

Implementation Plan for Family Support Package

CLOSING THE GAP IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

PRELIMINARIES

1. This Implementation Plan is created subject to the provisions of the *Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement* and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement. The objective of this element in the National Partnership is to ensure the protection of women and children.
2. The Family Support Package is a measure under the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER). The Package is jointly funded by the Australian and Northern Territory Governments.
3. The three components of the Package, as set out in Schedule I to the National Partnership, are:
 - 22 fully operational Safe Places in 15 remote communities, as well as Darwin and Alice Springs;
 - a fully operational Mobile Child Protection Team (MCPT); and
 - -Remote Aboriginal and Family Community Workers (RAFCW) in at least 13 remote communities.

TERMS OF THIS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

4. This Implementation Plan will commence as soon as it is agreed between the Commonwealth of Australia, represented by the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, and the Northern Territory, represented by the Minister for Children and Families.
5. This Implementation Plan will cease on 30 June 2012 or upon completion of the project as specified in this Implementation Plan, including the acceptance of final performance reporting and processing of final payments against performance benchmarks specified in this Implementation Plan.
6. This Implementation Plan may be amended by written agreement between the relevant Departmental Secretaries in accordance with paragraph 10 of the National Partnership.
7. Either Party may terminate this agreement by providing 30 days notice in writing. Where this Implementation Plan is terminated, the Commonwealth's liability to make payments to the Northern Territory is limited to payments associated with performance benchmarks achieved by the Northern Territory by the date of effect of termination of this Implementation Plan.
8. The Parties to this Implementation Plan do not intend any of the provisions to be legally enforceable. However, that does not lessen the Parties' commitment to this Implementation Plan.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

9. The Family Support Package aims to provide a coordinated response to Indigenous family violence in a number of Northern Territory communities to protect Indigenous children and families from abuse and violence.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Role of the Commonwealth

10. The Commonwealth is responsible for reviewing the Northern Territory's performance against the project benchmarks specified in this Implementation Plan and providing any consequential financial contribution to the Northern Territory for that performance.

Role of the Northern Territory

11. The Northern Territory Government will have responsibility for the management, operation and coordination of the Safe Places, MCPT and RAFCWs, including recruitment, training and support.
12. The Northern Territory Government is responsible for all aspects of project implementation, including:
 - a) fully funding the project, after accounting for financial contributions from the Commonwealth and any third party;
 - b) completing the project in a timely and professional manner in accordance with this Implementation Plan; and
 - c) meeting all conditions in a timely and professional manner in accordance with this Implementation Plan.

PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

13. The maximum financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth for the project, over three years from 2009-10 to 2011-12, is \$31.6 million, payable in accordance with performance benchmarks set out in Table 1.
14. National Partnership Payments will be made in accordance with Schedule D of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations. Commonwealth Own Purpose Expenditure (COPE) funding will be paid directly by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, to the Northern Territory, Department of Children and Families.
15. Prior to the commencement of this Implementation Plan, the Commonwealth provided payment to the Northern Territory for the delivery of the Package in 2009-10.
16. Funding for the three service components will be provided on a pro-rata basis for each month that the specified services are provided. Payments will be made following the Northern Territory meeting the performance benchmark as specified in Table 1.

Table 1: Performance indicators and associated payments

Performance Indicator 2010/2011	Benchmark	Performance Benchmark Due Date	National Partnership	COPE
Number of cases that MCPT participate in each month	At least 150	20 May 11	\$500,000	
RAFCWs operating in priority communities	Up to 13 communities	20 May 11	\$1,334,500	
Safe Places are managed in accordance with operational guidelines	In all 22 Safe Places	20 May 11	\$650,000	
Women's Safe Houses and Men's Places are fully operational	All 14 Women's and at least 6 of 8 Men's	20 May 11		\$2,634,500
Performance Report as per Table 3 for period 1 July to 30 December 2010	Submitted and accepted	20 May 11		
Number of cases that MCPT participate in each month	At least 150	20 May 11	\$500,000	
RAFCWs are operating in priority communities	Up to 13 communities	20 May 11	\$1,334,500	
Safe Places are managed in accordance with operational guidelines	In all 22 Safe Places	20 May 11	\$650,000	
Women's Safe Houses and Men's Places are fully operational	All 14 Women's and at least 6 of 8 Men's	20 May 11		\$2,634,500
Evaluation Plan	Completion of Evaluation Plan	20 May 11	\$300,000	
TOTAL 2010/2011			\$5,269,000	\$5,269,000

