

# **Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory**

## **Part 2: Six-Monthly Progress Report**

1 January 2013 to 30 June 2013



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# 1. Health

The Health Implementation Plan, signed on 15 April 2013, aims to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory. The following chapter provides performance information against each of the Implementation Plan elements.

## 1.1 Hearing Health Services

There is significant ear disease and hearing loss among Indigenous children in the Northern Territory. These conditions have a significant impact on a child's future life chances by affecting their speech development and limiting their ability to learn and achieve at school and their employment opportunities in later life.

To reduce the proportion of Aboriginal children with ear disease and hearing loss, the Australian and Northern Territory Governments are implementing a health programme for Aboriginal children in the Northern Territory based on a continuum of care model that encompasses coordination and provision of health promotion and prevention, early intervention, diagnosis, and treatment.

The Australian Government is providing funding for more than 2,000 hearing checks and follow-up services. In addition, the Northern Territory Government is delivering a community education programme to educate parents and carers about children's ear and hearing health.

### Results

Between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013, hearing health services provided 1,807 occasions of service and 500 children received complex case management.<sup>1</sup>

## 1.2 Oral Health Services

Dental health problems among Northern Territory Aboriginal children in remote communities are far worse than among other children in the Territory and the rest of Australia. In some communities Aboriginal children experience dental caries at up to five times the rate of their non-Aboriginal counterparts.<sup>2</sup>

From 2012, just under 65% of all Aboriginal children seen by Oral Health Services Northern Territory were found to have teeth with untreated decay.

To reduce the proportion of Aboriginal children with decayed or missing teeth, the Australian and Northern Territory Governments are delivering an integrated dental health programme for Aboriginal children in the Northern Territory based on a continuum of care model. Under this programme, more than 12,000 Aboriginal children in the Northern Territory will have access to preventive dental health services and dental clinical services. The programme also includes funding for dental services provided by Aboriginal community controlled health organisations. This programme targets children below age 16 and aims to increase access to dental services in communities with a high incidence of dental health problems.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on additional data for 2012-13 supplied by the NT Government Department of Health on 26 November 2013

<sup>2</sup> Oral Health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children by LM Jamieson, JM Armfield and KF Roberts-Thomson AIHW Dental Statistics and Research Series No 35 : 2007

Six Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations deliver dental services to children with dental health problems.<sup>3</sup>

## Results

From 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 dental health services provided 3,224 occasions of service, 4,317 fissure sealants, 103 occasions of surgery under general anaesthetic and 2,258 fluoride varnish applications.

### 1.3 Mobile Outreach Service *Plus* Programme

There is a strong relationship between childhood abuse, substance abuse, depression, anxiety and suicide. To help combat this problem, the Australian Government funds child abuse trauma counselling and support services for Aboriginal children and their families in remote communities under the Mobile Outreach Service (MOS) *Plus* programme. An independent evaluation of the programme, published in January 2012, concluded that it was a successful approach and recommended it be continued.

This service conducts approximately 360 visits each year to remote communities to provide counselling and education to children and their families and communities experiencing trauma, child abuse and neglect. It aims to target more than 200 Aboriginal families across the Northern Territory, with many more families reached through community education and information sessions that deal with child abuse and neglect.

To complement the work of this programme, funding has been provided to increase the capacity of the remote primary health care workforce in responding quickly and effectively to child abuse and neglect.

## Results

This reporting period was characterised by a planned shift in the MOS *Plus* service footprint from approximately 90 remote Aboriginal communities across the Northern Territory to more intensive and targeted provision of services to 30 communities, with agreement to provide services to other communities on request, if service capacity allows. The 30 communities were identified as those likely to have a high service need based on factors including larger remote population numbers, the availability of related community service supports, a MOS *Plus* service and referral history, and an even geographic spread of locations.

The performance benchmark for visits to communities is that 90% of targeted communities will receive a minimum of eight visits over 12 months.

During the reporting period, 93% of communities were visited on at least eight occasions. During the first half of the reporting period, staff continued to visit many other communities as well to complete the MOS *Plus* work in those communities.

The number of professional development and/or community education sessions delivered was more than twice the required 60 sessions for 2012-13, with 140 sessions delivered. During the reporting period, the proportion of case-related contacts with health services fell short of the

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<sup>3</sup> P14. Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory six-monthly Progress Report – 1 July 2012 to 31 December 2012

performance benchmark. This was due to a high number of case-related contacts with other services, which reduced the proportion of contacts with health services. This benchmark is one of the two components of the service integration benchmark, the other being the proportion of referrals from community-based services and individuals in the previous 12 months. This latter benchmark was exceeded during the reporting period.

## 1.4 Primary Health Care Service Delivery

Improving the quality and accessibility of primary health care services and the workforce that underpins these services is vital for improving health outcomes for Aboriginal people living in the Northern Territory.

The Australian Government is providing funding to Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations and the Northern Territory Government to improve access to remote primary health care services in the Northern Territory. This includes funding for 250 full-time staff delivering medical, nursing and allied health services in 80 primary health services.

This service is also funding the employment and training of staff, as well as activities to improve the quality of Indigenous health services through continuous quality improvement processes and monitoring of key performance indicators. Funding is also available to build and upgrade health clinics and staff houses, as well as train Aboriginal people as health workers, administrators and managers.

### Results

The Northern Territory Department of Health manages primary health care services in remote communities through a network of 54 government-run health centres and there are also 26 Aboriginal community controlled health clinics. In addition, visiting or outreach services are provided to small communities and outstations in very remote areas where a permanent primary health care service cannot be provided. Stronger Futures funding enables primary health care services to identify, treat and manage a wide range of chronic health conditions.

The 38 reported Commonwealth funded Remote Health Centres provided 254,237 episodes of care for this period. Within the remote setting there is evidence of increased sustainable and equitable health outcomes for Indigenous people living in remote communities in the Northern Territory. This is being achieved by increasing their access to high quality, culturally appropriate and comprehensive primary health care services. This is publicised in the Bi annual Northern Territory Key Performance Indicators, National Key Performance Indicators and annual Activity Service Reporting.

As part of the Northern Territory Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) programme in primary health care services, CQI facilitators assist all Northern Territory health services to collect and interpret key performance indicator data and implement service improvements where needed.

Between 2007 and 2011, the Northern Territory achieved a reduction of 23% in the rate of death from potentially avoidable deaths, a much greater reduction than any other jurisdiction. These are deaths that may have been deferred or delayed due to improved health service provision. The majority of conditions in this category are chronic conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and lung disease. These improvements can be attributed, in part, to improved primary

health care service delivery, in particular, the increased focus on early detection and improved treatment and management of chronic conditions among people living in remote communities.

Five projects to improve chronic disease care in remote Northern Territory communities were underway during the reporting period. These included works at: Wurli Wurlinjang Health Service, Pintubi Homelands Health Service, Malabam Health Board, Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation, and Mpwelarre Health Aboriginal Corporation.

## 1.5 Primary Health Care Reform

Regionalisation of primary health care services will contribute to improved patient experience, both in terms of client interaction with services and health outcomes. The regional governance structures are designed to increase Aboriginal decision-making and the establishment of clinical and public health advisory groups to ensure that service decisions are driven by the latest available clinical information. A range of reforms are currently underway within the Aboriginal primary health care services sector in the Northern Territory aimed at ensuring an effective health services system. For example:

- the Australian Government, the Northern Territory Government and Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT) are working together to provide improved coordination and integration of primary health care services across the Territory, with a particular focus on reducing duplication of effort and gaps in service delivery
- regional structures are being developed, aimed at delivering improved community ownership and participation, collaboration and improved governance
- clinical governance structures are being strengthened to enable better integration and coordination of health services
- health infrastructure is being put in place to better support regional service delivery
- the regional reform agenda for delivery of primary health care services is being progressed within priority health service delivery locations across the Northern Territory. These locations include West Arnhem, East Arnhem, Alyawarra and Arrente-Anmatjerre.

### Results

Governance and service transition arrangements are in place in the following priority Health Service Delivery Areas (HSDAs) in the Northern Territory:

- Barkly
- West Arnhem Land
- East Arnhem Land
- Arrernte-Anmatyerre (South East Central Australia)
- Alyawarra
- Central Australia – Westside.

Four clinical and public health advisory groups were established.



## 1.6 Remote Area Health Corps

The Remote Area Health Corps (RAHC) is a short-term health professional placement programme that supports the primary health care sector. The RAHC helps to meet critical primary health care workforce shortages in remote areas, by providing recruitment, training, professional development and transport to approximately 450 health professionals each year. By reducing workforce shortages, primary health services can provide improved access to quality health care for Aboriginal people living in remote communities.

### Results

Under the RAHC programme, 289 health professionals were placed between January and June 2013. Of these, one-fifth were general medical practitioners and one-quarter were dentists. During 2012-13, RAHC-recruited health professionals completed 1,503 online training modules; these are online clinical training modules designed especially by RAHC for health professionals working in remote Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory.

Table 1.1 RAHC contribution to workforce shortages

Type of deployment	No. of Deployments
General Practitioners	57
Registered Nurses	136
Allied Health Professionals	5
Ear Health Practitioners	23
Dental Practitioners	68
<b>Total</b>	<b>289</b>

In all, 2,090 health professionals have had placements with RAHC since the programme began in December 2008. Each year the number of placements has exceeded the target under the funding agreement. Approximately 80% of professionals who have had a RAHC placement in 2012-13 were health professionals who have returned for another placement.

## 1.7 Alcohol and Other Drug Workers

Alcohol misuse is a major contributor to poor health outcomes, low life expectancy, and poor education and employment outcomes among Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory.<sup>4</sup>

Additional alcohol and other drug workers provide support in Aboriginal communities, who are working on local alcohol management plan initiatives. Up to 20 full-time equivalent locally based workers will provide prevention, early intervention, and referral and follow up services in communities where the need is high. These workers will supplement existing health and substance use services and assist communities introducing alcohol management plans.

<sup>4</sup> South Australian Centre for Economic Studies, 2009. *Harms from and Costs of Alcohol Consumption in the Northern Territory*, Report commissioned by the Menzies School of Health Research

## Results

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Northern Territory Government are working to identify communities and health services where Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Workers can be employed with one AOD worker<sup>5</sup> placed at the Binjari Community Health Service in Katherine and efforts underway to place more AOD workers in communities of high need.

Between 2007-08 and 2011-12, the age standardised proportion of adults at risk of long-term harm from alcohol in the Northern Territory declined 9.2%, to 24.2%. Nationally, there was a 1.5% decline over the same period to 19.4%. Even so, alcohol harm remains a major health and community safety problem in the Territory.<sup>6</sup>

## 1.8 Food Security

Community stores are a key source of food and beverage supplies for Aboriginal communities and people living in remote areas in the Northern Territory who in many instances have limited access to transport or are a long distance away from major retail centres.

The stores licensing scheme aims to ensure that people in remote communities have access to a reasonable range of healthy food and consumer protection. Stores outside the major centres of Darwin, Palmerston, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Nhulunbuy may need licensing if they are an important source of food, drink or other grocery items for an Aboriginal community. The government also provides funding to stores to help them meet licensing requirements and provide healthier foods.

## Results

In May 2011, an independent evaluation of the community stores licensing scheme found that licensing had improved the availability, range and quality of fresh and healthy food; financial transparency; and consumer protection and service practices.

At 30 June 2013, 92 community stores were licensed.

Between January and June 2013, there had been:

- 40 monitoring assessments of community stores
- 2 formal community consultations undertaken in one community (Umbakumba) regarding potential new store licensing
- 5 licensing assessments at Mt Liebig Community Store (new store owners), Gangan store (request to be licensed), Nganmariyanga Community Store (change of owner), the Elliot Store (request to be licensed), and Timber Creek Supermarket (change of owner)
- 31 visits to stores for the purposes of stakeholder engagement, such as attending store board meetings.

