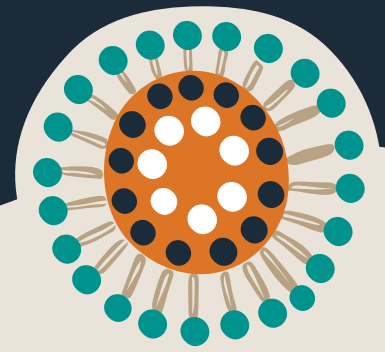




Australian Government
National Indigenous
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NIAA



Youth Services Action Plan – A Better, Safer Future for Central Australia

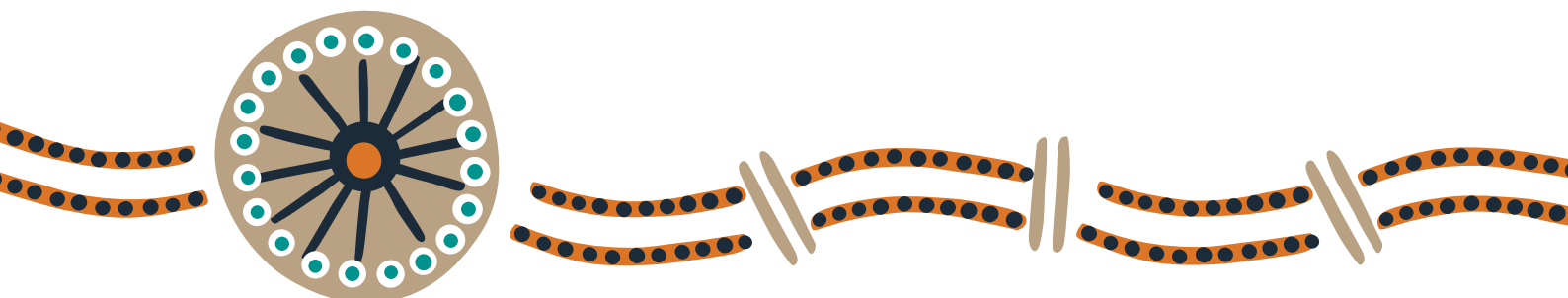
Summary

There is a need for a coordinated plan to shape youth services across the Central Australian region. The *Youth Services Action Plan* details opportunities for more effective delivery and investment in youth services across 26 Central Australian communities.

The plan was developed by listening to the voices of 700 young people, families, communities, service providers and funding bodies across the region. A range of governance bodies and collaborative forums were also engaged in the development.

The plan aligns with, and builds, on the Closing the Gap (CtG) Priority Reforms as well as local and international frameworks. It seeks to address Targets 7, 11 and 13 of the CtG socio-economic outcome areas – improving youth engagement in employment and education, reducing the number of young people in the criminal justice system, and keeping families and households safe.

The plan outlines how a coordinated effort by governments, community, philanthropy and business could work, focusing on 3 areas and with 4 enablers.



Youth Services Action Plan Focus areas and Enablers provide direction and align efforts to improve youth service delivery

YSAP focus areas



1

Family and community:
Strengthen governance and community ownership and leadership of youth services.

2

Youth Services:
Expand the variety of services across communities and address the needs of under-served groups.

3

Broader system services:
Improve coordination with other services including specialist youth services.

Enabler

1

Workforce:
Enhance the capability and capacity of youth services to meet young people's needs.

Establish mechanisms for young people and community leaders to make decisions on youth service delivery in their communities.

Improve employment pathways for young people in community by supporting them to get Ochre cards and allowing teenagers to undertake casual work at youth services.

Fund additional youth worker roles or caseworkers to refer young people with complex needs to other services (schools, clinics, youth justice system or NDIS).

Enabler

2

Infrastructure:
Upgrade youth infrastructure and resources.

Invest in community football clubs as mechanism to engage older male youth and develop separate spaces for older female youth to engage in activities of their choice.

Ensure at least one AFL oval with lights and one swimming pool or water park is accessible in each region.

Facilitate access to more transport for youth services to support bush trips and allow sharing of recreational infrastructure across communities.

Enabler

3

Funding models:
Support locally led decision making on allocation of funding to support transition to community control.

In communities where youth councils do not exist, establish mechanisms that empower young people to have a say in the direction of program activities.

Provide funding for locally-owned organisations to run youth activities, including cultural activities aimed at engaging hard-to-reach groups. These groups include teenagers (13-19) and older youth (20-25) with complex needs or those at risk of interacting with the justice system.

Provide opportunities for service providers to meet regularly and jointly plan for coordinated delivery of activities.

Enabler

4

Monitoring and Evaluation:
Build local capacity to consistently monitor and evaluate activities.

Support LDMs across the region to consistently collect data on outputs.

Centralise data across youth services to enable better coordination and monitoring.

Review the effectiveness of current casework models to identify opportunities for wider implementation in the delivery of activities.

Through the co-ordinated and collaborative approach described in the plan, there is a clear opportunity to create a better future and drive improvements within the Central Australian youth service ecosystem.

The NIAA will continue to work with stakeholders, including the Central Australia Plan Aboriginal Leadership Group and the Central Australia Youth Roundtable, to refine and action the *Youth Services Action Plan*.

Additional information about the range of measure delivered through A Better, Safer Future for Central Australia can be found at niaa.gov.au.