

Alice Springs Transformation Implementation Plan

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON STRONGER FUTURES IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

PART 1: PRELIMINARIES

1. This Implementation Plan is a schedule to the National Partnership Agreement on Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory (NP) and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement. The objective of this NP is to support Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory (NT), particularly in remote communities, to live strong, independent lives, where communities, families and children are safe and healthy.
2. This Implementation Plan supports the work of the Alice Springs Transformation Plan by continuing initiatives from May 2009 to improve life outcomes for Aboriginal residents and visitors in Alice Springs, particularly in town camps, and to reduce homelessness through the provision of suitable support services.
3. The initiatives in this Implementation Plan complement the broader reform agenda of the Alice Springs Transformation Plan (ASTP) which includes:
 - (a) improving delivery of municipal and essential services in existing Alice Springs town camps, similar to the rest of Alice Springs;
 - (b) improving government engagement, accessibility and coordination of services for Alice Springs residents;
 - (c) facilitating land tenure reforms on town camps to promote economic development, enterprise opportunities and enable home ownership;
 - (d) improving the safety and well-being of children, young people and families, with increased capacity for communities to take more responsibility for their safety; and
 - (e) improving access to education, economic participation, employment and the provision of more social services.
4. A key commitment of this Implementation Plan is to increase local Aboriginal employment, professionalisation and career development in the delivery of government funded services with appropriate targets and goals set for relevant measures.
5. This Implementation Plan commits both governments to working with Aboriginal stakeholders and community groups to ensure services are responsive, effectively meet community needs, and that agreed mechanisms are in place to provide for their ongoing feedback.

PART 2: TERMS OF THIS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

6. This Implementation Plan will commence as soon as it is agreed between the Commonwealth of Australia, represented by the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, and the Northern Territory of Australia, represented by the Minister for Central Australia.
7. As a schedule to the NP, the purpose of this Implementation Plan is to provide the public with an indication of how the projects under the Alice Springs Transformation Plan are intended to be delivered and demonstrate Northern Territory's capacity to achieve the outcomes of the NP.
8. This Implementation Plan will cease on 30 June 2016 or on completion of the project, including the acceptance of final performance reporting and processing of final payments against project milestones.
9. This Implementation Plan may be varied by written agreement between the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Ministers responsible for it under the overarching NP.
10. 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 the plan and its full implementation.

PART 3: STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN TERRITORY IMPLEMENTATION

Project information

11. The project elements planned are shown in Table 1 as follows.

Table 1: Project elements – Northern Territory

No	Title	Short description	Start date	End date
1	Alcohol treatment	To continue the: 1.1. Safe and Sober program, providing specialist alcohol counselling, rehabilitation and treatment services for Aboriginal adults and families	1 July 2012	30 June 2014
2	School enrolment and attendance	To continue the: 2.1. Families and Schools Together and Ready and willing for school programs, addressing the barriers that impact on school attendance 2.2. Indigenous Parent and Children School Engagement program, supporting parent participation in their children’s education	1 July 2013 1 January 2013	30 June 2015 31 December 2014
3	Safety and wellbeing of women and children	To continue the: 3.1. Domestic and Family Violence Outreach program, providing an outreach case management and community education service to the Alice Springs town camps 3.2. Integrated Response to Domestic Violence program, improving the delivery of family violence and victim support services for women and children in Alice Springs	1 July 2013 1 July 2014	30 June 2015 30 June 2016
4	Parenting skills education and support	To continue the: 4.1. Targeted Family Support Service program, providing intensive case management support for Aboriginal families struggling to care for their children 4.2. Youth and Community Centre program, to provide education, prevention and support services for parents and children	1 July 2013 1 July 2014	30 June 2015 30 June 2016
5	Support for at risk tenants	To continue the: 5.1. Intensive Tenancy Sustainability Program , to provide integrated case management to support Alice Springs Town Camp tenants who are at risk of imminent eviction	1 July 2013	30 June 2015

Estimated costs

12. The maximum financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth for this project to the Northern Territory is \$12.871 million payable from 2012-13 to 2015-16 in accordance with benchmarks set out in Part 4 of this Implementation Plan. All payments are exclusive of GST.

13. The estimated overall budget (exclusive of GST) is set out in Table 2. The budget is indicative only and the Northern Territory retains the flexibility to move funds between components and/or years, with the agreement of the Commonwealth, as long as outcomes are not affected.

Table 2: Estimated financial contributions

(\$ million)	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Total
Element 1 – Alcohol Treatment	2.157	2.190	–	–	4.347
Element 2 – School Enrolment and Attendance	0.090	1.102	1.026	–	2.218
Element 3 – Safety and Wellbeing	–	0.351	1.592	1.269	3.212
Element 4 – Parenting Education Support	–	0.454	0.976	0.527	1.957
Element 5 – Tenancy Support (ISTEP)	–	0.556	0.581	–	1.136
Total estimated budget	2.247	4.653	4.175	1.796	12.871
less estimated Commonwealth contribution	2.247	4.653	4.175	1.796	12.871
equals estimated balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	–	–	–	–	–
Commonwealth own purpose expense*	0.140	0.281	0.284	0.157	0.862
Total Commonwealth contribution	2.387	4.934	4.459	1.953	13.733

*Commonwealth Own-Purpose Expense (COPE) includes departmental expenses.

