

Northern Territory Department of Territory
Families, Housing and Communities Office of Youth Affairs
By email: YouthStrategy@nt.gov.au

15 January 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Input in relation to Developing the NT Youth Strategy 2023-2033:

Tell us what we need for a Northern Territory where young people lead enjoyable lives, are empowered to achieve their full potential, are socially connected, and positive participants in their community.

This is to share some perspectives from our activities for development of the NT Youth Strategy. We note that the Strategy, will apply to young people aged 12-25 years, who are based in the Territory.

The submission firstly provides some background about DCLS, including youth involvement and messages from this and secondly offers further input about developing the Strategy.

1. About DCLS

Darwin Community Legal Service (DCLS) is a non-profit community-based effort committed to legal and social justice and the protection and expansion of rights, fairness, and wellbeing in the NT. DCLS especially works with people who are vulnerable or marginalised. DCLS:

- Provides legal help, advocacy, and support services,
- Collaborates to understand obstacles to justice and try to achieve reform, and
- Promotes understanding and acceptance of rights, justice, and inclusion.



Above: Opening Night, 'The future we want',¹ DCLS 26th Annual Rights on Show, Art Awards and Exhibition, 2 December 2022.²

¹ Theme inspired by Nelson Mandela, who said 'The future depends on what you do today'

² The Artwork is 'Let's Make Our Future a Sanctuary', by artist Eva San Yen Keng. Artist. Exhibition Booklet, Foreword, about Rights on Show, 2-15 December 2022:

1.1 Law students and young lawyers

Law students and young lawyers have been central contributors, actors, and influencers in DCLS efforts, across many volunteer roles and on staff. DCLS has been a vehicle for many young people concerned to share and help others and develop their knowledge and skills for future efforts in many capacities.

DCLS celebrated its 30th year in 2021, and this was a time to reflect on contributors and their impacts over the years, so many originally as law students and young lawyers. The continuing contributions of law students and young lawyers is strongly reflected in DCLS receiving the Top End INPEX Community Volunteer Organisation/Team of the Year Award in 2022 jointly with Kindness Shake.

We also celebrate how DCLS is orientated to inclusion and facilitating contributions by law students, particularly:

- Firstly, through the CDU clinical law program and interstate placement programs - which contribute to many aspects in providing direct client assistance, plus research to assist with emerging systemic issues and DCLS submissions. This law student effort is often at the cutting edge in bringing forward new and emerging ideas. For example, young Territorian Matthew Shaw's tremendous paper, 'The case for inverting non-profit legal service delivery in the Northern Territory'³ developed with DCLS in 2021 and other wonderful research papers by young people contributing with DCLS (screen shot below, from the 'Papers' section of the DCLS web site).⁴

2021

1. Scanlon Williams, Not very far from modern slavery? Labour hire reform in the Northern Territory, completed 25 October 2021
2. Angus Mackie-Williams, Interpreting it all wrong: The consequential failure of Australia's legal system to support the importance of Aboriginal interpreters, completed 25 October 2021
3. Callum Bryan, Managing the New Gold: Data Protection and Residential Tenancies Applications in the NT, completed 25 October 2021
4. Matthew Shaw, The case for inverting non-profit legal service delivery in the Northern Territory. Completed 25 October 2021 and Summary PowerPoint
5. Eugenie Lynch-Grant, Shame and Success: Legal interventions in the Cashless Debit Card 'opt-in' in the Northern Territory, Completed November 2021

'Affirming the importance of freedom, peace and security, respect for all human rights, including the right to development and the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to food, the rule of law, gender equality, women's empowerment and the overall commitment to justice and democratic societies for development. Inspired by the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the inaugural Rights on Show Art Exhibition and Awards was born in 1995. The first Rights on Show Art Exhibition was launched by then Lord Mayor George Brown at Casuarina Community Library. It was attended by around 100 members of the public and media. The exhibition held in conjunction with Human Rights Day and the Anti-Discrimination Commissions' Human Rights Awards, provides a platform for Territorians to self-express through art, with a focus on human rights; addressing issues that matter to them, giving a voice to the new narrative and awareness of human rights issues and injustices. The exhibition is open to people of all ages and all skill levels; showcasing an eclectic mix of artists and artwork with a diverse interpretation of human rights and the law in juxtapose with the Supreme Court of the NT'..

