

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Equality and Inclusion:

Opportunities for Young People in Remote and Regional Areas

1. What resources in the 2022/23 budget are available for remote community groups and associations to ensure that young people in regional areas do not miss out on opportunities that many urban kids have?

For example, how do we ensure that remote kids who play basketball or do dance can travel to regional and urban competitions?

Answer:

The Territory Government is focused on supporting young Territorians to reach their full potential, be engaged, active, and have their voices heard.

In 2022-23, \$5.1 million is being invested in core youth after-hours services in Alice Springs and in Tennant Creek, the East Arnhem Land Youth Development Model and school holiday and after-hours programs across the Territory. This includes \$2.065 million in Youth Activity Grants.

The Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities' Office of Youth Affairs administers the Youth Engagement Grants Program which aims to provide financial support to young people, community groups and organisations enabling young Territorians to engage and participate in a variety of drug and alcohol free recreational events, personal development and leadership programs. Youth Engagement Grants Program includes the Youth Vibe Holiday Grants, Quick Response Grants and NT Youth Week Grants.

In 2022-23, the Youth Vibe Holiday Grants budget will distribute \$130,000 to support activities and events occurring during the September/October, December/January and June/July school holiday periods. Grants of up to \$2,000 are available for each school holiday, or up to \$6,000 for activities and events occurring during the combined holiday periods.

The Quick Response Grants will distribute \$51,000 for 2022-23. Grants of up to \$500 are available to individual applicants to support participation in events, sporting activities, personal development opportunities and/or leadership programs. Grants of up to \$2,000 are available for community organisations and groups to support the participation or coordination of activities that aim to engage young people aged between 12 to 25 years.

The total allocation for NT Youth Week Grants in 2022-23 is \$57,500 and will be advertised in November for grants up to \$2,000 for organisations to run events during NT Youth Week, 6-16 April 2023.

Remote Sport Program funding is provided by the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities, through Sport, Recreation and Strategic Infrastructure, to Regional Councils across the Northern Territory to provide sport and recreation outcomes in remote locations. For communities not serviced by a Regional Council, Remote Sport Program funding is provided to a local non-government organisation.

Remote communities and schools can also access Remote Sport Voucher funding (\$200 per enrolled student; equivalent in value to the 2 x \$100 vouchers enrolled students in urban areas can access) that can be used to fund sport, recreation and cultural activities to young people in the community.