Ensure every child aged 3 years by 1/2/08 attend preschool.</p> <p>c) Ensure every child aged 5 years by 1/2/08 attend transition programs.</p>	<p>The Northern Territory Government will support attendance for all children in remote communities from 3 years old through to Year 12 through implementation of a remote school resource plan, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 additional mobile preschools - Implementation of a 6-point school attendance plan - School Attendance Team to focus on following up low-attending students - 26 additional teachers to meet increased attendance demands - 15 additional classrooms - Upgrade of 2 homeland learning centres to small schools - Upgrade of 9 community education centres - Student and Staff IT resources <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Additional Cost: \$62.83m over 5 years</i></p> <p>The Northern Territory Government will negotiate with the Australian Government's to expand the Australian Government' English as a Second Language program for Indigenous students (ESL ILSS) to cater for 7 and 8 year olds in addition to the current provision for 6 year olds, and provide housing for the associated teachers. This recognises many Indigenous students have English as a Second Language and consequently require intensive language support.</p> <p>Northern Territory Government's policy is that while compulsory schooling starts at age 6, the Government will accept each 3-year old child in the Northern Territory into preschool, and each 5-year old child into a transition program where parents/carers want to enrol their child.</p>
51	<p>Examine issues from Learning Lessons and the Indigenous Languages and Culture Review to increase education outcomes for Indigenous students.</p>	<p>The Department of Employment, Education and Training's (DEET) Indigenous Education Strategy 2006-2009 supersedes Learning Lessons and the Indigenous Languages and Culture Review.</p> <p>The Remote Learning Partnership Agreements and the additional reciprocal partnership programs DEET is developing (Recommendation 52) provide a mechanism for negotiation around education delivery to meet local needs.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government will continue to support the Aboriginal and Islander Education Worker (AIEW) program, providing the additional support of a coordinator for the 44 AIEW positions across the Territory. The coordinator will provide professional development and target work on attendance.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Northern Territory Government Response
52	Ensure appropriate support services in place to ensure good teaching, healthy and secure students and ownership of the education system by the local community.	<p>In 2006, the Department of Employment, Education and Training implemented a new regional structure to supplement the current group schools model for remote schools. This approach is providing strong support for remote schools.</p> <p>The Department will also continue developing Remote Learning Partnership Agreements with 15 major communities over the next two years. The Partnership Agreements set out clear expectations about the reciprocal responsibilities of the government, school, local communities and families in relation to the education and training of young people.</p> <p>In addition to these initiatives the Northern Territory Government will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop reciprocal partnership programs between schools/ group schools, communities and other stakeholders <i>Additional Cost: \$6.6m over 5 years</i> - Establish a Child Protection Unit to provide specialist support to schools. The Unit will incorporate an additional 10 Student Counsellor positions (50% increase) for remote communities with an initial focus on training school staff in mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse and teaching Aboriginal children sex education and protective behaviours. <i>Additional Cost: \$5.23m over 5 years</i> - Continue to support the Aboriginal and Islander Education Worker (AIEW) program, providing the additional support of a coordinator for the 44 AIEW positions across the NT. The coordinator will provide professional development and target work on attendance. <p>The Australian Government has incorporated provision for school breakfasts and lunches into the welfare reforms as applied to Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory.</p>
53	Modify curriculum, in consultation with local community, to suit local needs and wishes.	Local curriculum modifications are included in the development of Remote Learning Partnership Agreements and reciprocal partnerships programs (Recommendation 52).
54	Implement outcomes of the Indigenous Languages and Culture Report.	<p>The Northern Territory Government will continue to provide support for Indigenous culture programs in schools through continuation of grants to schools to provide programs.</p> <p>In addition, the Northern Territory Government will expand the Wesley Lanhapuy Scholarship program from 10 to 15 places to recruit and train more Indigenous teachers. <i>Additional Cost: \$0.5m over 5 years</i></p>
55	Provide additional regional residential schools for Aboriginal students.	<p>The Northern Territory Government will negotiate with the Australian Government to establish two regional senior studies hostels for students from remote communities. Capital to be sought from the Australian Government 2007/08 Budget Item. <i>NTG Additional Cost: \$0.7m over 5 years</i></p>
56	Increase opportunities for adult and community education.	The Northern Territory Government will continue to work with communities to ensure full access to Adult and Community Education programs under the Flexible Response and Community Response training programs and through training provided by Charles Darwin University and Batchelor Institute for Indigenous Tertiary Education.