³ Direct link to the paper: <https://www.dcls.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/The-case-for-inverting-non-profit-legal-service-delivery-in-the-Northern-Territory.pdf> and to the PowerPoint summary: <https://www.dcls.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Inverting-Legal-Service-Delivery-PowerPoint.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.dcls.org.au/events-and-publications/papers/>

- Secondly, via the DCLS Volunteer Advice sessions which operates two evenings a week from the DCLS office plus Casuarina (Saturday) and Palmerston (Monday evening), once a month. Volunteers also contribute to DCLS homeless outreach and community information activities.

FREE After-Hours Legal Advice Sessions

NT-Wide service

**Available every
Tuesday & Thursday
5:30pm – 7:30pm**



In recognition of what's required behind the scenes, in 2021 DCLS Volunteer Coordinator, Sarah Moses received the Top End Excellence in Volunteer Management Award.

1.2 Generalist Community Legal Service

DCLS is the only generalist community legal service in the NT. This means that DCLS provides generalist civil law community legal service assistance without this being as a specialist service in the sense, for example, of the NT women's legal services.

As most volunteers, including law students, are available in Darwin, DCLS's deep connections with NT law student preparation for legal practice, helps increase assistance NT-wide and benefits the NT in other ways. The latter includes promoting progressive approaches to lawyering and how lawyers and law students can contribute and fostering continuing dialogue and critique (that is, a community of practice).



Photo: Left to right Nickolas Dakis, Lucy Quinlan, Judy Harrison (DCLS Acting Principal Solicitor), Chris Sapinoso, and Cody McFarlane, 30 August 2022 at the NT Supreme Court following admission to legal practice. The four just admitted illustrate firstly, the CDU Clinical Law Program with DCLS, secondly, involvement as law students via the DCLS Volunteer Advice Sessions and thirdly, in Lucy's case a law student working with DCLS as a Paralegal, then as an Advocate while undertaking her legal practice course, next to continue with DCLS as a Community Solicitor.

Also, to mention – (photo at right), Al Cabry and Solomon Berhane, DCLS Community Lawyers in the Tenants' Advice Service and General Legal Service respectively.

Being two of the brightest young social justice legal minds in the NT. They both completed high school in Darwin, came to DCLS for their legal practice course and stayed.



1.3 DCLS three main areas

DCLS has three main areas which work collaboratively, often partnering in assistance, community collaboration, education and other efforts in response to systemic issues. That is:

- Generalist Legal Service ('GLS') – focuses on civil law including social security, credit and debt, consumer, employment law, National Disability Insurance Scheme, discrimination, adult guardianship – while this assistance is mainly focused on Darwin, Palmerston and surrounds (due to limited funding) – the GLS umbrella includes the NT-wide Volunteer Advice Sessions, the NT Veterans' Legal Service and homelessness outreach
- Tenants' Legal Service ('TAS') – which assists residential tenants and people as occupiers in crisis, transitional and short-term housing plus caravan parks. TAS provides services NT wide, but services outside of Darwin are mainly limited to phone (or similar), due to limited resources.
- Seniors and Disability Rights Service ('SDRS') – which provides independent advocacy assistance on an issues basis. This is non-legal advocacy, focusing on supporting the individual, as well as community and systemic advocacy.
 - In relation to seniors, SDRS assistance includes safety and wellbeing, aged care access, aged care issues, income support and many others. This often involves working with familiar members who are carers including young people who are carers.
 - In relation to people with disability, SDRS provides advocacy assistance in relation to access to entitlements and supports, NDIS appeals and complaints, issues in Supported Independent Living, Supported Employment and many others. SDRS works with people with disability, groups and communities to tackle problems. This assistance includes working with young people with disability, young people who are carers of people with disability and young people in communities who are among those trying to address problems.