No community store licences were revoked or refused and no new stores were licensed during the reporting period.

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<sup>5</sup> Full-time equivalent

<sup>6</sup> Council of Australian Governments Reform Council, 2013 *Healthcare 2011-12: Comparing Performance Across Australia*

In relation to grant funding, between January and June 2013:

- 39 stores in 35 remote communities across the Northern Territory benefited from grant funding to assist storeowners and operators improve their services
- 48 projects were funded to support nutritional outcomes, improve the range and quality of food and drinks available in stores, provide infrastructure and equipment upgrades, and support employment and training opportunities
- 87% of the organisations funded were Indigenous organisations.

## 2. Schooling

The Schooling Implementation Plan, signed on 13 March 2013, aims to improve school readiness, attendance and attainment of students in remote schools. The following chapter provides performance information against each of the Implementation Plan elements.

Progress in this report covers the period 1 January to 30 June 2013 – Semester 1 of the school year. During this period, work continued on the design of the strategic approach to delivery of the schooling measures over the life of Stronger Futures, acknowledging that the Northern Territory's Review of Indigenous Education, which is currently underway, will inform the future reform priorities targeting Aboriginal student outcomes.

### 2.1 Building a Quality School Workforce

Achieving education outcomes is crucial to reducing the disadvantage experienced by many Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory. Building a Quality School Workforce will continue to provide students in remote communities with access to quality education by delivering three sub-elements through the Northern Territory Government and the non-government sector:

- Quality Teaching
- Additional Teachers
- Teacher Housing.

The Quality Teaching and Additional Teachers initiatives are implemented in 102 government and non-government schools in remote communities throughout the Northern Territory.

Construction of teacher houses in selected communities is under an agreement between the Australian Government, the Northern Territory Government and non-government schools. The Northern Territory Government will build up to 88 teacher houses from new investment in 2013-14 through to 2022. The non-government sector will receive additional investment to construct up to 15 houses from 2014-15 until 2019-20.

### Results

Under the Quality Teaching Initiative, baseline and 2015 performance targets were finalised for the government and non-government sectors. The Australian Council for Education Research (ACER) independently verified the Northern Territory Government performance targets for a range of benchmark measures relating to student attainment and Aboriginal employment. The non-government sector has used the same methodology as the Northern Territory Government to set its performance targets.

During January to June 2013 (Semester 1), the Northern Territory maintained the additional 200 teacher and engagement officer allocations to schools, and continued to progress the completion of the residual teacher housing measures.

The Northern Territory Government did not meet the expected targets for the construction of teacher housing due to delays in finalising land reform and the negotiation of leases over Aboriginal land.

## 2.2 School Enrolment and Attendance Measure (SEAM)

A good education leads to better health, better income and a better life with more choices and opportunities. To get a good education, children need to go to school every day and stay until they finish their schooling. SEAM is an initiative to ensure Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal parents and carers make sure their children are enrolled in and attending school regularly through support and linking the receipt of income support to attendance.

In the Northern Territory, SEAM is aligning with the Northern Territory's Every Child Every Day attendance strategy. Under this new model, SEAM puts in place assistance, such as conferences and development of attendance plans between parents, the Northern Territory Department of Education Senior Attendance and Truancy Officers and the offer of support from Department of Human Services social workers to help parents resolve attendance issues. Every attempt will be made to assist and support parents to get their children to school. If parents do not comply with the requirements of the programme, income support payments may be suspended.

This new model of SEAM is being introduced in phases over two years and will operate in the Northern Territory until June 2022. Over the next two years, SEAM will be rolled out to 23 communities in the Northern Territory. The communities in each phase are:

- Between March-June 2013: Umbakumba, Alyangula, Milyakburra, Numbulwar, Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Wadeye, Wallace Rockhole, Katherine and the Katherine Town Camps
- July 2013: Alice Springs, Ngukurr, Yuendumu, Lajamanu and Tennant Creek
- January 2014: Gunbalanya
- July 2014: Maningrida, Galiwinku, Gapuwiyak and Millingimbi
- January 2015: Yirrkala, Nhulunbuy and Tiwi Island communities.

### Results

SEAM was rolled out between March and June 2013 to Alyangula, Angurugu, Katherine, Katherine Town Camps, Milyakburra, Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Numbulwar, Umbakumba, Wadeye and Wallace Rockhole.

Community information sessions were conducted in the following locations. Katherine and Katherine Town Camps (12 November 2012), Numbulwar and Milyakburra (18 February 2013), Groote Eylandt (Umbakumba, Angurugu and Alyangula - 25 February 2013), Wadeye (12 March 2013), Ntaria (Hermannsburg) and Wallace Rockhole (29 April – 3 May 2013), Alice Springs (6 - 10 May 2013), Yuendumu (20 – 21 May 2013) and Tennant Creek (18 - 20 June 2013).

The first SEAM attendance conferences for parents living in SEAM locations commenced in the week of 25 March 2013.

## 2.3 School Nutrition Programme

The School Nutrition Programme is a meal service for Transition to Year 12 children enrolled in school in identified communities. The Programme aims to contribute to school

engagement and learning by providing children lunch and/or breakfast, and in some communities, morning and afternoon tea and provide employment opportunities for local Aboriginal community members. Having a meal before and during school supports a student's ability to concentrate.

The Australian Government funds 40 providers to deliver the School Nutrition Programme in 67 schools. These providers employ local Aboriginal community members to prepare and deliver the meals, support employee professional development activities and ensure kitchen facilities and equipment is adequate and maintained.

Parents and carers are encouraged to contribute to the cost of meals for each child. Parental contributions are a voluntary opt-in arrangement, with Centrelink encouraging parents to contribute to the cost of meals through income management deductions, Centrepay and Electronic Funds Transfer.

To ensure children have meals regardless of non-payment by parents, the Australian Government provides extra funding to providers to cover the costs of meals for those who do not contribute. The Australian Government, through Centrelink, is looking at ways to educate and encourage parents and carers to contribute to their children's meals. A fact sheet was developed and together with education sessions for Centrelink Remote Engagement Teams, assist in promoting the School Nutrition Programme to parents in communities.

## **Results**

In the reporting period, an average of 2,972 breakfasts and 5,419 lunches were provided each day to children across the 67 participating schools. This is equivalent to an average of 44 children for breakfast and 81 children for lunch per day per school. This is an increase in meals provided compared to the same period in 2012 (an average of 34 children for breakfast and 73 children for lunch per day per school).

For the period January to June 2013, 40% of parents contributed to the cost of providing meals for their children through income management deductions, Centrepay and Electronic Funds Transfer. This is a 14% increase in paying parents, in the period October to December 2012, which can be attributed to an education campaign run by the Department of Human Services (refer to the employment section for further information). This is the first time since the implementation of the programme that there has been an increase.

## 3. Community Safety and Justice

The Community Safety and Justice Implementation Plan, signed on 8 May 2013, supports continued improvement in community safety in remote Northern Territory communities. The following chapter provides performance information against each of the Implementation Plan elements.

### 3.1 Remote Policing Services

Remote policing supports the safety of individuals, families and communities and contributes to the enforcement of alcohol restrictions, and maintains law and order and effective community engagement through:

- the continued employment of 60 additional Northern Territory Police to support and provide a permanent presence at the 18 remote priority communities, and enhance police presence at a number of other remote communities
- the use and maintenance of Commonwealth funded police infrastructure managed by the Northern Territory
- the Remote Policing Command until 30 June 2016
- an increase in the Northern Territory Police air capacity, which improves prisoner transportation by air, enhances response times and contributes to an increase in community police presence.

#### Results

The Northern Territory Police are facilitating the development of Community Safety Action Plans (CSAPs) at 52 remote communities throughout the Northern Territory, including the 18 remote priority communities, identified during the NTER. Community Safety Committees established in each location developed and will oversee implementation of the plans. These committees comprise local police, government coordinators, relevant service providers and community representatives. Tailored to individual community needs, CSAPs identify actions stakeholders can take to improve safety, with a focus on community ownership.

Eight Community Engagement Police Officers (CEPOs) were operating during the period. The CEPOs provided support to police working in remote communities to enhance engagement. As part of taking a community policing approach, Northern Territory police were involved in the provision of education and awareness sessions, community engagement, proactive policing and community support activities. Other community engagement activities included community discos, speaking with students at local schools and meeting with community members on matters affecting safety.

Australian Government funded infrastructure supported the 18 remote priority communities, five police posts, and the Northern Territory Police College business facility and accommodation units. Installation of the transportable accommodation for the Community Engagement Police Officer facility at Lajamanu commenced.

During the period, 192 prisoner transfers took place using Commonwealth funded aircraft. The additional aircraft capacity supported searches for missing persons and rapid deployment for emergencies.

## 3.2 Specialist Unit Support

Substance Abuse Intelligence Desks (SAIDs) and Dog Operation Units (DOUs) support Northern Territory communities achieve goals to reduce substance abuse and address associated problems identified in CSAPs.

The Northern Territory SAIDs and DOUs work to reduce the supply of substances in the Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara Lands, the Top End and Central Australia. Drug detection dogs as part of the SAID initiative assist in reducing the amount of illegal substances entering remote communities and deter trafficking of these substances.

### Results

During the period, the Australian Government funded five officers in the Katherine and Alice Springs SAIDs, along with seven dogs and five handlers in these two locations as well as Darwin.

Table 3.1 below shows a significant increase in the amount of alcohol, amphetamines and ecstasy seized during the period.

Table 3.1 SAIDs and DOUs outcomes

	July-Dec 2012	Jan – June 2013
Arrests	21	32
Charges	39	29
Summons	38	131
Infringement notices	35	61
<b>Seizures</b>		
Alcohol (litres)	173	3967.1
Cannabis (kilograms)	457	26.369
Kava (kilograms)	457	270.2
Petrol (litres)	0	0
Amphetamines (grams)	33	98.82
MDMA (Ecstasy-grams)	100	132.1
Other Drugs (grams)	21.1	83
<b>Proceeds of Crime</b>		
Vehicles seized	7	7
Cash seized (\$)	\$42,286.00	\$71,145.00
Remote community visits	16	34

\*NOTE: This table represents the outcomes of the Northern Territory operations only. The previous Stronger Futures Progress Report for the period 1 July 2012 to 31 December 2012 included combined outcomes of operations in the three jurisdictions of South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.



### **3.3 Completion of police complexes in remote communities**

The Australian Government has committed to the completion of four additional police complexes at Gapuwiyak, Ramingining, Arlparra and Yuendumu that were previously commenced under the Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement. Enhanced police infrastructure provides support for remote Aboriginal communities to improve community safety and strengthen offender management. Improved police infrastructure provides suitable facilities for police personnel to undertake their duties in relation to engagement, confidentiality and safety procedures for individuals, families and prisoners in the community.

#### **Results**

A new police complex at Gapuwiyak was completed in January 2013, and the new complex at Ramingining is scheduled for completion in September 2013 with both complexes to be officially opened on 20 November 2013. The new complexes enhance police capacity in these communities, as well as nearby communities such as Millingimbi.

Monitoring equipment has been included in the buildings to ensure the safety of people held by police. The complexes also provide a place for the community to seek refuge in emergencies such as cyclones.

### **3.4 Provision of Police Facilities in Remote Communities**

The Australian Government has committed funding from 2014-15 to 2018-19 for the completion of another four new remote police complexes in locations to be agreed jointly by the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory.

#### **Results**

The locations for the four new remote police complexes are still to be finalised.