No.	Recommendation	Northern Territory Government Response
12. COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND AWARENESS		
57	Raise community education and awareness about child sexual abuse.	<p>The Northern Territory Government will implement a number of initiatives that will drive a shift in family and community attitudes on child sexual abuse, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a wide-spread and sustained community education campaign on child sexual abuse (Recommendation 94) - implementation of a child protection unit to support schools in mandatory reporting and teaching Aboriginal children protective behaviours (Recommendation 52) - providing opportunities to discuss child abuse through anti-violence forums (Recommendation 59) and the introduction of Aboriginal and Family Violence Support Services in remote communities (Recommendation 75) - the development of integrated Early Childhood and Family Services which will provide parenting and family support (Recommendation 42) - continued use of the Aboriginal Translator Service for the delivery of messages to remote communities.
58	Establish an Advice Hotline.	<p>The Department of Health and Community Services has a child protection reporting and advice hotline that already provides advice to people who are concerned about a child. The hotline, 1800 700 250, will be promoted through the community education campaign (Recommendation 94). The capacity of the intake team who operate the hotline will be expanded as part of the increased numbers of Child Protection Workers (Recommendation 19).</p>
59	Support Aboriginal men in discussing and addressing child sexual abuse and other violence.	<p>The Northern Territory Government will establish Indigenous Men's and Women's Anti-violence Forums in regional centres as an element of the establishment of integrated Aboriginal Family Violence and Support Services in remote communities (Recommendation 75). These forums will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - development of 8 facilitated regional forums in four regions for Indigenous men and women on an annual basis - provision of an annual Territory-wide representational meeting in Darwin with the Chief Minister and Minister for Family and Community Services - provision of annual small grants to groups to undertaken activities in support of the child sexual abuse prevention agenda.
60	Run a community and parent education campaign on the value of schooling.	<p>The Northern Territory Government will run a sustained media and local communication campaign on the value of schooling as part of the 6-point school attendance strategy.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Additional Cost: \$0.55m over 5 years</i></p>

No.	Recommendation	Northern Territory Government Response
13. ALCOHOL		
61	Continue to implement the Alcohol Framework, with a focus on decreasing consumption.	<p>The Northern Territory Government will introduce legislation into the August 2007 sittings of the Legislative Assembly to give the Minister power to determine alcohol supply restriction and implement other measures where required.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government is committed to implementation of the Alcohol Framework. In addition to wide ranging reforms introduced over the last 12 months, the Government will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - introduce 2 new court clinicians - introduce an additional 8 inspectors to increase the capacity to ensure compliance of regulatory programs - implement a licensing identification system in all regional and remote takeaway outlets accessible to the public - expand the Return to Home Program for Alice Springs, Katherine and Darwin - support alcohol management strategies, initially for Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek, East and West Arnhem and Timber Creek. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Additional Cost: \$9.11m over 5 years</i></p>
62	Identify culturally effective strategies to reduce alcohol related harm in conjunction with communities.	<p>The Northern Territory Government, in conjunction with the Australian Government, will seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - expand the alcohol and other drug intervention program that is linked to existing primary health care infrastructure from 8 to 16 workers - expand clinical capacity to respond to increased demand to support alcohol withdrawal in urban and remote areas through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting clinical interventions in acute settings • building a new 10 bed purpose built facility in Darwin to provide residential withdrawal • providing additional clinical resources in Darwin and Alice Springs to support community based and residential withdrawal <p style="text-align: right;"><i>NTG Additional Cost: \$0.5m over 5 years</i></p> <p>The Northern Territory and Australian Government are finalising a new bilateral funding agreement worth \$15.90m to expand alcohol and other drug rehabilitation, treatment and withdrawal services. The Northern Territory Government hopes to expand this agreement further to deliver this enhanced range of services.</p>
63	Increase management of takeaway liquor and restrict the flow of alcohol into communities.	The Northern Territory Government is committed to implementation of the Alcohol Framework (Recommendation 61), including additional inspectors and implementation of a licensing identification system in all regional and remote takeaway outlets accessible to the public.