For more background about DCLS please visit the web site, where the DCLS Eligibility and Priority Guidelines ('the Guidelines') are also located.⁵ The Guidelines are adjusted as circumstances change, for example, they are updated when significant changes happen in levels of access to funds for types of assistance and priority groups and service locations (geographic coverage).

1.4 Gaps in legal assistance in the NT

All of the civil law areas of law in which DCLS provides assistance represent major gaps in the NT because the assistance DCLS provides, taken together with that provided by other NT non-profit legal services, is still vastly insufficient to the levels of need. This impacts directly and indirectly on many young Territorians.

As an example – although the following have specialist community legal services funded in many other jurisdictions – there currently isn't funding for any of these in the NT:

- Youth civil law legal help – for example no NT equivalent to the ACT Youth Law Centre⁶
- Credit and debt legal service or consumer legal service – for example no NT equivalent to the Consumer Credit Legal Service WA⁷

⁵ Web site: <http://www.dcls.org.au>, and Eligibility and Priority Guidelines are here: <https://www.dcls.org.au/dcls-eligibility-and-priority-guidelines/>

⁶ <https://www.legalaidact.org.au/what-we-do/youth-law-centre>

⁷ <https://cclswa.org.au/>

- Social security – for example no NT equivalent to Social Security Rights Victoria⁸
- Employment law – for example no NT equivalent to JobWatch which is a community legal centre specialising in employment providing assistance to workers in Victoria, Queensland and Victoria⁹
- Disability law legal help – for example no NT equivalent to Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service in Victoria or Queensland Advocacy for Inclusion which are specialist disability legal services¹⁰

2. Vision and importance of the NT Youth Strategy

We celebrate the vision for the NT Youth Strategy and the centrepiece of *youth life domains*, in providing conceptual underpinnings for action across domains.

2.1 Purposes of the Strategy

We note that the Strategy will describe how things are now, the objectives for the future, how this will be achieved and evaluated. The Strategy also has a central aim, of helping the Government and community work together to make change.

This submission highlights some of the ways youth life domains interact with law and legal issues – both in a positive, empowering and enlarging sense and in the reverse – we would greatly value opportunities which may be available under the Strategy, to help continue to embed youth life domains in all relevant practices and efforts.

We also note that:

“The Strategy will:

- create a roadmap to engage, equip, empower and enable young Territorians
- outline the NT Government’s work, commitment, investment and plans to improve outcomes for young people;
- identify opportunities and gaps, and propose measures and initiatives to improve the NTG’s coordination, integration, connection and planning of programs and services; and
- assist to measure success, and optimise future decision-making and evaluation that supports open accountability, transparency and progress of our programs and investment.”¹¹

Very importantly the Strategy will integrate and optimise coherence and coordination, which will include linking with other initiatives and aligning with:

- the NT Social Outcomes Framework
- the 10-Year Generational Strategy for Children and Families and
- the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) Nest Model and other key life domains including relationships and spirituality.

The Strategy will be youth-led, evidence-based and will outline initiatives to strengthen safe and supportive family and community connections.

“The Strategy will ... be youth-led and evidence-based and will outline initiatives to strengthen safe and supportive family and community connections [and it will..] recognise the unique approaches required to positively address the crucial stages in life and challenges young Territorians transition