### **3.5 Supplementary Legal Assistance**

Supplementary Legal Assistance to legal service providers in the Northern Territory increases the capacity of providers to respond to the increased legal needs of Indigenous people arising from the Stronger Futures package. The funding assists in ensuring Indigenous Australians in remote communities have access to legal assistance, representation and education.

Six legal service providers<sup>7</sup> work collaboratively delivering legal assistance services, including welfare rights, to Indigenous clients in remote communities in around 104 locations, effectively covering the whole of the Northern Territory.

#### **Results**

During the period, the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission approved 56 applications for grants of aid through the Stronger Futures package.

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<sup>7</sup> p31 Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory six-monthly Progress Report – 1 July 2012 to 31 December 2012

Table 3.2 shows the level of assistance provided from January to June 2013. Services provided include matters of civil and criminal law, for example legal representation, family matters and domestic violence.

**Table 3.2 Supplementary legal assistance services**

No of Duty Lawyer Matters	No of Advices	No of Cases	No of Outreach Visits
180	909	773	162 <sup>+</sup>

+ This includes visits by all six providers however data provided by the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission reflects the number of communities visited. The total number of outreach visits may vary as some communities may have multiple visits. Data are for Supplementary Legal Assistance funding, and does not include services provided with other core programme funding.

### 3.6 Community Night Patrols

Community night patrols help break the cycle of violence and crime in communities and provide employment opportunities for local Aboriginal men and women as patrollers and team leaders. They do not replace the work of police and do not have policing powers, but provide intermediate intervention to limit the need for police to respond while working together with the police and other services to improve community safety.

The Australian Government funds community night patrols across 80 communities in the Northern Territory, as well as in Darwin. Community night patrols undertake activities such as early intervention to prevent disorder in communities, transportation of vulnerable people to safe places, referral to services, provision of information and identifying people at risk of committing an offence or becoming a victim of harm.

#### Results

There are community night patrols operating on a regular basis in 80 communities.<sup>8</sup> In addition, the Australian Government funded the Darwin Night Patrol from 1 July 2013.

During the period, community night patrols assisted in over 88,000 incidents.<sup>9</sup> This assistance included transporting people to a recognised safe place (such as a safe house), or another safe place (such as a family member’s home), referral to other services, ensuring children are not out late at night, and preventing or limiting antisocial behaviour, including fighting, domestic violence, gambling and/or arguments.

The Community Night Patrol Programme provided 331 jobs for Indigenous people in remote communities. Transitioning individuals into full-time employment rather than job-share arrangements is a focus of programme development.<sup>10</sup> An accredited Certificate III training package in Community Night Patrol supports consistent, efficient and effective skills development for all community night patrol staff.

<sup>8</sup> On occasion, a community night patrol may not be operating in a community for a period due to community circumstances or issues such as recruitment of staff

<sup>9</sup> The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet continues to work with service providers to improve the accuracy of data collected by community night patrols. This data is incomplete in some areas and does not include all activities of community night patrols

<sup>10</sup> See Chapter 12 Employment and Economic Development

Local employees from the night patrol service established in Bulla in September 2012 talk about their experience and the reduction in incidents of violence and alcohol-related disturbances in the article, 'Night patrols providing big benefits for Bulla'.<sup>11</sup> They comment on the benefits for the community of having the night patrol, including an improved feeling of safety and the opportunity for local employment.

### **3.7 Support for Northern Territory Child Abuse Taskforce**

The Northern Territory Child Abuse Taskforce (CAT) is a partnership between the Northern Territory Police, the Office of Children and Families and the Australian Federal Police. CAT members investigate allegations of serious and complex child maltreatment cases across the Northern Territory. CAT also raises awareness among children, young people and adults, of child protection issues, how to keep safe and report when things go wrong.

#### **Results**

In June 2013, CAT supported the launch of an animation involving community members from Melville Island to assist in educating children on child safety. Characters included officers from the task force and community members from Wurrumiyanga. Also launched, the CAT website promotes the task force and child safety.

### **3.8 Support for National Indigenous Intelligence Task Force**

The National Indigenous Intelligence Task Force (NIITF) is building a national understanding of the nature and extent of violence and child abuse in Indigenous communities. The primary objective of the NIITF is to collect and analyse information about violence and child abuse. The NIITF shares the intelligence collected and analysed about vulnerable Indigenous communities with government and law enforcement agencies to inform decisions to improve community safety.

#### **Results**

During the reporting period, the NIITF provided information that has assisted the former Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs in understanding the impact of alcohol and illicit substances on Aboriginal communities and the wider Northern Territory community.

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<sup>11</sup> The link to the article is at [indigenous.gov.au](http://indigenous.gov.au) Night patrols providing big benefits for bulla

## 4. Tackling Alcohol Abuse

The Tackling Alcohol Abuse Implementation Plan, signed on 3 June 2013, aims to provide a sustainable approach to reducing harm from alcohol and a stronger role for communities to work with government. The following chapter provides performance information against each of the Implementation Plan elements.

### 4.1 Community Alcohol Management Planning

Tackling alcohol abuse is an important part of making communities safe, creating an environment in which kids go to school every day and adults can secure and hold down real jobs. Alcohol abuse in the Northern Territory is a major contributing factor to Aboriginal disadvantage, including reduced life expectancy, poor health, education and employment outcomes, and has a devastating effect on community safety.

An Alcohol Management Plan (AMP) is an agreement across the community to tackle alcohol related harm in a way that works for the community. Developed in partnership with the community and with support from local organisations and government staff, AMPs are a way for the government to work with communities to:

- provide more support for vulnerable people and people suffering from alcohol-related harms
- develop strategies for reducing the supply, demand and harm caused by alcohol in communities.

Communities may identify different activities that support the reduction of alcohol related harm including supply and demand reduction strategies. Educational and diversionary activities can be included as well as access to treatment and rehabilitation services.

With the support of the Australian Government, Northern Territory Government staff work with communities to identify: community needs, culturally relevant harm, demand and supply reduction strategies and activities, and funding sources. The Commonwealth Minister for Indigenous Affairs approves AMPs to ensure they meet the minimum standards.

### Results

The *Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory (Alcohol Management Plans) Rule 2013* came into effect on 25 February 2013. This legislative instrument prescribes the minimum standards that AMPs must satisfy.

The five minimum standards cover:

1. consultation and engagement
2. managing the alcohol management plan
3. AMP strategies – supply, demand and harm reduction
4. monitoring, reporting and evaluation
5. clear geographical boundaries.

During the reporting period, 19 communities were actively working with the Northern Territory Government in both developing and implementing AMPs. There were 17 communities with an AMP that had reached the community agreement stage.

## 4.2 Enhanced Long-term Licensing and Compliance

The Australian Government is providing additional funding to the Northern Territory to support and enhance long term Northern Territory *Liquor Act* compliance in alcohol protected areas, community-managed alcohol areas, regional centres and along supply routes through the inspection and enforcement of liquor regulations in licensed premises. The additional funding also supports engagement with key stakeholders on emerging alcohol related issues, and the maintenance of alcohol and prohibited material signs at key access points in the Northern Territory (also known as ‘highway signs’) so visitors and those travelling in the Northern Territory are aware that restrictions may apply in certain areas.

### Results

During this reporting period, the Northern Territory Government continued to employ an average of eight additional licensing compliance officers and conducted 23 non-compliance visits of licensed premises.

Across the Northern Territory, 250 of the old Northern Territory National Emergency Response blue and white alcohol and prohibited material highway signs have been removed and replaced with 49 redesigned and respectfully worded signs that have been strategically positioned on borders, major highway intersections, airstrips and barge landings. For this period, no maintenance action on the highway signs was required.

## 4.3 Respectful Signs

In response to community concerns about the wording on previous signs, funding provided to the Northern Territory Government is to ensure that alcohol and prohibited material signs in remote Northern Territory communities and town camps (community signs) are respectful. Members of communities and town camps have the option to redesign their community signs with community approved wording and artwork.

### Results

Australian Government staff - Government Engagement Coordinators (GECs) and Indigenous Engagement Officers (IEOs) are working with community and town camp members to support the redesign of community signs. To date, 12 redesigned community signs have been installed.

## 4.4 Alcohol Data

The Northern Territory Government is collecting, maintaining and analysing specific alcohol data sets, as agreed by the Australian Government for the purpose of monitoring and evaluating the impact and effectiveness of AMPs and the various initiatives in each AMP in remote communities and town camps. The data provides information to help communities and town camps strengthen their AMPs by continuing to focus on initiatives that are providing positive results and amending initiatives that are not.

## Results

Work is under way to develop a plan that incrementally builds a robust set of performance measures based on the following principles and parameters:

- AMP sites will be classified and reported against in three groups:
  - urban centres
  - larger communities with police stations
  - smaller communities without police stations.
- Measures will be categorised according to whether they show immediate, medium-term or long-term impacts/outcomes.

Four sources of administrative data are available for future reporting periods:

- Hospital Alcohol Indicators
- Sobering Up Shelter Data
- Crime Related Alcohol Data
- Alcohol Supply Data.

## 4.5 Alcohol Mitigation

The Tackling Alcohol Abuse Community Fund supports communities to develop, implement and monitor AMPs. The fund aims to assist in the provision of short-term, non-ongoing community-based projects for harm, supply and demand reduction strategies as identified in a community's AMP, enabling individual communities to formulate local solutions as part of the AMP process.

## Results

The Tackling Alcohol Abuse Community Fund Programme Guidelines have been finalised<sup>12</sup> with work continuing between the Australian and Northern Territory Governments to identify relevant projects based on community needs and as identified in a community's AMP.

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<sup>12</sup> <http://www.dss.gov.au/indigenous-australians/grants-funding/stronger-futures-in-the-northern-territory-tackling-alcohol-abuse-community-fund-0>

## 5. Child, Youth, Family and Community Wellbeing

The Child, Youth, Family and Community Wellbeing Implementation Plan, signed on 14 March 2013, aims to strengthen the frontline services that support safety and wellbeing of children, youth and families, build the capacity of non-government organisations, particularly Aboriginal controlled organisations, and support the training and employment of Aboriginal people working in the human services sector in remote communities. The following chapter provides performance information against each of the Implementation Plan elements.

### 5.1 Remote Aboriginal Family and Community Workers

The Remote Aboriginal Family and Community Worker Programme is a community-based service staffed by local Aboriginal people in 21 remote communities including the Alice Springs town camps. The programme has a strong focus on strengthening families and early intervention to prevent children from unnecessarily entering the statutory system and assist families to stay together. The programme provides a family support service, working closely with vulnerable families who are on the verge of entering into the statutory child protection system, are in the statutory system or require support to exit the statutory system. Remote Aboriginal Family and Community Workers (RAFCWs) provide outreach services and support to nearby communities that share the same language and family connections.

#### Results

During the reporting period, the programme employed 33 RAFCWs covering 21 communities. All staff identified as Aboriginal with the appropriate language skills.<sup>13</sup> Training provided to workers included orientation and induction (97% of RAFCWs completed induction training in the period) and further training to familiarise themselves with the position.

The RAFCWs continue to be well connected to their respective communities, with 86% (363 out of 420 cases) of family support involving other service providers. Referrals have increased from 355 in July to December 2012 to 420 in this reporting period.

RAFCWs supported 50 community-strengthening sessions (43 community events and seven community workshops).

Table 5.1 shows the total number of referrals and the source of those referrals for the reporting period. The Office of Children and Families referred over half of the referrals managed by RAFCWs.