Performance Benchmark 2011/2012	Benchmark	Performance Benchmark Due Date	National Partnership	COPE
Performance Report as per Table 3 for period 1 January to 30 June 2011	Submitted and accepted	20 July 11		
Evaluation for period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2011	Submitted and accepted	31 Oct 11	\$150,000	
Number of cases that MCPT participate in each month	At least 150	20 Jan 12	\$500,000	
RAFCWs are operating in priority communities	Up to 13 communities	20 Jan 12	\$1,438,000	
Safe Places are managed in accordance with operational guidelines	In all 22 Safe Places	20 Jan 12	\$650,000	
Women's Safe Houses and Men's Places are fully operational	All 14 Women's and at least 6 of 8 Men's	20 Jan 12		\$2,737,500
Performance Report as per Table 3 for period 1 July to 31 December 2011	Submitted and accepted	20 Jan 12		
Sub Total			\$2,738,000	\$2,737,500
Number of cases that MCPT participate in each month	At least 150	20 May 12	\$500,000	
RAFCWs are operating in priority communities	Up to 13 communities	20 May 12	\$1,438,000	
Safe Places are managed in accordance with operational guidelines	In all 22 Safe Places	20 May 12	\$650,000	
Women's Safe Houses and Men's Places are fully operational	All 14 Women's and at least 6 of 8 Men's	20 May 12		\$2,737,500
Updated evaluation report for period 1 July 2011 to 30 April 2012	Submitted and accepted	20 May 12	\$150,000	
Final performance Report as per Table 3 for period 1 January to 30 April 2012	Submitted and accepted	20 May 12		
Sub Total			\$2,738,000	\$2,737,500
TOTAL 2011/2012			\$5,476,000	\$5,475,000

BUDGET

17. The overall Family Support Package budget is set out in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Overall project budget

(\$ million)	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	Total
Commonwealth				
National Partnership funds	\$5.07m	\$5.27m	\$5.47m	\$15.81m
COPE funds*	\$5.05m	\$5.27m	\$5.47m	\$15.79m
Northern Territory	\$2.34m	\$3.04m	\$3.04m	\$8.42m
Total	\$12.46m	\$13.58m	\$13.98m	\$40.02m

* excludes FaHCSIA Departmental appropriation

Footnote: Reallocated funding of \$5.17m from the 2008/09 NTER Family Support Package MOU between the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Government will also be used to achieve the objectives and outcomes set out in this Implementation Plan.

18. Having regard to the estimated costs of project items specified as National Partnership funding, the State will not be required to pay a refund to the Commonwealth if the actual cost of the project is less than the agreed estimated cost of the project. Similarly, the State bears all risk should the costs of a project exceed the estimated costs. The Parties acknowledge that this arrangement provides the maximum incentive for the State to deliver projects cost-effectively and efficiently.

REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

19. The Northern Territory will provide performance reports to the Commonwealth as specified in **Table 1**, against the Performance Indicators set out in **Table 3**.

20. Performance reports will contain the following information:

- a) a description of actual performance of the Northern Territory in the period to date against the performance indicators and benchmarks;
- b) promotional activities undertaken in relation to, and media coverage of, the project during the reporting period; and
- c) a description of the work that will be undertaken to complete the remaining performance indicators and benchmarks and any expected promotional opportunities during the next reporting period.

21. From time to time, there may be a need for ad hoc reports. The Commonwealth will advise the nature and purpose of these reports, if and when they arise. Ad hoc requests will be kept to a minimum, and not be onerous.

22. The Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments will work collaboratively to develop and agree on the evaluation plan. Project Evaluation Reports will be provided in August 2011 and May 2012. These will focus on the achievement of the outputs and performance measures of this Implementation Plan as agreed by the parties and will be cognisant of and inform the evaluation of the Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement to be undertaken in 2011-12.