⁸ <https://www.ssrp.org.au/>

⁹ <https://jobwatch.org.au/about/us/>

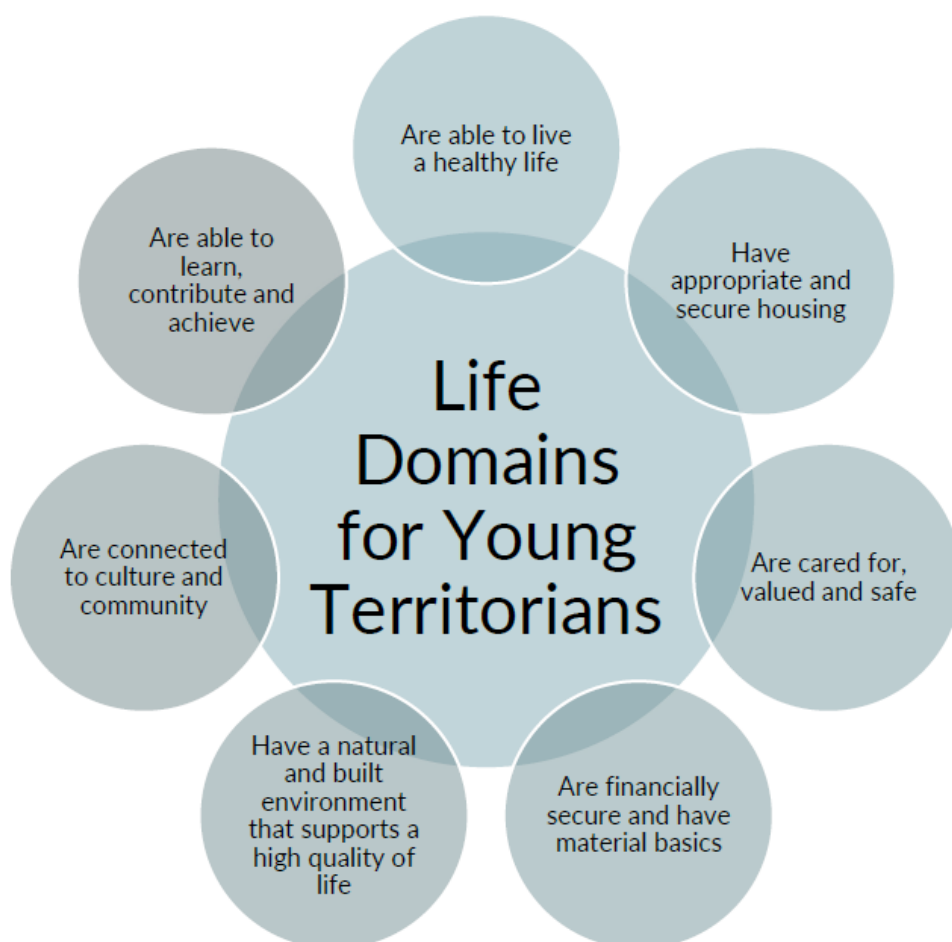
¹⁰ <https://villamanta.org.au/>

¹¹ NT Youth Strategy 2023-2033, Discussion Paper

through and experience. This means the Strategy will include all things that are important for young people across key life domains and will need all areas of government, and the community more broadly, to make it happen.”