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<sup>13</sup> From 1 July-31 December 2012 self-identification was used as the indicator to ascertain the percentage of employees that are Indigenous. However, this indicator appears to have produced a result that is not a true reflection of the number of Indigenous employees. To address this, from 1 January 2013 a proxy indicator has been introduced – Proportion of RAFCW workers with appropriate language skills – which is expected to provide more accurate data on the Indigenous workforce in this programme

**Table 5.1 Number and source of referrals managed by RAFCWs**

Source of referral	Number
Community and community members	81
Local agency	61
Office of Children and Families	278
<b>Total</b>	<b>420</b>

## 5.2 Women’s Safe Houses

Women's Safe Houses offer a 24-hour service that aims to provide short-term crisis accommodation and increase the safety options for women and children affected by violence.

Staffed by local Aboriginal women, Women's Safe Houses services are culturally appropriate, reflect Aboriginal ideas, values and spiritual beliefs, and include group safety and wellbeing programmes, referrals to counselling and legal and support services.

### Results

There are currently 16 operational Women’s Safe Houses. The Northern Territory Government manages twelve of these. Non-government organisations manage the remaining four. Information for this reporting period is for the 12 Northern Territory Government safe houses.<sup>14</sup>

During the reporting period, Women's Safe Houses provided respite and safe local accommodation to 312 women with 394 accompanying children. This reporting period shows an increase by 67% in the number of intakes compared to the previous six month reporting period (from 209 intakes to 312), with nine Women’s Safe Houses having increased their number of intakes overall.

There has been a shift in this current reporting period compared to the last reporting period in the length of stay. The majority of women stayed for one night between 1 January and 30 June 2013, compared to a majority of women staying two nights as reported in the last six-month report. There is some evidence to suggest that women are starting to use the Women’s Safe Houses more often but staying for a shorter length of time to prevent violence as opposed to escaping violence.

The local Women's Safe Houses continued to provide access to additional support programmes with 66 programme sessions operating, providing direct client support (i.e. money management or parent support) through to community education (i.e. healthy babies nutrition programme). All Women’s Safe Houses were available for more than 94% of available days exceeding the performance benchmark of 85%.

Table 5.2 shows that activity from night patrols and self-referrals are the primary sources of intakes with the length of stay at the Women's Safe Houses being mostly for one night.

<sup>14</sup> Data are for 12 Women’s Safe houses only: Angurugu, Kalkarindji, Lajamanu, Maningrida, Ngukurr, Ntaria, Peppimenarti, Ramingining, Ti Tree, Wugularr (Beswick), Wurrumiyanga and Yarralin



**Table 5.2 Women's Safe Houses service activity**

Number of client referrals by source	Number
Family	52
Health Centre	8
Night Patrol	92
Police	67
Self	79
Other	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>312</b>
Number of clients by length of stay	Number
Less than 1 day	43
1 night	218
2 nights	34
3 nights	11
4 nights	3
5 nights (or more)	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>312</b>

### 5.3 Mobile Child Protection Teams

The Mobile Child Protection Team provides forensic child protection casework support to Northern Territory Child Protection offices and allows for more investigations to take place in remote and regional communities across the Northern Territory.

#### Results

On 1 March 2013, Mobile Child Protection Teams moved from a fly- in-fly- out service model to operating from regionalised service centres in Darwin, Katherine, Nhulunbuy, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. Positions are located within specialised/investigation teams in each service centre.

Challenges were experienced in recruiting sufficient Mobile Child Protection Team workers to meet the benchmark of 25 full-time equivalent staff. During this reporting period there were 19.8<sup>15</sup> full-time equivalent Mobile Child Protection Team workers servicing 51 communities. The specialised nature of the work affects recruitment as Mobile Child Protection Teams undertake complex, statutory child protection investigations in remote Indigenous communities throughout the Northern Territory.

In the reporting period, Mobile Child Protection Teams conducted 11 protective assessments and closed 387 child protection investigations. The total number includes an additional 85 cases closed as agreed between the Office of Children and Families and the former Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

### 5.4 Stronger Communities for Children

Stronger Communities for Children (SCfC) creates 15 new Communities for Children services in remote communities in the Northern Territory (increasing the total number of Communities for

<sup>15</sup> This includes 7 full-time equivalent staff allocated to the Mobile Child Protection Teams due to the COPE underspend

Children sites from four to 19). Implemented in three phases over 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2017-18, these new services give parents skills to make sure their children are growing up in a safe, happy and healthy environment.

The SCfC model provides support to strengthen the capacity of organisations with a key focus placed on the priority areas of governance, management systems, human resource management, financial management and legal and regulatory compliance.

## Results

In February and March 2013, officers of the former FaHCSIA visited 10 Northern Territory communities to talk about being potential sites for the SCfC and to determine which communities were ready for the programme in 2013.

Service providers will deliver services that are culturally appropriate for Aboriginal families in their respective communities. Part of the SCfC model is that the Local Community Board represents community stakeholders.

In June 2013, Ninti One was selected as the SCfC Quality Service Support Panel provider to assist communities in establishing their local leadership groups or Local Community Boards. Local Community Boards are supported to address local community service needs and priorities with both government and non-government service providers.

The following organisations are the Facilitating Partners in the first five sites:

- Wadeye – Thamarrurr Regional Authority Aboriginal Council Incorporated (TRAAC)
- Galiwinku – Australian Red Cross in partnership with Yalu Marnggithinyaraw Aboriginal Corporation (Yalu)
- Ntaria – Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre Inc.
- Ngukurr - Katherine Regional Aboriginal Health and Related Services (KRAHRS) in partnership with Yugul Mangi Aboriginal Health Corporation (Yugul Mangi)
- Santa Teresa - Atyenhenge-Atherre Aboriginal Corporation (AAAC).

## 5.5 Intensive Support Playgroups

Through the Communities for Children Indigenous Parenting Services Programme, eight Intensive Support Playgroups aim to improve access to quality early childhood education and care services, including preschool, child care and family support services such as parenting programmes.

Intensive Support Playgroups provide integrated and accessible child, youth, family, women and men's support services and help develop children's social, emotional, physical and cognitive abilities. These activities contribute to improving the health, wellbeing and early development of young children, from before birth to school age.

## Results

Eight playgroups are currently operating, five of these playgroups<sup>16</sup>, (including two mobile playgroups), have been operating since 2007-08 and three playgroups since 2009-10.

Between 1 January and 30 June 2013, 349 adults, 610 children and 23 youth participated in around 600 playgroup sessions across eight playgroups.

## 5.6 Youth Services

The Youth in Communities programme assists young Indigenous people in the Northern Territory to engage with school, work and community life. The programme delivers local diversionary activities for youth aged 10-20 years, particularly those at risk of substance abuse, suicide or self-harm, entering the justice system and disengagement from education, training, employment and community.

## Results

Approximately 60 communities have direct access to youth activities delivered by 19 Youth in Communities service providers, one third of which are Aboriginal organisations. Some projects have a wide footprint, for example, the Professional Development and Mentoring Project conducted by Relationships Australia Northern Territory supports coordinators, youth workers, and youth worker trainees employed under the programme.

Between 1 January 2013 and 30 June 2013, there were 18,873<sup>17</sup> incidents of youth participating in early intervention, prevention or diversion activities. The total number of youth assisted is less than this as some participants attend multiple activities over a six-month period. Approximately 116 full-time and part-time youth workers and Indigenous youth worker trainees are employed through the programme.

## 5.7 Child and Parenting Services

Four early childhood activities operate through the Family Support Programme - Communities for Children Indigenous Parenting Services. Operating since 2007-08, these activities contribute to improving access to quality early childhood education and care services, including preschool, child care and family support services such as parenting programmes and support. The programmes are:

**Let's Start** provides intensive, targeted and coordinated support for parents and children who are vulnerable, at risk or in disadvantaged communities to improve child development, child safety and family functioning.

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<sup>16</sup> The five playgroups are located in Numbulwar, Milingimbi, Lajamanu, Gunbalanya and Yuendumu. Of these, three deliver mobile playgroups to communities in Katherine, Tennant Creek and Borroloola

<sup>17</sup> Incidents encompass youth participation in activities such as music, art, sport and cultural reconnection to elders/culture, family, community, and social events. Activities can include: after school events such as camping; employment and training opportunities such as Mental Health First Aid, media, construction, literacy and numeracy; enhancing leadership and mentoring skills; alternative educational programme participation such as healing, nutrition and personal care, drug, alcohol and suicide awareness

The **Child Nutrition Programme** primarily aims to support Indigenous families in the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara region to increase their capacity to care for children.

**Core for Life** is a pregnancy, birth, breastfeeding and early parenting programme providing hands on prevention/early intervention life education programme for youth, young parents and the wider community.

The **Indigenous Children’s Programme** provides a holistic approach to early intervention and prevention services. The Indigenous Children’s Programme educates and informs children while their parents are undertaking the 12 week Healthy Families Programme.

## Results

Table 5.4 shows client participation in the four activities from 1 January to 30 June 2013 – 148 adults, 153 youth and 104 children for a total of 405 clients.

**Table 5.4 Number of clients by group participating in the Early Childhood Activities**

Early Childhood Activity	Adults	Youth	Children
Let’s Start Programme	13	0	0
Child Nutrition Programme	43	2	56
Core of Life Programme	45	140	15
Indigenous Children’s Programme	47	11	33
Sub totals by group	148	153	104
<b>Total for all groups</b>	<b>405</b>		

## Intensive Family Support Services

The Intensive Family Support Service is for parents and caregivers of children aged 0 to 12 years, where neglect has been substantiated, or is at high risk of occurring and are referred to the service and Child Protection Income Management. The service provides long-term intensive parenting education and support to parents and caregivers in their communities and homes for up to 12 months, to help them improve the health, safety and wellbeing of their children.

## Results

The Intensive Family Support Service was delivered across 17 locations through five service providers during this reporting period. As at 13 June 2013, the Intensive Family Support Service was supporting 194 children and 72 families in the Northern Territory.

## 5.8 Crèches

Crèches support the wellbeing and school readiness for children aged 0-5 and provides a platform to support other programmes aimed at improving health and safety outcomes. Nine crèches at Milikapati, Timber Creek, Peppimenarti, Robinson River, Areyonga, Docker River, Papunya, Yarralin and Lajamanu operate to provide early childhood and education care programmes.

## Results

During the reporting period, the former Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations administered operational funding for nine crèches in the Northern Territory.

Completion of the ninth crèche at Lajamanu<sup>18</sup> in February 2013 has seen a strong start to the establishment and utilisation of the service. Total enrolment for eight crèches (not including Lajamanu) in 2012-13 was 149, with an average daily attendance of 121 children. The 2011-12 financial years had an average daily attendance of 91 children for the eight crèches demonstrating an increase in attendance rates for 2012-13<sup>19</sup>.

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<sup>18</sup> The Lajamanu crèche used capital funding under the Budget Based Funding Quality Measure

<sup>19</sup> The number of children attending the crèches can fluctuate because of family movement and local cultural activities. Some children have transitioned from crèche services to pre-school

## 6. Housing

The Housing Implementation Plan, signed on 29 May 2013, aims to improve public housing in remote communities. The following chapter provides performance information against each of the Implementation Plan elements.

### 6.1 Upgrades

The Stronger Futures upgrades for remote public housing provide additional upgrades so houses meet the Northern Territory Residential Tenancies Act (RTA) at a minimum, with many upgraded in line with the Remote Housing Provisions standard.<sup>20</sup> The Stronger Futures effort is directed at smaller, non-Remote Service Delivery (RSD) communities where housing needs remains high and complements building on the work completed under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH).<sup>21</sup>

As a result, public housing in remote Northern Territory communities will be safe and secure, have increased life span and provide improved amenities for residents. This means the extension of normalised tenancy management arrangements to all houses in remote communities, including formal tenancy agreements, and payment of rent and regular repairs and maintenance.

Consultation with Individual communities occurs before housing works commence, in line with the agreed Community Engagement Framework.