64	Develop 'best practice' model of a 'community drinking club'.	The Department of Justice will develop a 'best-practice' model of a 'community drinking club' by June 2008, including implementation options.
65	Require the Licensing Commission to consider advice from Police and DHCS on liquor licence applications.	The Northern Territory Government will legislate to formalise current practice whereby the Licensing Commission considers advice from Police and/or the Department of Health and Community Service on liquor license applications where submitted.

No.	Recommendation	Northern Territory Government Response
66	Require the Licensing Commission to prepare and consider Community and Child Impact Statements in hearing liquor licence applications.	The Northern Territory Government will require the Licensing Commission to consider Community and Child Impact Statements where so advised by Police and/or the Department of Health and Community Services.
67	Amend new Liquor legislation to include a variety of factors, including social impacts and greater review powers.	The Northern Territory Government will introduce amendments to the Liquor Act by end 2007 which will encompass the social impact of alcohol and minimise community harm, as well as provide flexibility to deal quickly with harm when it arises.
68	Undertake a media campaign about alcohol in conjunction with communities.	<p>The Northern Territory Government will undertake a wide-spread education campaign on the negative impact of alcohol and healthy alternatives to drinking. The education campaign will incorporate different strategies in order to increase knowledge in the Indigenous community about the harms of alcohol and provide information which will lead to a change in drinking culture, including safe drinking levels, alternatives to alcohol consumption and moving to lower strength alcohol.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Additional Cost: \$1m over 5 years</i></p>
69	Implement alcohol counselling to Aboriginal communities.	Provision of alcohol counselling will occur in conjunction with the expansion of the alcohol and other drug interventions (Recommendation 62).
14. OTHER SUBSTANCE ABUSE		
70	Develop a multi-pronged approach to address the abuse of illicit substances.	<p>The Northern Territory Government will continue with the successful Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk to law enforcement concerning the distribution and supply of illicit drugs to remote communities.</p> <p>The Department of Health and Community Services and NT Police will collaborate on a focused illicit drug strategy encompassing supply reduction, education and improved treatment access in communities with identified illicit drug problems. The strategy will utilise the community support and treatment functions of DHCS and liaise with the Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk and local police to address illicit drug problems on a community by community basis. The strategy will commence with a small number of pilot communities in the Top End in 2007-08.</p>
15. COMMUNITY JUSTICE		
71	Establish ongoing dialogue between Aboriginal law men and women and the legal and social justice systems about maintaining law and order within communities.	The Northern Territory Government will develop a program which provides a process of discussion and consultation about law and justice issues between the Government and Aboriginal communities through development of community justice programs (Recommendation 73) and expansion of Community Courts (Recommendation 74).
72	Consider incorporating into NT law aspects of Aboriginal law that effectively contribute to the restoration of law and order within Aboriginal communities.	The introduction of community justice programs (Recommendation 73) and expansion of Community Courts (Recommendation 74) aim to strengthen Aboriginal leadership.
73	Establish and support 'Community Justice Groups'.	The Northern Territory Government will continue to encourage, work with and support Aboriginal communities to maintain law and order.