2.2 Linking with NT Social Outcomes Framework

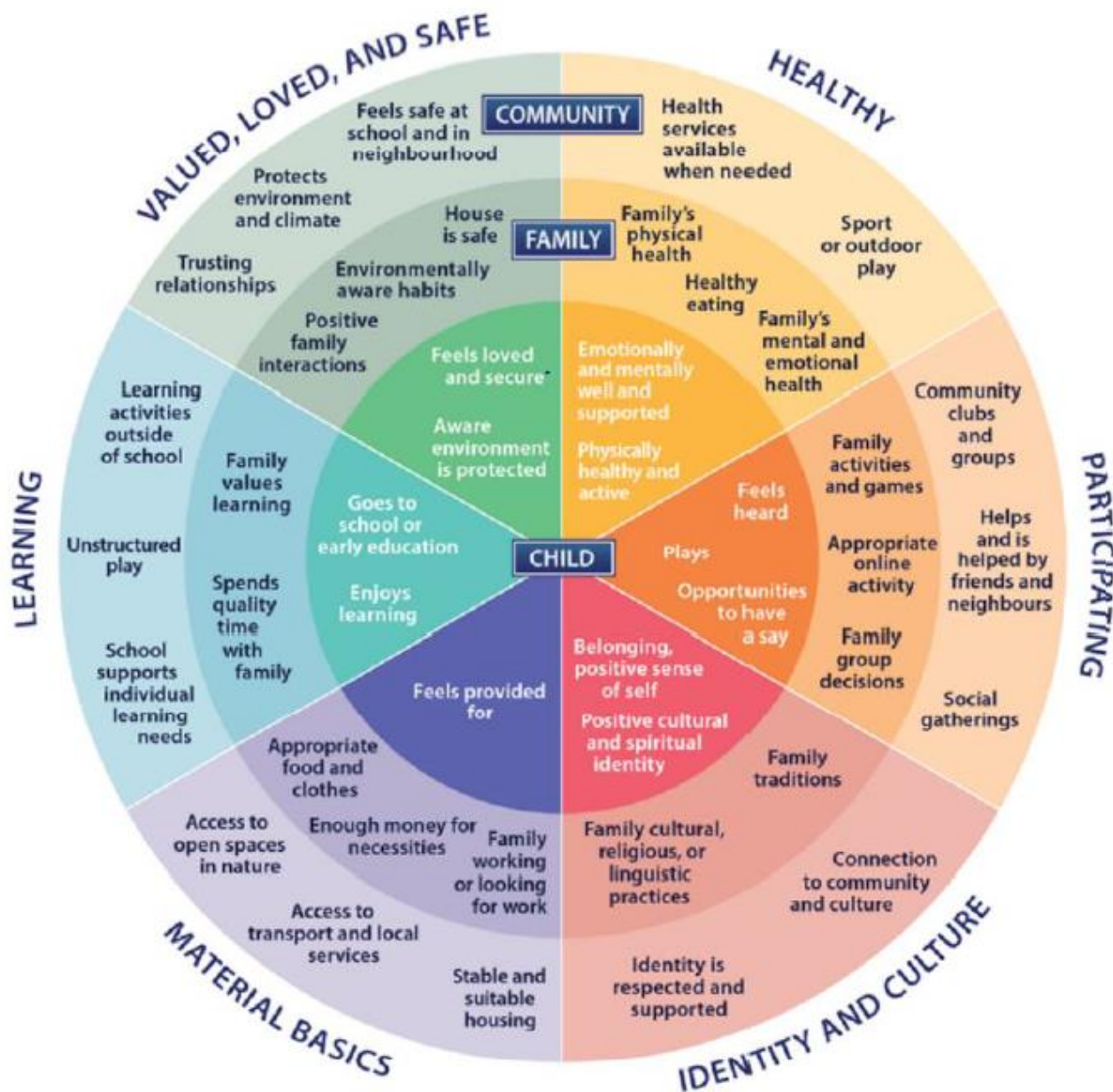
By linking with the NT Social Outcomes Framework¹² the Youth Strategy will address attention to *life domains for young Territorians* shown on the diagram below¹³ and to the areas of the ARACY Nest Model (diagram below and on next page)¹⁴



¹² https://cmc.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1002747/social-outcome-framework.pdf

¹³ Figure 1, NT Youth Strategy Discussion paper, p. 2

¹⁴ Ibid



These conceptual frameworks are ideal for moving thinking and approaches away from single issue or siloed approaches and towards those which are more informed, relatable, and meaningful.

This framework can manage complexity and acknowledge intersectionality. It is highly relatable because it helps conceptualise where specific efforts fit in and how they could help.

It also helps illustrate how positive change in one domain can have multiplier effects – resulting in potential improvements in multiple domains.

This is highly resonant with the health justice field which, via a social determinants approach to health (or a social and cultural determinants approach to health) has looped in law and justice.¹⁵

¹⁵ Social Determinants of Health, A Conceptual Framework for Action on the Social Determinants of Health, WHO 2010, <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241500852>; Cultural and Social Determinants of Health, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, <https://www.indigenoushpf.gov.au/report->

That is, by recognising that law and justice can be vehicles for rights, inclusion, and empowerment - all of which are positively correlated with reduced health disparities for individuals, families, communities and groups. This is particularly resonant in a NT context, for the Closing the Gap targets, the NT Aboriginal Justice Agreement and a range additional headline strategies and objectives.

The *life domains for young Territorians framework* also opens up thinking about causation/causality which affects how problems are understood, responses, their implementation and monitoring and evaluation regarding the domains in which positive changes may occur.