There are two types of housing upgrades:

1. *Durability Upgrades* are primarily available for houses in smaller, non-RSD communities that have long-term leases. Some houses in larger RSD communities that have previously received work under NPARIH are also eligible. The exact nature of the works will depend on the condition of the house but could include, for example, durable paintwork and floor coverings, vermin proofing, robust cleanable wet areas and better storage
2. *Functional Upgrades* are available for houses in larger communities that have not received any capital works under NPARIH. These upgrades will make sure that a house is safe and secure and meets the requirements of the RTA.

The category of upgrade delivered is dependent on works conducted previously under the NPARIH programme, the current condition of the property and whether the community is classified as a Target or Other Community.

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<sup>20</sup> New houses constructed under NPARIH are not eligible to receive Stronger Futures upgrades

<sup>21</sup> The NPARIH programme focuses on constructing new houses and refurbishing existing houses in larger, Remote Service Delivery (RSD) communities to meet the requirements of the Northern Territory Residential Tenancies Act (RTA)

## Results

The Northern Territory Government has scheduled works in around 26 communities. As at 30 June 2013, two Functional Upgrades were completed with 86 Durable Upgrades completed. Upgrades are undertaken in communities identified under the agreed Capital Works Schedule.

The Australian and Northern Territory Governments are negotiating voluntary long-term leases with traditional owners. From 30 June 2013, 55 communities have agreed to long-term leases. Leases are yet to be agreed in a further 10 communities.

## 6.2 Asbestos removal

The Australian Government is providing funding over six years from 2012-13 to help the Northern Territory Government manage and remove asbestos and asbestos-containing material (ACM) in houses and other community buildings. The work includes houses scheduled for demolition under the NPARIH programme so that new housing can be built. Asbestos and ACM has the potential to pose a risk in the immediate future and longer term and needs to be removed from communities.

The Asbestos Register sets out the location, condition and quantity of asbestos and ACM in Northern Territory remote communities. This funding supports the Northern Territory Department of Infrastructure's ongoing work in updating and managing the Asbestos Register.

## Results

Asbestos and ACM is being removed in line with the Capital Works Schedule agreed in 2013-14. By 30 June 2013, 12 replacement houses in three communities had asbestos removed.

The recently updated Asbestos Register now contains information from the Northern Territory Department of Housing on the progress of asbestos removal in community housing.

The programme to remove asbestos from community buildings is in the pre-delivery planning phase, with community specific Asbestos Management Plans still to be developed. A consultant has been engaged to define the scope of the programme for removal and disposal of eligible ACM in the targeted communities.

## 7. Alice Springs Transformation

The Alice Springs Transformation Implementation Plan, signed on 13 March 2013, aims to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people living in and visiting Alice Springs, particularly in the town camps. The measure supports a reduction in homelessness through housing and infrastructure upgrades and the provision of suitable support services. The following chapter provides performance information against each of the Implementation Plan elements.

### 7.1 Alcohol Treatment

The Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (CAAC) Safe and Sober Support Service is a secondary treatment service for Aboriginal people experiencing the effects of harmful alcohol use in Central Australia and has been funded since 2010.

In addition to the major service provided by CAAC, three smaller programmes use Safe and Sober Programme funding: the Central Australian Aboriginal Alcohol Programmes Unit, the Drug and Alcohol Services Association (DASA) and Holyoake. Safe and Sober Support Services includes a prison in-reach programme which provides evidence-based alcohol-related education programmes to prisoners in the Alice Springs Correctional Centre.

#### Results

During the reporting period, the CAAC Safe and Sober Support Service had 179 referred Aboriginal clients accessing programmes and services. CAAC conducted 30 case conferences and 434 case discussions<sup>22</sup> as part of the collaborative and integrated service delivery model.

The CAAC Safe and Sober Support Services had 57 clients engaged (clients that have completed an assessment). An additional 102 clients who had previously completed their assessment were still receiving a service during the six months between 1 January and 30 June 2013.

There were 13 clients engaged (commenced) in the prison in-reach programme being delivered by CAAC. The DASA SMART recovery programme had 43 clients engaged (31 male and 12 female).

Seventy-four individual clients (noting a client may receive more than one therapy type) participated in a total of 203 therapy sessions with cognitive behaviour the most utilised therapeutic intervention. A client is the person in treatment.

#### Safe and Sober Programme

Not all clients received therapy. The total number of individual clients that received therapy was 74, with 203 therapy sessions, noting that some clients received more than one type of therapy as shown in Table 7.1.

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<sup>22</sup> A case conference is a discussion with a service provider or range of service providers about a particular client to manage the spectrum of those clients' issues. A conference may involve various stakeholders and focus on the delivery of client care



**Table 7.1 Number of therapy clients and sessions by therapy type 1 January – 30 June 2013**

Therapy Type	Number of Clients by therapy type	Number of therapy sessions
Cognitive Behaviour	57	164
Family Therapy	5	5
Interpersonal Therapy	7	8
Mindfulness-Based	1	1
Narrative Therapy	10	14
Supportive Psycho	9	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>203</b>

Table 7.2 outlines the types of advocacy or support provided by the number of service contacts to engaged clients<sup>23</sup> from 1 January 2013 to 30 June 2013.

**Table 7.2 Number and types of service interventions**

Advocacy/Support Type	Total new clients (n=57)	Total all engaged clients (n=102)
Advocacy services	48	201
Brief intervention	16	102
Cultural, cultural support	34	271
Group/Community activity	1	29
Social support	88	728
Therapy; group	1	35
Transport AOD (alcohol and other drugs)	76	424
<b>Total</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>1790</b>

### **Prison in-reach programme**

During the reporting period:

- 19 clients were referred to the programme
- 74 clients commenced the Alcohol Awareness Prison In-reach programme and attended an average of 4x2 hour sessions
- four clients referred to the residential rehabilitation programme participated in an average of 20 counselling sessions and weekly bush trips during the eight-week programme
- there were 245 male client contacts for DRUMBEAT.

The women's programme was not conducted during the period due to access issues within the prison. In place of this, the Manage Your Life programme was delivered to male clients, with 167 client contacts.

<sup>23</sup> A client who has completed an assessment

## 7.2 School Enrolment and Attendance

Building parental skills, capacity and the engagement between parents, children and their schools, helps improve school attendance and educational outcomes. The Families and Schools Together (FAST) Programme is a collaborative family-strengthening programme for Indigenous students who live in Alice Springs town camps. The programme seeks to address the impact of alcohol and drug abuse, violence and delinquency issues through various interventions to ensure Aboriginal children are successfully enrolled and participating in school.

The Indigenous Parent and Children School Engagement programme (that includes the Passport programme) provides interactive options that strengthen family involvement with schools to enhance school and family behaviours to improve educational outcomes. The Ready and Willing for School Programme aims to ensure a smooth transition for children from preschool to primary school via an intensive and targeted programme, assisting parents and children to develop the necessary skills to prepare them for school.

### Results

Ninety families participated in the Passport programme. Activities such as mother's day morning tea and NAIDOC week celebrations had broader participation within the school. Six children considered at risk and with identified behavioural issues, were involved in a behaviour reward programme. Four children were on an attendance reward programme.

Further to the broader Passport programme, Sadadeen Primary School assists families who are struggling financially. Families can contact the school and volunteer to earn enough points to be rewarded with a food voucher or power card. The Families and Schools Together (FAST) Programme is run at Sadadeen Primary School every Tuesday evening as well as yarning sessions with families as an informal gathering providing parents with the opportunity to chat about their children.

## 7.3 Safety and Wellbeing of Women

The Alice Springs Women's Service (ASWS) delivers the Domestic and Family Violence Outreach Programme to provide early intervention, education and support to women and children experiencing domestic and family violence. Complementary to this is the Integrated Response to the Family Violence Programme, which provides integrated and accessible child, youth, family, women and men's support services.

The Domestic and Family Violence Outreach Programme funding continues under Stronger Futures to 30 June 2015 with funding for the Integrated Response to Family Violence Programme<sup>24</sup> commencing in 1 July 2014 and continuing until 30 June 2016.

## 7.4 Parent Education Support

The Alice Springs Transformation Implementation Plan continues to provide key parent education support programmes. The Targeted Family Support Service is a diversionary programme aimed at

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<sup>24</sup> The Integrated Response to Family Violence Programme began in 2011 under the Alice Springs Transformation Plan

reducing family and child contact with the child protection system, assist family involvement in their children's wellbeing and encourage family engagement with their community. The service addresses the underlying social determinants of children's health by providing coordinated care and outreach services to children who are primarily unwell due to social issues (including failure to thrive, anaemia and trachoma). The Youth and Community Centre Programme ensures young parents in Alice Springs have access to the targeted support services. The programme has recently expanded its scope to include community and family services.

## **7.5 Tenancy Support**

Safe and secure housing is vital to active participation in society and the economy. Intensive tenancy support is important to maintain tenancies in a mutually beneficial manner and to improve the ability of people who have access to public housing accommodation to live independently and avoid entering, or re-entering homelessness.

The Intensive Sustainable Tenancy Enabling programme provides intensive case management and support services for Alice Springs Town Camp public housing tenants who are at risk of eviction and require urgent assistance to help stabilise their tenancies. Stronger Futures funding for the programme is from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2015.

## 8. Municipal and Essential Services

The Municipal and Essential Services Implementation Plan, signed on 3 June 2013, supports the delivery of municipal and essential services in homelands and town camps across the Northern Territory. The following chapter provides performance information against each of the Implementation Plan elements.

Many Aboriginal people live in town camps and the more than 500 homelands and outstations in very remote parts of the Northern Territory. Municipal and essential services such as power, water and sewerage make town camps and homelands safer and healthier places to live.

Fiscal responsibility for the delivery of municipal and essential services in town camps transferred to the Northern Territory Government as follows:

- Alice Springs and Darwin town camps from 1 July 2012
- all remaining town camps from 1 July 2013.

### Results

For the twelve months to 30 June 2013, 32 service providers received funding to support municipal and essential service related works in 430 locations across the Northern Territory.

To support the delivery of municipal and essential services, and meet a number of obligations under the implementation plan, Homeland Programme Guidelines developed by the Northern Territory Government ensure that:

- homeland communities will be engaged and consulted, on a regular basis, with regard to funding allocations, services to be provided, how these services will be provided and who will provide them, as well as information on service quality as it relates to respective communities
- information on intended service delivery will be made publically available at the start of each year
- information on funding expended, service delivery and performance achievement will be publicly available
- all publicly released information will be easily accessible and readily available.

Detailed programme and service delivery information on municipal and essential services is now available on the Northern Territory Government's website.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> [http://www.drda.nt.gov.au/regional\\_services/homelands](http://www.drda.nt.gov.au/regional_services/homelands)

## 9. Remote Engagement and Coordination

The Remote Engagement and Coordination Implementation Plan, signed on 14 March 2013, supports engagement with communities through the establishment of Remote Engagement Teams, the continued delivery of Aboriginal interpreter services and the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the National Partnership Agreement. The following chapter provides performance information against each of the Implementation Plan elements.

### 9.1 Aboriginal Interpreter Service

The Aboriginal Interpreter Service provides interpreter services in all Northern Territory Indigenous languages to reduce the impact of language barriers faced by many Aboriginal people throughout the Northern Territory. There are more than 100 Aboriginal languages and dialects spoken in the Northern Territory and for many Aboriginal people English is their third or fourth language.

The Aboriginal Interpreter Service works across the Northern Territory and has offices in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs, Maningrida, Nhulunbuy, Wurrumiyanga and Groote Eylandt. The interpreter service assists Aboriginal people to get the most out of services, understand their rights and responsibilities, and have their voices heard in the development of policies that affect their lives.

