

BUDGET 2019-20

A safer Territory

Territorians deserve to live in safe communities that are thriving both socially and economically. That's why Government is investing in more police and better services to create a safer Territory.

More Police and Emergency Services resources

Budget 2019 supports community safety through:

- funding 120 extra police and 75 Police Auxiliary Liquor Inspectors (PALIs)
- an additional \$10 million per annum to the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services to continue to protect the Territory
- fast tracking the construction of a new Palmerston fire station with \$25 million in 2019-20
- \$9.79 million over four years from 2019-20 and \$0.54 million ongoing from 2023-24 to upgrade the digital radio system and modernise the system to provide improved functionality to emergency services
- \$26.4 million in 2019 for the implementation of the \$45 million ICT project to provide a reliable, contemporary and integrated system to support policing activity across the Territory.

Tackling antisocial behaviour

Budget 2019 continues to deliver the government's five-point plan to tackle antisocial behaviour. The plan delivers a suite of measures to make streets, homes and businesses safer through:

- \$6.6 million to establish Better Pathways Centres and short-stay accommodation facilities. These will target vulnerable people who are homeless and sleeping rough in Darwin and Palmerston, including short-term visitors from remote communities without secure housing

- \$1.3 million to extend the Larrakia Nation day patrol service with four additional vehicles to help relocate people to their home community and provide rehabilitation support
- \$0.7 million for the Larrakia Ambassador Program to reduce the impact of people living rough on Larrakia Country
- an additional \$0.35 million to continue the Darwin Sobering Up Shelter to operate 24 hours a day.

Back on Track program

The Territory Government has announced \$6.96 million in 2018-19 and \$8.54 million ongoing from 2019-20 for the Back on Track program to divert at-risk young people from the youth justice system and deliver consequences to get them on a better path.

The Back on Track program gives courts better diversion and sentencing options and supports other government initiatives to prevent youth crime. The key aim of the program is to get young people back on track while taking responsibility for their actions.

Tackling alcohol-fuelled crime

Budget 2019 supports the implementation of alcohol reforms aimed at tackling alcohol abuse and alcohol-related harm. The crime, social and economic harm alcohol causes in the Territory remains the biggest social issue and costs the Territory almost \$1.4 billion a year.

The Territory Government has created the Alcohol Secure program to provide financial support to licensed premises to protect their liquor stock with \$0.5 million worth of grants available in 2019-20 and an additional \$0.25 million in 2020-21.

The program will complement reforms introduced in the 2018 Budget to tackle alcohol abuse including:

- \$15.5 million to provide assessment, withdrawal and specialised alcohol treatment services to assist people with alcohol misuse issues and dependence, as part of the Banned Drinker Register
- \$12.82 million ongoing for the alcohol policing support unit as part of the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Strategy
- \$5.7 million to operate and maintain the Banned Drinker Register in 2019-20.

Alcohol reform in the Territory is showing early signs of success with reductions in crime and hospital admissions recorded since the release of the Riley Review with:

- a 44 per cent reduction in alcohol-related assaults in Alice Springs in September to December 2018, compared to the same period in 2017
- a 24.5 per cent decrease in alcohol-related emergency department presentations in the Territory in December 2018, compared to December 2017
- more than 3000 litres of illegal secondary supply alcohol seized by police since the creation of the Alcohol Policing Unit.

Breaking the cycle of youth crime

The Territory Government is breaking the cycle of youth crime and driving generational change with more programs in Palmerston and Alice Springs. The plan will deliver a suite of measures to make these areas safer with:

- \$1.5 million ongoing to establish and operate a Palmerston Youth Drop-In and Crisis Centre
- \$1.5 million ongoing to expand the Stars Foundation Girls program and Clontarf program in Palmerston
- \$1.16 million per annum for two years for seven Youth Engagement Night Officers to engage with young people on the streets of Alice Springs seven days a week from 8pm to 3am

- \$0.8 million ongoing to support the Crossover Families Case Management Unit coordinate services to young people and their families involved in child protection and youth justice systems
- \$0.7 million per annum for two years to extend the hours and transport services for youth drop-in centres in Alice Springs from five to seven days a week
- \$0.4 million per annum for two years for a cultural engagement and outreach program with Aboriginal elders and traditional owners in Alice Springs
- \$0.3 million ongoing to expand the Palmerston Youth Night Patrol service with additional patrols and a larger bus
- \$0.2 million per annum for two years to extend the Alice Springs community safety transport service operating hours to seven nights a week
- \$0.2 million ongoing to deliver the Student Voice Positive Choice program in Palmerston
- \$0.15 million ongoing to support psychologists in the Palmerston Re-engagement Centre.

Safe, thriving and connected

Budget 2019 continues to invest in reforming the Territory's child protection and youth justice systems in response to the Royal Commission into the Detention and Protection of Children in the Northern Territory. Investment includes:

- \$66.95 million over five years to implement an information management platform to improve coordination across services working with families and protect children
- \$22.95 million over five years to implement a new staffing model for youth detention facilities
- \$12.9 million over four years for local communities through the Regional Youth Services Fund to provide programs, after hours and school holiday activities and expanded regional youth coordination services
- \$11.4 million over four years to establish a network of 17 Child and Family Centres by 2022-23 to deliver targeted and coordinated support to families. This includes five sites to be established in 2019-20 including Tennant Creek (already underway), Katherine, Darwin northern suburbs and Northern Arnhem Land

- \$10.29 million over three years for new infrastructure and to repurpose facilities to support regional youth justice programs and provide alternatives to detention
- \$9.89 million over four years to keep children out of detention and improving outcomes for children and young people through participation in restorative justice and skills development programs
- \$5.4 million over four years to transform out of home care.

Putting victims first

The Territory Government is reviewing how the justice system can facilitate better outcomes for victims of crime. The victims of crime scheme is being reformed to better support victims and the Charter of Victims' Rights is being strengthened, guided by five key principles:

- victims of crime come first
- the safety and welfare of victims, their families and their property is our number one concern
- that every reasonable resource will be used to support victims
- access to services will be simple, quick, coordinated and respectful
- victims have a right to be heard by the courts.

Facial biometric matching

The Territory Government will implement the National Facial Biometric Matching Capability Solution, a National Counter-Terrorism Strategy to reduce crime and increase national security and border protection.

Territory agencies will be able to use the data in areas including road safety, identity crime, organised crime and counter terrorism. Budget 2019 provides \$0.38 million to improve biometric matching capability in the Territory, increasing to \$0.5 million ongoing from 2020-21.