For example, in relation to rate of young Territorians who are living in poverty – multiple approaches can lead to improved wellbeing – for example, approaches focused on safety, food security, ability to afford necessities, health, housing and supports. Access to legal help, also focused on these domains, and how they can inter-relate, can assist - in some cases enabling a person to address or overcome major issues adversely affecting their wellbeing and opportunities for the future.

2.3 Statistical issues

Our experience across various areas, indicates that these issues represented by the life domains for young Territorians, are not adequately reflected in statistical collection undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and via administrative data collection by NT Government agencies.

We have recently commented on issues about the likely substantial underestimation of the number of people with disability in the NT, in the DCLS submission to the Disability Royal Commission, which attached. The methodological issues in that case are profound with remote communities not included in the statistical collection by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

We suggest a research project to review NT youth related statistical collection, to provide:

- a dashboard
- a publicly available analysis of shortcomings
- estimates of the effects e.g. on federal government program funding models for the NT, and
- a plan to help guide how the issues can be addressed.

Right: DCLS Law Student Interns Sarah Kazi and Joseph Kettle (centre and far right) at a community information event in Darwin July 2022



[overview/policies-strategies/cultural-social-determinants-health](https://www.healthjustice.org.au/download/health-justice-partnership-theory-of-change/?wpdmdl=3652&refresh=63c39f8472a5b1673764740) ;Health Justice Partnerships Australia, Health Justice Partnership: Theories of Change, 2021 <https://www.healthjustice.org.au/download/health-justice-partnership-theory-of-change/?wpdmdl=3652&refresh=63c39f8472a5b1673764740>

2.4 Examples of direct and indirect impacts on life domains

This section briefly comments on some of issues involving direct and indirect impacts on life domains for young Territorians.

Opportunities for positive experiences in relation to each of the domains is unevenly distributed among youth in the NT.

Domain	Direct and indirect (examples)
Are able to live a healthy life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The opportunity to live a healthy life is highly uneven among the total youth cohort in the NT, for example, indicators relating to the Closing the Gap targets and how action is required across virtually all domains. • However, there are also statistical issues. For example, the number of young people in the NT with disability cannot be accurately estimated for numerous reasons including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chronic lack of access to professional assessment especially in remote and very remote communities, ○ That services, programs and structures are often not culturally safe, even to the level of access for young people (and non-language speaking service providers and decision makers) to interpreters. • Major issues relating to inadequate access to supports for young people with disability in the NT.
Have appropriate and secure housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many young people in the NT are not living in appropriate and secure housing. • Young people are affected by the full range of issues about social housing in the NT, including in remote and very remote areas. For example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Young people are affected by social housing waiting lists, maintenance issues especially in remote and very remote communities and by rental and other housing policies. ○ Young people in remote and very remote communities in the NT are affected by lack of modelling about the affordability of the proposed NT Remote Rent Framework against a backdrop of Territory Housing calculating that it will increase rents in a high proportion of cases. • Young people in the NT who are impacted by homelessness may be homeless themselves, have relatives or friends who are. Overcrowding is a form of homelessness and overcrowding impacts a high proportion of young people in the NT especially in remote and very remote communities. • Social housing policies, or their implementation, often fail to provide sufficient support for social needs associated with tenancies. In the Top End, the DCLS Tenants' Advice Service has been alarmed to observe a shift in Housing policies resulting in evictions into homelessness. This has included older children no longer being able to live with their parent or care giver