The Aboriginal Interpreter Service recruits, trains and supports Indigenous people to provide interpreting and language services, therefore providing jobs for local people. It provides face-to-face and telephone interpreting as well as voice services for audio and audio-visual communication products. The service also provides training to government and service providers to improve their ability to communicate effectively with Aboriginal Territorians who do not speak English as a first language.

#### Results

The total hours of interpreting undertaken by Aboriginal Interpreter Service interpreters during the period 1 January to 30 June 2013 was 15,112 hours, of which 5,923 (or a total of 39%) were undertaken by qualified or accredited interpreters. This exceeds the benchmark that requires qualified or accredited interpreters to undertake 35% of all interpreting.

Sector use of the total hours of interpreting undertaken in the Northern Territory from 1 January to 30 June 2013 is - 40% by the legal sector, 32% by Centrelink and 16% by health and children's services.

The Aboriginal Interpreter Service is one of the largest employers of Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory. It employs more than 370 on-call casually employed interpreters and employs a number of interpreters on a part-time or full-time basis.

Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education graduation ceremonies saw 10 interpreters graduate with a Diploma of Interpreting during 2013-13. A further 12 interpreters successfully obtained credentials from the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters.

During the period 1 January 2013 to 30 June 2013 there were:

- 3,424 hours of training undertaken by interpreters
- of the 49 interpreters registered with the Aboriginal Interpreter Service who had completed the Diploma of Interpreting, 38 undertook interpreting tasks during the six month period
- 98 of the 128 interpreters registered with the service and credentialed by National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters undertook interpreting tasks during the six-month period.

As at 30 June 2013, the Aboriginal Interpreter Service provided interpreting in at least 93 Aboriginal languages. The service received requests for interpreting in 36 different languages during the six-month period. Ninety-four per cent of all hours of interpreting were in 15 languages: Djambarrpuyngu, Pitjantjatjara, Kriol, Warlpiri, Modern Tiwi, Western Arrernte, Eastern Arrernte, Luritja, Murrinh-Patha, Anindilyakwa, Anmatyerr, Burarra, Kunwinjku, Warumungu and Gumatj.

## 9.2 Enhancing Communities

Enhancing Communities supports governance and leadership development in Northern Territory Aboriginal communities to build the capacity of local Aboriginal organisations so that they can be involved in the delivery of important community services. It also provides increased opportunities to develop personal, family and community leadership.

### Results

In June 2013, 33 organisations in the Northern Territory received funding for 38 activities over three years to strengthen their governance and service delivery arrangements so Aboriginal organisations have the capacity to deliver important local services in Aboriginal communities. The grants enable organisations to develop business plans, upgrade IT systems, and strengthen organisations' boards and governance arrangements.

## 9.3 Remote Engagement Teams

The Remote Engagement Teams focus is on building sustainable relationships, strengthening governments' understanding of local issues and conveying community concerns back to government. This is so that communities have a greater say in the planning and delivery of government services in their community over the longer-term with government services better targeted and coordinated in communities and across regions.

The Remote Engagement Teams comprise Indigenous Engagement Officers, Government Engagement Coordinators and staff from the Indigenous Coordination Centre. Increasing the number of Indigenous Engagement Officer positions from just over 20 to between 60 and 90 full and part-time positions is a significant contribution to more employment for local Aboriginal people. The Remote Engagement Teams work in over 50 communities including homelands and town camps.

### Results

- 23 Indigenous Engagement Officers were employed as at 30 June 2013
- the target of 100% Aboriginal employment for Indigenous Engagement Officers was met

- 34 Government Engagement Coordinators were employed as at 20 June 2013.

A training and development framework is being established which provides distinct and supported career pathways for Indigenous Engagement Officers so that over time, they have the opportunity to fulfil a range of roles in the Australian Government, including the role of a Government Engagement Coordinator.

## 9.4 Governance and Evaluation

Governance and evaluation commits both governments to strong accountability, transparency and effective coordination of Stronger Futures effort across government and across the Stronger Futures package. Monitoring and evaluation builds the evidence base over time, guides implementation, continual improvement and informs future government policy.

### Results

The Stronger Futures Executive Group has been established and is the joint mechanism for the Northern Territory and Australian Governments to oversee implementation of Stronger Futures.

## 9.5 Stronger Futures Classification Education Project

Community members in remote Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory have said they want to protect their children from seeing images, DVDs or films that might harm or disturb them. The Stronger Futures Classification Education Project delivered by the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) supports parents in remote Aboriginal communities to protect their children from exposure to sexually explicit or very violent material. The Stronger Futures Classification Education Project will deliver a community education programme that will raise community awareness on the National Classification Scheme and the additional classification restrictions applying in remote Northern Territory communities.

As part of this project, NAPCAN will work directly with Aboriginal organisations nationally and in the Northern Territory to ensure that information is developed and delivered in a culturally sensitive manner. It will also work to employ Aboriginal people in the delivery of the project.

### Results

NAPCAN is now developing the classification education project. Recruitment for a project manager commenced during the reporting period. A fact sheet on the National Classification Scheme and the additional restrictions in remote Northern Territory communities was published during the reporting period on the internet.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> The fact sheet can be found at the following link: [Stronger Futures fact sheet](#)

## 10. Aboriginal Employment and Economic Development

A priority under Stronger Futures is to increase job opportunities for Aboriginal people. The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has set a target to halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people from 2008 to 2018.

Stronger Futures seeks to increase employment, career development and retention of Aboriginal people through:

1. Specific funding for a focused Stronger Futures Jobs Package
2. Establishment of specific employment targets for relevant elements under each Stronger Futures Implementation Plan<sup>27</sup> to encourage government agencies and service providers to employ Aboriginal staff and develop their skills
3. Development of an overarching Aboriginal Workforce Development Strategy by the Australian and Northern Territory Governments during 2013 and 2014
4. Building the capacity of Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and Indigenous business enterprises so they are better able to deliver services to communities.

### Results

#### *Employment targets*

Progress against the employment targets is positive with targets exceeded in many areas:

- all 33 Remote Aboriginal Family and Community Workers are Indigenous
- all 45 Indigenous Engagement Officers are Indigenous
- the vast majority of community night patrol staff are Indigenous – 93%, exceeding the 90% target
- playgroups report 61 Indigenous employees – 91% exceeding the 80% target
- there were 31 Aboriginal people employed in crèches for the period – 79% of the total number of people employed, exceeding the target of 75%
- most youth services staff were Indigenous – 60%, exceeding the 50% target
- Indigenous employment for the National Partnership Agreement for Remote Indigenous Housing and Stronger Futures is around 26%, exceeding the target of 20%
- there were 16 new Indigenous ranger positions – four more than expected.

It is important to note that some targets are set for future years and some change over time.

#### *Employment levels*

There were around 1,357 Indigenous people employed in Stronger Futures related services (Table 10.1). While 761 was reported in the previous period, it should be noted that the increase is mostly due to the addition of figures for housing upgrades and interpreters and the growth in youth

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<sup>27</sup> p74 Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory six-monthly Progress Report 1 July 2012 – 31 December 2012



services, safe houses and Indigenous Engagement Officers, compared to the previous reporting period.

These figures remain an undercount of employment as several areas do not yet have data on employment of Indigenous people. Further data is being sought where gaps remain.

The employment numbers may reflect a mix of full-time, part-time and casual positions, and it is possible that some people may have more than one position. More information on employment targets and levels of employment is in Table 10.2.

**Table 10.1 Stronger Futures Aboriginal employment levels and targets**

	Aboriginal employment (No.)	Total employment (No.)	Actual employment of Aboriginal people (%)	Targets for employment of Aboriginal people (%)
School nutrition	186	276	67	75
Community Night Patrols+	331	357	93	90
Intensive Family Support Services*	18	41	44	50^
Youth services	70	116	60	50^
Playgroups	61	67	91	80
Crèches **	31	39	79	75
Remote Aboriginal Family and Community Workers **	33	33	100	90
Women's Safe Houses ^^	41	41	100	80
Housing Upgrades NPARIH & SF **	118	488	26	20
Alice Springs Transformation – CAAC Safe and Sober	8	12	66	30
Aboriginal Interpreter Service ***	360	370	97	95
Indigenous Engagement Officers	45	45	100	100
Government Engagement Coordinators	4	32	12	20^
Local Jobs for Local people traineeships	35	35	100	100
Indigenous Rangers	16	16	100	++
<b>Total</b>	<b>1357</b>	<b>1968</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>n.a.</b>

+ The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet continues to work with service providers to improve the accuracy of data collected by community night patrols. This data is incomplete in some areas and job figures may not reflect FTE in all instances.

^ Targets apply from 2014-15 for Intensive Family Support Services and Youth Services. The target for Government Engagement Coordinators has been set to apply after five years. Targets also change over time.

\* From 1 January 2013 a proxy indicator has been introduced – proportion of RAFCWs with appropriate language skills – which provides more accurate data on the Indigenous RAFCW workforce in this reporting period.

\*\* Only available for a point in time (30 June 2013).

++ For rangers, the target is 12 jobs rather than a percentage.

^^ The 41 workers equate to 15.26 full-time equivalent positions, an increase of 2.26 FTE positions since the last reporting period.

\*\*\* It employs more than 370 on-call casually employed interpreters and employs a number of interpreters on a part-time or full-time basis.

## 10.1 Stronger Futures Jobs Package

The Stronger Futures Jobs Package is included in Schedule J to the National Partnership Agreement (NPA). The Jobs Package funded elements include:

- new 'Local Jobs for Local People' employment-based traineeships, which will help up to 100 Aboriginal people fill service delivery jobs in their communities
- 16 new Working on Country ranger positions, with a further 18 created in 2013-14
- expansion of the Indigenous Communities in Business programme in Wadeye and Wurrumiyanga.

### Local Jobs for Local People

An Indigenous employment programme contract was signed with the Northern Territory Government in August 2012 for the Local Jobs for Local People initiative.

Through a traineeship entry point, the programme seeks to assist up to 100 Aboriginal people fill service delivery jobs in their communities as jobs become available. At 30 June 2013, 35 of the 37 trainees that commenced were still employed. The Northern Territory Government has introduced a range of strategies to minimise the risk of participants leaving the programme and maximise ongoing employment.

The trainees are employed in a range of industries with the largest numbers in retail and agriculture. Around a third of trainees are undertaking a Certificate II in retail services (14). Most are at Certificate level III (21) including Retail Operations, Community Services, Business Administration, Agriculture, Meat Processing and Plumbing. Three organisations in seven locations offered the current traineeships. Employment locations include Borroloola, Galiwinku, Gapuwiyak, Gunbalunya, Minyeri, Robinson River and Warruwi.

While the Local Jobs programme is widely open to employers, in the first 12 months of operation it is apparent that the most likely ongoing employers of trainees in remote Northern Territory locations are those with an existing record of operation and significant overall financial capacity and service/product delivery arrangements in place.

### Working on Country ranger positions

An additional 50 ranger positions will be delivered over four years for the Working on Country Programme. This will increase Aboriginal employment and further develop contemporary and traditional land and sea management skills. The positions are being delivered through three open and competitive funding rounds. The first of these was completed by 30 June 2013 and filled 16 positions, exceeding the 2012-13 target of 12 positions.

In 2013-14, work to meet the employment target of 25 positions has progressed well with 18 of the positions already filled. Applications opened on 26 March 2013 for Round 2 funding and on 19 August 2013, the following four organisations were announced as being successful: Milingimbi Outstations Progress Resource Association (Crocodile Island Rangers), Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation (Yirralka Rangers), Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association (Li-Anthawirriyarr Rangers) and the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation (Djelk Rangers). By October 2013, 34 new Indigenous ranger positions were filled.