No.	Recommendation	Northern Territory Government Response
74	Develop language-group specific Aboriginal Courts.	<p>The Northern Territory will expand the use of Community Courts in remote communities. This model is based on community participation in sentencing, rehabilitation and reintegration for matters heard in the Magistrates Court. Aboriginal interpreters play a key role in the Community Court process.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Additional Cost: \$2.1m over 5 years</i></p>
16. THE ROLE OF COMMUNITIES		
75	Support the development of community-based and community-owned Aboriginal family violence intervention and treatment programs.	<p>The Northern Territory Government (DHCS), in conjunction with the Australian Government, will establish integrated Aboriginal Family Violence and Support Services in remote communities, including family support programs and safe places in remote communities and employing professional and local community workers.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Additional Cost: \$7.9m over 5 years</i></p> <p>The Australian Government recently announced funding to establish additional safe places in communities to provide emergency accommodation and support workers to assist families seeking refuge and accessing other support services.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government (DOJ) will also expand on an Indigenous Family Violence Community Based Program, currently delivered in Central Australian communities, to provide effective intervention in family violence. The program is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - delivered by local Indigenous facilitators who are seen by their community as suitable and respected people - involves family violence offenders and victims participating in alternative court sentencing options, other than imprisonment. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Additional Cost: \$5.24m over 5 years</i></p>
76	Develop violence management strategies for each community around a core services model.	The development of family violence management strategies is a key component of Recommendation 75.
77	<p>a) Assess current family violence and safe place approaches.</p> <p>b) Establish more safe house/places in communities.</p>	The roll-out of programs under Recommendation 75 will involve a community by community assessment of existing services and infrastructure to inform the most suitable mix of services for that community.
78	Support establishment of men's and women's night patrols.	The Australian Government recently announced a commitment to fund organisations across the Northern Territory to deliver Night Patrol Services in all of the Australian Government prescribed communities.
79	Develop local child safety and protection plans in each city, town, region and community.	The Northern Territory Government will review the benefit of local child safety and protection plans and if necessary, develop a model by June 2008 for the development of plans for communities with severe ongoing child safety issues.
17. EMPLOYMENT		
80	Develop innovative employment training options for Aboriginal communities and provide adequate education and training.	<p>Jobs Plan 3 incorporates innovative employment training options for Indigenous people, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$2.0m joint Northern Territory and Australian Government program targeted at the needs of Indigenous Territorians for workplace literacy and numeracy, workplace orientation skills and employment support programs - \$0.96m for 8 programs under the Joint indigenous Funding Pool to improve training outcomes through innovative support programs.

No.	Recommendation	Northern Territory Government Response
81	Develop a local workforce to address health and welfare issues within communities with the active support of professionals.	<p>The Northern Territory Government will build a remote-based community services workforce as an integral component of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased child protection workers (Recommendation 19) - Introduction of Aboriginal Child Protection and Care Services (Recommendation 20) - Expansion of the Sexual Assault Referral Centres (Recommendation 21) - Introduction of early childhood and family services (Recommendation 42) - Establishment of integrated Aboriginal Family Violence and Support Services (Recommendation 75).
82	Support development of Aboriginal people as local community development workers.	<p>The Northern Territory Government has committed to the development of a local workforce as an integral aspect of the development of the Local Government Shire arrangements. This includes roles in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - local governance - housing management and maintenance - local government services.
83	Increase level of Indigenous employment in the NT Public Sector.	<p>The Northern Territory Government will release a new Indigenous Employment and Career Development Strategy for the Northern Territory Public Sector in late 2007.</p>
18. HOUSING		
84	Expand the number of communities on the target list for new housing and repairs and maintenance.	<p>Implementation of the Northern Territory Government's Remote Housing program will support the core delivery strategy (Recommendation 40), modified for the actual need of communities.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government's current commitment to the NT Indigenous Housing program includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction of approximately 600 new dwellings and upgrade of 250 existing dwellings over the 5 years, including cluster-style accommodation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • this includes the Northern Territory Government's five-year \$100m commitment - Roll out of the Territory Housing framework across the Territory - \$117.30m for repairs and maintenance, management and related initiatives. <p>The Northern Territory Government will request Australian Government assistance for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approximately 200 new houses per year for remote areas and town camps - proposed NT share of the Australian Remote Indigenous Accommodation (ARIA) program of \$1.6 billion.
85	Train and employ local Aboriginal people in the construction and repairs and maintenance of houses in Aboriginal communities.	<p>The Northern Territory Government's remote housing program has an Aboriginal training and employment program as a key element of the implementation strategy including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establishment of Indigenous building teams - delivery of structured training programs.