	<p>because there isn't room for them in the next location which may be crisis or short-term accommodation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additionally, the availability of Supported Independent Living accommodation is grossly insufficient in the NT, impacting on the accommodation needs of young people with disability requiring SIL. • The private rental market in the NT has featured a shortage of rental properties now for an extended period resulting in very high rents which are unaffordable for many renters. This particularly impacts on many young people seeking to rent privately, resulting in rent distress and/or transient, insecure, or unsafe accommodation. • The DCLS Tenants' Advice Service would be an excellent vehicle for a new NT wide initiative to promote awareness of tenants' rights and responsibilities among young renters plus help ensure access to legal help. • A young Territorians as renters initiative involving all non-profit legal services in the NT, could be a project under the Youth Strategy.
Are cared for, valued and safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are grossly disproportionate numbers of young people in the NT in out of home care, in contact with police and with corrections involvement. • There are clearly systemic issues and in the case of Aboriginal people, this includes structural and ingrained issues, including racism (as highlighted by the NT Aboriginal Justice Agreement and a range of other headline initiatives). • The intersectional nature of youth life domains includes young people in out of home care (such as under the care of Territory Families) who have undiagnosed and/or insufficiently supported disabilities. These same young people may be impacted in life domains which means major obstacles ahead in becoming financially secure and having material basics, and being able to learn and contribute etc. • DCLS experience indicates that Territory Families needs to strive to improve NDIA coverage and/or access to NT programs and supports for children with disability under care and protection.
Are financially secure and have material basics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCLS works in the area of social security law and is aware of many issues affecting young people where there is simply insufficient access to advocacy and legal help. • This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ JobSeeker ○ Parenting payments

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Childcare subsidy ○ Paid parental leave ○ Carer payments ○ Austudy ○ AbStudy ○ Youth Allowance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues often include calculation of payments for changing circumstances and if debts were correctly raised or could be addressed through special circumstances. Other issues relate to eligibility, participation requirements, and changes in people's lives. These matters are often technically complex, they require a Freedom of Information request which often returns hundreds of pages, sometimes we need to request and review audio recordings. The Social Security Act and related legislation are extremely complex. • The level of social security payments is too low and DCLS supports the #Raise the Rate¹⁶ campaign and endorses the insights expressed through the campaign about poverty being a policy choice in Australia. Also, how higher rates during period of COVID increased health and wellbeing and were reflected in reduced offending and justice system contact. • DCLS supports the Aboriginal Peak Organisation NT in calling for compulsory income management to end – this has resulted in young people who become eligible for social security in the NT immediately being placed on Income Management regardless of any individual need / justification for this and regardless of the impacts. • DCLS has also called for funding for social security legal help in the NT, as there is currently no identifiable funding for this in the NT. The funding would come from the Commonwealth because social security is a federal area of law. ¹⁰ • Social security impacts on tens of thousands of Territorians, including young Territorians eligible for social security. It particularly impacts those in remote and very remote communities as rates of social security participation are much higher.
Have a natural and built environment which supports a high quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCLS particularly wants to highlight the insufficient supply of disability accessible accommodation for people with disability in the NT including young people with disability. We have recently highlighted this in the submission to the Royal Commission. • Regarding the interplay between the natural environment and the built environment, DCLS participates in the Healthy Homes for Renters initiative and contributed to the development of the Community Sector Blueprint: a National Framework for

¹⁶ <https://raisetherate.org.au/>

	<p>Minimum Energy Efficiency Rental Requirements. 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Blueprint outlines key characteristics for the National Framework for Minimum Energy Efficiency Rental Requirements which is due to be released by federal, state and territory governments in 2023. • DCLS hopes that young people in the NT will be helped to be informed about these issues and will strongly propel positive implementation in the NT. • We recognise the concerns of many young Territorians about environmental issues and the need to preserve the natural environment for the current and future generations. We applaud the involvement of young Territorians in all social justice issues and encourage more focus on opportunities for young Territorians to engage with issues about civic participation, sustainable development, approaches to social justice and striving for social justice – which requires that all systems including the justice system – positively align.
Are connected to culture and community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCLS has highlighted in other submissions how processes related to disability supports and care needs can be culturally unsafe resulting in cultural connections being impinged upon. This affects the individual or group directly involved (for example when a person is transferred away from their community for care) and it also impacts on the community. • DCLS has also highlighted how non-profit legal service models in the NT, could be adjusted to be more aligned with needs in remote and very remote communities. This has included raising the possibility of inverting service delivery for more responsiveness.
Are able to learn, contribute and achieve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Points raised above, impact in different ways on the opportunities available to young people in the NT to learn, contribute and achieve. • In relation to non-profit legal services we would like to highlight that there are many unfilled positions advertised at present, and that this has been an issue in the NT now for some years. • New strategies are needed to recruit and retain law students and young lawyers, as well as other professionals needed by non-profit legal services. Experienced supervisors and mentors are also needed, highlighting again how direct and indirect factors can impact for young people.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCLS supports the NAAJA / ANU / CDU Legal Education for True Justice: Indigenous Perspectives and Deep Listening On Country initiative – which aims to rework legal education in Australia to better equip law students coming through¹⁷ • On this note, it is noteworthy that there is currently no domestic equivalent to the New Colombo Plan ('NCP')¹⁸ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This means that Australian law students (including CDU) can apply for assistance under the NCP to study in participating countries overseas, but they can't receive the same assistance to travel to undertake courses (such as True Justice, clinical intensives or internships) in Australia even though the costs are often higher. This applies to all law students in Australia - both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal. ○ DCLS would like to see the NT Youth Strategy review this issue which directly impacts NT law students (and NT students in other disciplines) being able to study or undertake work experience courses interstate and it reduces the flow of interstate students to study and undertake work experience (and contribute) in the NT.
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¹⁷ <https://www.naaja.org.au/deeplisting/>