## Indigenous Communities in Business – Wadeye and Wurrumiyanga

The extension of the Indigenous Communities in Business programme to the communities of Wadeye and Wurrumiyanga helps to support the development of new sustainable Aboriginal enterprises and to improve economic activity.

At the end of August 2013, the consultant engaged by Indigenous Business Australia in Wadeye was assisting seven individuals, three of whom are now operating businesses (passenger and freight transport; contract freight storage and art; and carved boab nuts). The other four projects are being developed.

The consultant is also providing business assistance to six community organisations. All of these projects are still in the business development stage. At Wurrumiyanga, the consultant is providing assistance to six individuals with all six projects under development.

## 10.2 Aboriginal Workforce Development Strategy

The Australian and Northern Territory Governments are developing an Aboriginal Workforce Development Strategy to support recruitment, training and retention of Aboriginal employees by Stronger Futures service providers. The strategy draws together the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Government's Stronger Futures employment initiatives and measures for the workforce development elements of the NPA, including the Jobs Package. Stronger Futures programmes and services are expected to support local Aboriginal employment wherever possible.

A draft of the Aboriginal Workforce Development Strategy was released in late June 2013 for public comment. Feedback on the draft was sought from 170 organisations and 28 written submissions were received. Face-to-face consultations were held in July with 87 stakeholders, and Northern Territory Government representatives in Darwin, Nhulunbuy, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. Feedback from these meetings and submissions is being taken into account in drafting the final strategy as well as the supporting action plan that will set out practical steps to be taken for its implementation. Once finalised, the strategy and action plan will be made publically available and revised every two years.

Sector-based employment or workforce development strategies are being developed for several elements of Stronger Futures. These cover human services, community safety, legal assistance, community stores, Indigenous Engagement Officers and the education workforce. Common elements of these strategies include efforts to improve the recruitment, training and retention of Aboriginal staff.

## 10.3 Progress against employment targets

Targets for Stronger Futures Implementation Plans ensure that the substantial Australian Government investment in programmes and services results in increasing numbers of Aboriginal people in employment. Table 10.2 at **Appendix A** shows progress against Aboriginal employment targets and goals for each Implementation Plan.

## Appendix A: Aboriginal employment targets and goals

Table 10.2 Stronger Futures progress against Aboriginal employment targets and goals

Measure	Target	Aboriginal employment progress
Schedule A: Health		
<b>Primary Health Care Service Delivery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation in training programmes for administrative, management and Aboriginal Health Worker roles</li> <li>Annually increase Aboriginal employment in primary health care services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bruce Callaghan Associates National (BCA National) has been engaged to develop and deliver a targeted Diploma of Management for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHO) staff. Expected commencement is late 2013.</li> <li>The Australian Government is working with the Northern Territory Government to develop workforce targets.</li> <li>For 2012-13, the Mobile Outreach Service (MOS) <i>Plus</i> delivered 140 professional development and/or community education services to remote service providers and community members. This is well over double the performance benchmark of 60.</li> <li>For 2012-13, the accredited complementary remote health workforce development training was provided by the Centre for Remote Health, to 116 remote primary healthcare practitioners and community workers in the Northern Territory.</li> </ul>
<b>Food Security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Store owners/managers to record level of Aboriginal employment; governance and managerial training and mentoring provided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently there is no administrative data held on the number of Indigenous people employed by licensed community stores. Community store monitoring activities will collect employment data during 2013-14. Data collection began in October 2013.</li> </ul> <p>See <i>Additional information</i>.</p>
Schedule B: Schooling		
<b>Building a Quality School Workforce; School; and Enrolment and Attendance measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the % of Aboriginal employees across all levels of the education workforce in remote communities</li> <li>Increase the no. of Aboriginal school based workers who successfully complete a qualification</li> <li>The benchmark for % of Indigenous employees in 2012 was 33.9%</li> <li>The target for % of Indigenous employees 2015-16 is 36.2%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During Semester 1, 2013 the Northern Territory maintained the additional 200 teacher and engagement officer allocations within Northern Territory Government, and non-government schools.</li> <li>Twenty-three positions have been created by the Northern Territory Government to support implementation of SEAM; 19 Attendance and Truancy Officers and four data support and administrative staff. Of the 23, six staff (26%) identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.</li> <li>A new systemic data collection process was implemented for the collection of information relating to the number of Aboriginal employees in eligible schools completing qualifications at Certificate I level and above.</li> </ul>
<b>Teacher Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase local Aboriginal employment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teacher housing is delivered in a way that provides for local Aboriginal employment opportunities. The Schooling Implementation</li> </ul>

Measure	Target	Aboriginal employment progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target of 20%</li> </ul>	Plan was varied to incorporate a commitment to ensure increased Aboriginal employment.
<b>School Nutrition Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum of 75% Aboriginal employment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the reporting period, out of 276 local people employed directly in meals delivery, 186 were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people – this represents 67.4% of total employment.</li> </ul> <p>See <i>Additional information</i></p>
<b>Schedule C: Community Safety and Justice</b>		
<b>Remote Policing Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal employment targets within the 60 additional police officers are: 3% by 2016; 7% by 2019; and 10% by 2022</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The implementation of the new Northern Territory Remote Policing Model in conjunction with a focused recruitment campaign to attract Aboriginal police officers will assist in achieving the employment target of 3% by 2016.</li> </ul>
<b>Completion of police complexes in remote communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10% Aboriginal employment for all new construction funded under the Implementation Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northern Territory police will ensure that the identified Aboriginal workforce employment targets will be a requirement in all future contracts for the construction of the remaining police complexes.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Night Patrols</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal employment maintained at min. 90% increasing over time</li> <li>Continued employment, training and support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>93% of community night patrol staff are Aboriginal, exceeding the target.</li> </ul> <p>See <i>Additional information</i> re training and career development.</p>
<b>Schedule D: Tackling Alcohol Abuse</b>		
<b>Community Alcohol Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase Aboriginal staff to 20% over the life of the Implementation Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During the reporting period, one staff member employed in the Alcohol Policy and Strategy Unit as a Regional Alcohol Strategy Project Officer (RASPO) identified as Aboriginal.</li> </ul>
<b>Enhanced Long Term Licensing and Compliance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of people employed as Licensing Inspectors who identify as Aboriginal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Of the eight licensing inspectors employed during the reporting period, none identified as Aboriginal.</li> </ul>
<b>Schedule E: Child, Youth, Family and Community Wellbeing</b>		
<b>Stronger Communities for Children</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase no. of Aboriginal people delivering programmes to 50% by 2014-15, 60% by 2017-18 and 75% by 2020-21</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sub-contracted SCfC service providers will be asked to employ local people where possible and appropriate and consider employing SCfC Pre Employment Training (PET) participants. SCfC services will commence in 2014.</li> </ul>
<b>Intensive Family Support Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employ, develop &amp; train delivery staff, up to 50% Aboriginal by 2014-15, 60% by 2017-18 &amp; 65% by 2020-21</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fourteen of the 17 IFSS workers enrolled in Certificate IV who completed the course in June 2013 identified as being Indigenous.</li> </ul>
<b>Youth Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase no. of Aboriginal people employed in delivery to 50% of staff by 2014-15, 55% of staff by 2017-18 and 60% by 2020-21</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth in Communities employs approximately 116 full-time and part-time youth workers and trainee Indigenous youth workers.</li> <li>As at 30 June 2013, 60% of workers employed were Aboriginal and 39% of these were Aboriginal youth trainees.</li> </ul>
<b>Playgroups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employ, train and maintain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data available for 8 services show 61</li> </ul>

Measure	Target	Aboriginal employment progress
	Aboriginal employment at min. 80%, increasing over time	Indigenous employees - 91% of all staff.
<b>Crèches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain Aboriginal employment at min. 75%, increasing over time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>31 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people were employed, representing 79% of the total number of people employed. An increase of five people from the previous reporting period (June to December 2012).</li> </ul>
<b>Remote Aboriginal Family and Community Workers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain Aboriginal employment at min. 90%, increasing over time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% of the 33 Remote Aboriginal Family and Community Workers identify as Aboriginal. This is an increase of 13 people since the last reporting period.</li> </ul>
<b>Women's Safe Houses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain Aboriginal employment at a min. 80%, increasing over time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% of the 41 staff employed identify as Aboriginal. The 41 staff employed equate to 15.26 full-time equivalent positions, an increase of 2.26 full-time equivalent positions since the last reporting period.</li> </ul>
<b>Schedule F: Housing</b>		
<b>Upgrades</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 20% of the people employed to undertake capital works must be Aboriginal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indigenous employment for the National Partnership Agreement for Remote Indigenous Housing and for Stronger Futures was around 26% as at 30 June 2013, exceeding the target of 20% (based on the FTE for June). As at 30 June 2013, 118 Indigenous people were employed.</li> </ul>
<b>Schedule G: Municipal and Essential Services</b>		
<b>Municipal and essential services in homelands and town camps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased Aboriginal employment in delivery of municipal &amp; essential services</li> <li>Year-on-year increases: 2014 baseline plus three percentage points, 2015 and 2016 prior year plus three percentage points, 2017–2019 two percentage points, 2020–2022 one percentage point<sup>28</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A significant increase in the number of Aboriginal people employed in the delivery of municipal and essential services is required over the 10-year life of the agreement. It is estimated that approximately 65% of the people currently employed by service providers are Aboriginal.</li> </ul>
<b>Schedule H: Alice Springs Transformation</b>		
<b>Alice Springs Transformation Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Services to prioritise employment and training of Aboriginal staff</li> <li>Aboriginal employment target of 30% across all programme elements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eight of 12 staff (66%) delivering the CAAC Safe and Sober programme identify as Aboriginal.</li> </ul>
<b>Schedule I: Remote Engagement and Coordination</b>		
<b>Interpreter Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal employment target of over 95%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At 30 June 2013, 97% of the total interpreter workforce identified as Aboriginal or Torres</li> </ul>

<sup>28</sup> The baseline employment figures for the Municipal and Essential Services programme are still being verified and are subject to change.

Measure	Target	Aboriginal employment progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training and accreditation goals of increasing the proportion of interpreting hours provided by accredited/qualified interpreters from a target of 35% in 2012-13 to 62% in 2021-22</li> </ul>	<p>Strait Islander.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The total hours of interpreting during the period 1 January to 30 June 2013 was 15,112 hours, of which qualified or accredited interpreters undertook 5,923 hours (39%), exceeding the benchmark.</li> <li>Of the 128 National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters credentialed interpreters registered with the service, 98 undertook interpreting tasks.</li> </ul>
<b>Remote Engagement Teams</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% Aboriginal employment for Indigenous Engagement Officers (IEOs) and 20% for Government Engagement Coordinators (GECs) after five years and 50% after 10 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The target of 100% Aboriginal employment for IEOs was met with 23 IEOs employed during the reporting period.</li> </ul>
<b>Classification Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal employment of 100% of staff involved in direct delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) will endeavour to ensure that, if possible, 100% of staff involved in front line delivery of project activities, services and products to Aboriginal people are Aboriginal, and preferably locals.</li> </ul>
<b>Schedule J: Jobs Package</b>		
<b>Local Jobs for Local People</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 100 Indigenous traineeships for service delivery jobs in peoples' own communities, as jobs become available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thirty-seven traineeships commenced since the programme's inception. At 30 June 2013 there were 35 trainees still employed.</li> </ul>
<b>Indigenous Rangers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50 new Indigenous Ranger positions, over four years: 12 in 2012-13, up to 37 in 2013-14 and all 50 by 2014-15</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2012-13 target of 12 positions was exceeded with 16 ranger positions filled by 30 June 2013 as a result of round one funding.</li> <li>In 2013-14, work to meet the employment target of 25 positions has progressed well with 18 positions filled. This brings the total of Indigenous ranger positions filled to 34.</li> </ul>

## Additional information

### Health

#### *Food security*

The recent 2012 Market Basket Survey (the survey) shows a snapshot of employment in community stores. The survey covered 82 rural and remote stores in the Northern Territory and provides some employment information for the period April to June 2012. As this survey covers a minority of community stores, it only provides an indication of employment in stores that are part of the Stronger Futures licensing arrangements. The 2012 survey reports that in those stores surveyed, 64% of people employed were Aboriginal. The report also shows that the long-term

trend apparent from the survey for employment of Aboriginal people is around 60%.<sup>29</sup> The survey shows that stores owned or managed by a store group (e.g. Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation and Outback Stores) had the highest proportion of Aboriginal employees.