86	Consider cluster housing and flexible accommodation options for singles and older people.	<p>The Northern Territory Government's remote housing program will incorporate opportunities for cluster-style dwellings and flexible accommodation options for singles and older people in consultation with communities.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Northern Territory Government Response
19. PORNOGRAPHY		
87	Undertake an education campaign on film and television show classifications and Criminal Code prohibitions around sexually explicit material.	The Northern Territory Government, in conjunction with the Australian Government, will undertake a wide-spread education campaign about the meaning of classifications for film and television, and the destructive influence of pornography.
20. GAMBLING		
88	Undertake an education campaign targeting the impacts and risk of gambling.	The Northern Territory Government will undertake a wide-spread education campaign around the negative impact of gambling, including the risks to children and families. <i>Additional Cost: \$1.25m over 5 years</i>
89	Introduce gambling counselling to Indigenous communities.	The Northern Territory Government will investigate the extension of current gambling counselling programs to cover more Indigenous communities (Recommendation 90).
90	a) Undertake further research on the effects of gambling on child safety and wellbeing. b) Enact local laws to regulate gambling as part of the community safety plans.	The Northern Territory Government will undertake further research on the impact and management of gambling on Indigenous communities by June 2008. This research will include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - effect of gambling on child safety and wellbeing - adequacy and enforcement of current laws regulating gambling - potential for effective gambling counselling programs.
21. CROSS-CULTURAL PRACTICE		
91	Introduce compulsory cross-cultural training for all Government personnel, in particular teaching staff.	The Northern Territory Government will consider the cross-cultural training programs in existence and implement best practice to increase cross-cultural understanding between government personnel and Indigenous people.
92	Encourage personnel working closely with Aboriginal people to undertake relevant language and cultural training.	The Northern Territory Government will ensure employees are able to have increasing access to language training as part of the professional development program, including paid study assistance.
22. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REPORT		
93	a) Release this report in its entirety. b) Translate the overview into the nine main Aboriginal languages and distribute.	The Chief Minister of the Northern Territory released the report on 15 June 2007. The overview was translated into 10 Aboriginal languages – as recommended by the Aboriginal Interpreter Service – and will be distributed August 2007.
94	Introduce a public awareness campaign for Aboriginal people around child sexual abuse with a focus on the key elements of mainstream law and the recommendations of this report.	The Northern Territory Government will undertake a wide-spread and sustained education campaign across the Northern Territory that will provide Territorians with information about the legal position and community standards in relation to child sexual abuse using radio, television, print and discussion forums. <i>Additional Cost: \$0.44m over 5 years</i>
95	Promote a vigorous campaign to educate the general public around the trauma of sexual assault.	The Northern Territory Government will undertake a wide-spread and sustained education campaign across the Northern Territory about child sexual abuse (Recommendation 94). The campaign will incorporate messages about the experiences of victims of sexual assault.

No.	Recommendation	Northern Territory Government Response
96	Ensure the Commissioner for Children and Young People monitor and report six monthly on progress made in implementing this inquiry.	<p>The Deputy Chief Executive, Department of the Chief Minister (DCM) will Chair a Whole-of-Government operational group consisting of the Deputy Chief Executives from each Agency (who have responsibility for delivery of Indigenous programs) to drive the implementation of <i>Closing the Gap</i> and recommendations from the Inquiry. The operational group will report six-monthly to the Chief Minister and Cabinet on progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Inquiry.</p> <p>DCM will independently monitor the implementation program through normal Cabinet processes.</p> <p>The Northern Territory Government will also establish an Indigenous Affairs Advisory Council to the Chief Minister. This group will also have a role in assisting and monitoring implementation.</p> <p>The Children's Commissioner will monitor operations of the child protection system (Recommendation 9).</p>
97	Ensure interim monitoring of implementation of the Report by the Deputy Chief Executive of the Department of the Chief Minister until the Commissioner for Children and Young People is appointed.	The Deputy Chief Executive of the Department of the Chief Minister is responsible for the monitoring and reporting of progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Inquiry.