¹⁸ <https://www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/new-colombo-plan> described as follows: 'The New Colombo Plan is a signature initiative of the Australian Government which aims to lift knowledge of the Indo Pacific in Australia by supporting Australian undergraduates to study and undertake internships in the region.'

The New Colombo Plan involves a scholarship program for study of up to one year and internships or mentorships, and a flexible mobility grants program for both short and longer-term study, internships, mentorships, practicums and research.'

The above examples of direct and indirect impact of issues on *life domains for young Territorians*, also serves to highlight the degree of inter-connection between domains. Consequently, validating the intended approach for the Strategy.

2.5 Issues in the DCLS Disability Royal Commission submission

Attached is a copy of the DCLS submission to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability ('DCLS Royal Commission submission').

This submission for DCLS includes many case studies – and some of these:

- Relate to young people with disability
- Speak to the impact on young people who are involved with a person with disability –for example:
 - As a sibling or family member
 - An informal carer or part of an informal care effort
 - As a young parent of a child with disability
- Speak to other issues raised in the current submission.



Photo: DCLS Facebook “28 April 2022 Jessie & Chrissie - some of our Disability Rights Advocates - joining today’s community rally to Defend our NDIS. This was one of many community rallies held around Australia today on the National Day of Action to Defend Our NDIS.”

That is, we would also like to highlight the following in the DCLS Royal Commission submission for consideration in relation to the development of the NT Youth Strategy:

- Outline of issues about unreliability of statistics and the need for efforts to address this.
- Difficulties for Territorians relating to the NDIS, experiences of the NT, threats to vision of the NDIS and implementation of the NDIS in the NT plus the need for needs-based funding for specialist advocacy and legal assistance.

- Background about:
 - Housing, social security, employment, adult guardianship – all of which apply to young people with or without disability.
 - How needs-based funding being required across multiple programs and services in the NT (including those just indicated). In addition, this includes what is required to increase access to legal help in the NT to realistic levels so young people, and other groups, can access and use this assistance.
 - Adult guardianship – particularly noting that this applies from the age of 18 and the submission goes into detail about why major reforms are needed in relation to adult guardianship in the NT.

DCLS Tenants' Advice Service ('TAS'), Ramingining, June 2021 (two photos below) with captions



“TAS solicitor consults with
the next generation of
tenants”



“TAS solicitor says ‘it’s hot out here in Arnhem Land’ as DCLS look forward to the upcoming Santa Teresa High Court appeal on habitability”

3. Contacts

For any questions about this submission please contact DCLS Chief Executive Officer, Rachael Bowker or DCLS Principal Solicitor, Melisa Coveney.

Judy Harrison for

Rachael Bowker
Chief Executive Officer

Enclosed:

- DCLS submission to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability by Darwin Community Legal Service *Lived experience highlights multiplicity of factors in the NT continuing to expose people with disability to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation*, 31 December 2022