Table 3: Performance Indicators

Mobile Child Protection Team	
Category	Performance Indicators
Service Delivery	Number of referrals MCPT received
	Number of cases MCPT participates in
	Number of child protection investigations completed
Community Strengthening	Number of communities visited
	Number of practice advice discussions with service providers
Workforce	Number of child protection workers
Remote Aboriginal Family and Community Workers	
Service Delivery	Number of referrals from or to other sources including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community and community members - Local agencies - Community clinics - Northern Territory Department of Children and Families
Community Strengthening	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - local resources developed - number of concerns raised by children, young people and families about child protection - programs/workshops delivered by the RAFCW
Workforce	Number of RAFCWs Type of training provided to RAFCWs
Operational	Number of priority communities with RAFCWs operational
Safe Places	
Service Delivery	Number of clients by Safe Place by gender, children, repeat visits
Community Strengthening	Number of programs run by, or through Safe Places, type & participants
Workforce	% of positions filled by Indigenous staff in remote communities
	Type of training provided to Safe Places staff
	Number of staff positions filled by Safe Place
Operational	Number of Safe Places Operational

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND TERMS

Acceptance (by Commonwealth) – The point at which the Northern Territory Government are informed in writing by the Commonwealth that a report or other deliverable meets the requirements for payment.

Ad hoc (data request) – Data requests that are unplanned, generally the result of a question asked (for example in a Senate Estimates Committee Hearing).

Client – A person, group or organisation eligible to receive services either directly or indirectly from an agency.¹

Community Strengthening – increasing the capacity of communities to be self-reliant.

Completed Child Protection Investigations –

- Investigations that MCPT completes with ‘no further action’
- Investigations that MCPT completes with recommendation of referral to Family Support Service
- Investigations that MCPT completes with a legal framework

Evaluation Plan – Planning documentation of the proposed implementation of a future evaluation (including methodology, selection of evaluator, program logic, research questions, data sources, indicators etc)

Evaluation Report – Final report of an evaluator, detailing the outcomes of a completed Evaluation which includes recommendations.

Men’s Place – a community hub providing men with activities and services to prevent violence before it occurs. Short term crisis accommodation may also be provided for men to cool down. A component of the Safe Places sub-measure.

Mobile Child Protection Team (MCPT) – A component of the Family Support Package. A team of highly skilled Child Protection Officers that provides child protection casework support to NT Child Protection Regional Offices, and allows for more investigations to take place in remote and regional communities across the Northern Territory.

Operational

- **RAFCWs** – Employed and performing the RAFCW role within a community and/or wider area.
- **Safe Places** – For at least 22 weeks in each reporting period:
 - the Safe Place is open and accessible to meet community and individual needs for support, crisis intervention, and early intervention and prevention activities.
 - Women’s Safe Places, this includes accessibility 24 hours a day.
 - Men’s Places, this includes accessibility to activities and services during core hour (equivalent to 40 hours per week)

¹ National Community Services Data Dictionary V5

except public holidays and weekends) and short term crisis accommodation for men needing to 'cool off' to avert an incident of family violence or escaping family violence outside core hours.

Participation in Child Protection Investigations – workers are involved in child protection investigation cases over the period. This includes cases that are:

- carried over from the previous period and require a time limited amount of casework to enable cases to be closed; and
- allocated for investigation where the investigation has commenced.

Priority Communities – the priority communities for Remote Aboriginal Family and Community Workers are: Gunbalanya, Ti Tree, Elliott, Galiwin'ku, Nguiu, Hermannsburg, Nauiyu, Borroloola, Kalkarindji, Yuendumu, Papunya, Santa Teresa and Docker River. The priority communities for Safe Places are: Angurugu, Apatula (Finke), Beswick (Wugalarr), Hermannsburg (Ntaria), Kalkarindji/Daguragu, Lajamanu, Maningrida, Nguiu (Bathurst Island), Ngukurr, Peppimenarti, Pmara Juntunta, Ramingining, Ti Tree, Yarralin, Yuendumu, Alice Springs and Darwin.

Remote Aboriginal Family and Community Workers (RAFCWs) – RAFCWs work in partnership with the Northern Territory Department of Children and Families' child protection staff, and provide remote services to provide early intervention to communities and to respond to safety issues as they arise within families and the community.

Safe Places – A component of the Family Support Package. The term applies to both women's Safe Houses and men's Places.

Women's Safe House - 24 hour crisis accommodation service for women and children escaping family violence. A component of the Safe Places sub-measure.