

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Minister for Territory Families and Urban Housing:

#### **Provision of Youth Services over summer 2021/22**

Whilst we are only one week into summer, there are already reports of up to 100 youths on the streets of Alice Springs at night, and as summer proceeds this number is expected to increase.

**1. What is the plan for keeping children off the streets of Alice Springs at night over this summer period?**

A comprehensive school holiday calendar of 192 events and programs is being delivered in Alice Springs over the summer period. On-line daily calendars are available through the NT.GOV.AU website and a local printed calendar and poster was also developed and distributed across Alice Springs, including to all local members, the Town Library and Pool, cafés, Alice Plaza and Yepereny Shopping Centre and the Chamber of Commerce. A digital version of the calendar was distributed through a broad distribution network including Northern Territory Police, Department of Education, Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities, Department of Health and the non-government organisation youth sector.

The Northern Territory Government provides funding for the Tangentyere Council Brown Street (Brown Street) and the Gap Youth and Community Centre (GYCC) to operate seven days a week and with extended hours through each school holiday period. The Gap Youth Centre will run from 3:00 pm to 10.30 pm every day during the school holidays. Tangentyere Council's Brown Street will run from 5.30 pm to 9.30 pm, Monday to Thursday, and 5.30 pm to midnight on Friday and Saturday nights.

**2. What is the current status of the plan to establish youth centres on Town Camps in Alice Springs, in collaboration with Tangentyere Council?**

A new youth development program is being trialled across town camps in Alice Springs to provide safe, structured, engagement activities for young people. The pilot will be delivered by Tangentyere Council through a \$1.35 million grant provided by the Territory Government to deliver the program from December 2021 until July 2022.

The pilot program will be initially trialled across Karnte and Trucking Yards Town Camps, and will provide a safe place for young people to spend time together, engage in structured activities, and access support services away from the Alice Springs Central Business District.

The on town camp model will run seven days a week during the school holidays, until approximately 10:00 pm, with hours changing once school commences in early 2022.

The program will be led by Tangentyere and will be supported by the Alice Springs Territory Government Youth Outreach and Re-Engagement Teams (YORETs) and Northern Territory Police working alongside the Tangentyere workers, and will:

- keep kids safe with youth workers in Town Camps, safe transport home, night patrols, and education;
- provide teaching and learning with young people – providing access to mentors and employment opportunities, digital equipment, training and skills for now and the future;
- care for young people to keep them strong – healing and wellness through family support, workforce development and connection to country and culture; and
- listen to young people – training and support to develop young people into young leaders.

**3. If the plan to establish youth centres on Town Camps has been scrapped, what is the alternative plan?**

Refer to question 2

**4. If the plan to establish youth centres in Town Camps has been scrapped, will there be any centres which will be open 24/7 over the summer period? If so, please provide details as to where these will be located and which organisations will be providing these services.**

Refer to question 2.

**5. Will the Gap Youth Centre and Brown Street Facility be considered as alternatives in providing 24/7 services to youth over the summer period?**

Refer to question 1.

**6. If so, have the Gap Youth Centre and/or Brown Street received any additional funding to run these extra programs?**

Refer to question 1.

**7. Is there any consideration being given to imposing a curfew for children, given the serious Child Protection issues associated with children roaming the streets at all hours of the night?**

There is no plan to impose a curfew for children in Alice Springs.