## **Schooling**

### *School Nutrition Programme*

A goal under Schedule J was to explore opportunities to develop networks between staff delivering meals under the School Nutrition Programme and staff performing related services in early childhood, aged care and other community services. This opportunity began in 2012 through engagement of Charles Darwin University to deliver Certificate I in Hospitality (Kitchen Operations). To date, training has been provided to the following School Nutrition Programme service locations:

- 2012: Ampilatwatja, Areyonga, Atitjere, Barunga, Belyuen, Bulman, Gapuwiyak, Jilkminggan, Kintore, Laramba, Milingimbi, Mt Liebig, Mutitjulu, Ngukurr, Ntaria, Palumpa, Robinson River, Titjikala, Yarralin and Yuendumu.
- 2013: Maningrida and Nguiu, with training scheduled for completion by mid-November 2013 for Galiwinku, Numbulwar, Wadeye and Yirrkala.

## **Community safety and justice**

### *Community night patrol services*

The Australian Skills Quality Authority accredited a Certificate III in Community Night Patrol in the Northern Territory in April 2013. The Human Services Training Advisory Council is currently working with Registered Training Organisations to place the course on their scope of delivery. The recognition of prior learning will be the first stage of implementation. All patrol staff will be expected to complete this qualification to ensure they are appropriately trained to deal with the situations they face. The training package will include two skill sets. One for patrol staff and one for managers to build career pathways for people working in patrol services.

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<sup>29</sup> Northern Territory Department of Health 2013, Northern Territory Market Basket Survey 2012 at [digitallibrary.health.nt.gov.au](http://digitallibrary.health.nt.gov.au)



## Appendix B: Police and Justice Data

The Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory Monitoring Reports provided data from the Northern Territory Police and the Northern Territory Department of the Attorney-General and Justice to help assess trends in community safety. While Stronger Futures does not entail priority communities or prescribed areas, the geographic footprint of Stronger Futures is similar to that used in the Northern Territory Emergency Response. For that reason the data reported in this section refer to the same remote communities used for reporting under the Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory Reports.

It is difficult to assess trends in community safety as reported crime has been affected by the provision of around 60 additional police since 2007. However, there is evidence from the Community Safety and Wellbeing Research Study and research by the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency and Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service that the additional police and other extra services such as night patrols have made people feel safer.

### Results

This progress report provides data on 'incidents' and the number of incidents that contain one or more offence. The purpose of incident types is to categorise a description of the event requiring police attention and is subject to individual police assessment of the circumstances. An incident is distinct from an offence. Not all incidents are associated with offences and for those that are associated with offences the offences included may be of a different nature to the incident category recorded.

In some cases, the number of incidents with an offence recorded has been converted to a rate per 1,000 people. This is important as rises in the size of the population can affect the actual number of incidents reported to police. It is important to note that one incident may involve more than one offence which is not reflected in this report.

Changes in reported crime should not be conflated with changes in the underlying level of crime, because some crime goes unreported. Reporting of crime may be affected by a variety of factors, such as numbers of police, community reluctance to report crime and available police resources. It is often useful to understand the underlying driver for why incidents occur – and for this reason the Northern Territory Police also assess each incident as to whether it was 'alcohol related', 'drug related', 'volatile substance abuse related' and 'domestic violence related' based on the reasonable belief of police at the time.

### ***Total incidents***

For 2011-12, there was a peak of 22,744 incidents which reduced to 19,975 for 2012-13. Around three quarters of this increase reflected the impact of proactive policing including proactive road safety policing. Over half of the decline in the number of incidents in 2012-13 reflects a fall in the level of proactive policing.

In contrast, the number of incidents with one or more offences showed a much smaller rise in 2011-12 (6,125 incidents) and a fall in 2012-13 (5,975 incidents). The associated incident rate per 1,000 people also fell in 2012-13 (from 119.3 to 115.0).<sup>30</sup>

**Table 1 Total incidents and number of incidents with one or more recorded offences**

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Incidents	9400	9820	12413	12559	14262	15420	15652	22744	19975
Incidents with one or more offence	3719	3588	3752	4382	4930	5388	5204	6125	5975
Incident rate per 1000 *	80.1	76.3	78.8	90.9	100.3	107.3	102.0	119.3	115.0

\* This refers to incidents that are associated with one of more offences.

Source: Northern Territory Government

### **Assault**

While it is useful to look at the total number of incidents, it is also worth looking at the prevalence of incidents categorised as serious, such as assaults. Table 2 shows the total number of incidents that were categorised by police as assault, aggravated assault or other assaults for each year from 2004-05 to 2012-13.

There was a slight increase in the incidence category of assault from 425 assaults in 2011-12 to 446 assaults in 2012-13. However, when assessing trends since 2008-09 (510 assaults), the number of incidents has reduced and remains considerably lower (446 in 2012-13).

**Table 2 Incidents categorised as 'assault' where there is one or more offence recorded**

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Assault	75	63	64	79	114	124	91	94	102
Aggravated assault <sup>31</sup>	286	213	186	246	346	267	261	305	314
Assault -other	23	24	52	61	50	49	29	26	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>446</b>

Source: Northern Territory Government

Table 3 shows the total rate of assault incidents (assault; aggravated assault; indecent assault; and sexual assault) was 6.3 per 1,000 persons in 2006-07. It rose in 2007-08 and 2008-09 before

<sup>30</sup> Data on the estimated resident population (ERP) from ABS Catalogue number 3218.0, Regional Population Growth, Australia 2011-12 (30 April 2013) was used to estimate the size of the population in these communities. Note that this publication provides ERP data based on the 2011 census from 2011 to 2012 for Statistical Local Areas (SLAs). We excluded SLAs that were not NTER prescribed areas. To estimate growth in the population from 2011 to 2012, data at an SA2 level was obtained from the 30 August 2013 release of ABS Catalogue number 3218.0. We estimated population growth in relevant SA2s from 2011 to 2012 and applied this growth rate to the 2011 SLA-based estimates. We assumed that the population grew at the same rate from 2012 to 2013 as it did from 2011 to 2012

<sup>31</sup> As the incident type selected is based on individual police assessment of the circumstances, Aggravated Assault is loosely based on assorted situations reflecting the seriousness of the incident, including the level of harm the victim suffered, whether the victim was a female or a child and whether a weapon was used during the incident

peaking in 2008-09. The total assault incident rate in 2012-13 at 8.5 per 1,000 persons remains considerably lower than the peak in 2008-09 at 10.4 per 1,000 persons.

The aggravated assault incident rate in 2012-13 is also considerably below its peak in 2008-09, and has fallen in three of the last four years. The assault incident rate for assaults involving alcohol in 2012-13 is down to 2.6 per 1,000 from 3.1 in the previous year and the peak of 3.9 per 1,000 in 2008-09.

**Table 3 Incident rates for assault per 1000 people**

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Total Assault	8.3	6.4	6.3	8.0	10.4	8.8	7.5	8.3	8.6
Aggravated assault	6.2	4.5	3.9	5.1	7.0	5.3	5.1	5.9	6.0
Alcohol involved *	4.2	3.3	3.1	3.0	3.9	2.6	2.6	3.1	2.6

\* This refers to incidents that are associated with one of more offences.

Source: Northern Territory Government

### ***Domestic Violence***

There was a large rise in the number of incidents with one or more offence attached that was flagged as 'domestic violence related' in 2009-10 (from 2008-09 incidents increased by over 180 cases). This rise is likely to be associated with changes to the Domestic and Family Violence Act that came into effect on 12 March 2009, when it became mandatory for all adults in the Northern Territory to report serious physical harm to the police. The domestic violence incident rate showed little change from 2011-12 to 2012-13, and now sits at 1,393 incidents for 2012-13.

**Table 4 Domestic violence incidents where one or more offence is recorded**

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Number	433	620	740	802	983	1121	1149	1370	1393
Alcohol related %	46	51	45	45	45	42	39	40	38
DV incident rate per 1000 *	9.3	13.2	15.5	16.6	20.0	22.3	22.5	26.7	26.8

\* This refers to incidents that are associated with one of more offences.

Source: Northern Territory Government

### ***Domestic Violence Orders***

The number of confirmed breaches of Domestic Violence Orders rose strongly from 183 in 2011-12 to 270 in 2012-13.

Breaches of Other Orders have trended upwards from 32 in 2004-05 to 84 in 2012-13.

**Table 5 Confirmed breaches of Domestic Violence Orders - incidents**

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Breach - DVO	77	100	124	123	126	186	207	183	270
Breach – other orders	32	42	36	34	38	54	51	64	84

Source: Northern Territory Government

### ***Alcohol related incidents***

The number of incidents with one or more offence attached and flagged as 'alcohol related' remains considerably lower than the 2009-10 peak (1,897 incidents, down to 1,569 in 2012-13) as is the associated alcohol incident rate.

**Table 6 Alcohol related incidents where one or more offence has been recorded**

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Number of incidents where one or more offence is recorded	1174	1180	1078	1433	1813	1897	1514	1727	1569
Alcohol related offences - rate per 1000	25.3	25.1	22.7	29.7	36.9	37.8	29.7	33.6	30.2

Source: Northern Territory Government

### ***Assault lodgements and convictions***

The number of assault cases lodged with the courts increased by 255 or 36% from 2011-12 to 2012-13 (Table 7 below). The number of resulting assault convictions increased from 410 in 2011-12 to 593 in 2012-13. This rise appears to be at odds with the data on the total number of assault incidents and the assault incident rate which was considerably lower in 2012-13 than it was in 2008-09.

This apparent discrepancy may reflect the fact that In April 2012 the Northern Territory Police enacted an internal policy of zero tolerance to domestic violence. Under this approach when police respond to an incident where a victim has obvious signs of having been assaulted but is unwilling to press charges, the police themselves are now charging the offender and taking the incident to court. Prior to April 2012, except for unusual circumstances, the police would not press charges if the victim did not initiate the charge.

**Table 7 Assault lodgements and convictions**

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Lodgements	593	566	713	968
Convictions	404	363	410	593
Conviction Rate	68%	64%	58%	61%

Source: Northern Territory Government

### **Child welfare**

While data on assault and violent crime largely reflects crimes committed against adults, a general normalisation of violence can have significant impacts on children, affecting their safety, wellbeing and influencing their engagement with the justice system over their lifespan. It also creates an environment in which crimes against children are more likely to occur.

The vast bulk of child abuse reports are accounted for by the category 'child welfare'. This category (child welfare) relates to issues that would generally be considered child neglect. The number of reported child welfare incidents more than doubled between 2006-07 (61 incidents) and 2007-08 (135 incidents) before reaching 209 in 2009-10. In 2012-13 there were 183 incidents reported, 29 fewer than in 2011-12.

**Table 8 Child abuse confirmed incidents**

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Child welfare	81	62	61	135	170	209	188	212	183
Child welfare - pregnancy			1	12	27	31	20	10	7
Child welfare - STI				18	16	41	33	17	17
Total	81	62	62	165	213	281	241	239	207

Source: Northern Territory Government