Program logic

14. The way in which these project elements will achieve the outcomes and objectives set out in the NP is detailed in Table 3.

Table 3: Program logic – Northern Territory elements

Project elements	Outputs	Outcomes	Project Objectives
1. Alcohol Treatment	The provision of integrated and accessible child, youth, family women, and men's support services	More service accessibility and support in Alice Springs	To address the harmful effects of alcohol abuse on Aboriginal people through holistic and culturally appropriate counselling, therapeutic treatment and support services, including, though not exclusively, a prison in-reach program. Aboriginal employment target: 30% across all project elements
2. School enrolment and attendance	The provision of integrated and accessible child, youth, family women, and men's support services	More service accessibility and support in Alice Springs	To ensure Aboriginal children are successfully enrolled and participating in school through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working with families, children and schools to achieve a smooth transition from home to school; • providing help for parents to support their child's participation in school; and • reducing the barriers that impact on school attendance. Aboriginal employment target: 30% across all project elements
3. Safety and well-being of women and children	The provision of integrated and accessible child, youth, family women, and men's support services	More service accessibility and support in Alice Springs	To increase access to family violence case-work and education services for women and children living in the Alice Springs town camps; and improve whole-of-government coordination and delivery of family violence police, court and victim support services across Alice Springs. Aboriginal employment target: 30% across all project elements

Project elements	Outputs	Outcomes	Project Objectives
4. Parenting skills, education and support	The provision of integrated and accessible child, youth, family women, and men's support services	More service accessibility and support in Alice Springs	To provide early education and diversionary services targeted to vulnerable families with children at risk of entering the Northern Territory child protection system Aboriginal employment target: 30% across all project elements
5. Support for at-risk tenants	Intensive support for tenants to help sustain their tenancies in Alice Springs	More service accessibility and support in Alice Springs	Extra support for Alice Springs town camp public housing tenants who are at risk of eviction and require urgent assistance to help stabilise their tenancies Aboriginal employment target: 30% across all project elements

Risk management

15. A risk management plan is in place. Risks have been actively identified, entered into a risk log and categorised in terms of impact and likelihood.

Relevant Northern Territory context

16. In developing this Implementation Plan consideration has been given to the Northern Territory context. Key factors that have influenced the proposed direction of this Implementation Plan are listed below.
17. The NT has the highest proportion of Aboriginal people of all Australian States and Territories, comprising over 30 per cent of its population compared to 3.0 per cent nationally. At June 2010, just over 12.2 per cent of the NT's population resided in the Local Government Area of Alice Springs, which is a service hub for central Australia.
18. While significant effort has been made to improve outcomes, Aboriginal people in the NT still experience unacceptable levels of disadvantage in living standards, life expectancy, education, health and employment.
19. The program elements of this Implementation Plan were established with funding previously allocated through the Alice Springs Transformation Plan. The Alice Springs Transformation Plan was announced in May 2009 as part of an expanded effort to transform the Alice Springs town camps, provide complementary services and reduce homelessness. The regeneration work of the Alice Springs Transformation Plan, undertaken in partnership with the Northern Territory, has had a substantial impact as a place based strategy, and has led to many positive changes in the lives of individuals and families living in the town camps and more broadly across Alice Springs.
20. The elements in Table 1 continue funding for key programs previously delivered through the Alice Springs Transformation Plan. The Northern Territory's decision to continue to fund the existing providers to deliver these programs will be informed by impact and performance evaluations to be undertaken by the Alice Springs Transformation Plan.
21. Key factors that will influence the proposed direction of this Implementation Plan are listed in Table 4.

Table 4: Links with existing reforms or projects

Proposed project elements	Existing projects	Complementary nature of activities
1-4	Child, Youth, Family and Community Wellbeing Implementation Plan	Elements 1-4 in Table 1 align with the suite of services being rolled out under the Child, Youth, Family and Community Wellbeing Implementation Plan, as they apply to Alice Springs.
5	Municipal and Essential Services Implementation Plan	The Northern Territory's responsibility for continuing municipal and essential services on the Alice Springs town camps will ensure appropriate service standards and support for continuation of successful town camp public housing tenancies.
All	Tackling Alcohol Abuse Implementation Plan	All elements in Table 1 should coordinate with the initiatives in the Tackling Alcohol Abuse Implementation Plan, particularly in regard to the development of Alcohol Management Plans on town camp communities, reflecting local circumstances in reducing the direct harm of alcohol abuse and improving secondary indicators such as school attendance and child welfare.
5	The Australian Government's White Paper on Homelessness, The Road Home, 2008	<p>Released in 2008, this paper provides a long-term plan to tackle homelessness, with the major goals being to halve homelessness by 2020 and to offer supported accommodation to all rough sleepers who need it by 2020.</p> <p>The provision of tenancy support services under element 5 in Table 1 will need to be cognisant of the impact of homeless people as unwanted visitors to the town camps on people's capacity to sustain successful tenancies on the town camps.</p> <p>The White Paper provides a framework for preventing the occurrence of homelessness, particularly amongst vulnerable groups including Aboriginal Australians.</p>

PART 4: PERFORMANCE AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

Milestones

22. To qualify for associated payments for each program element being delivered during the respective reporting periods, the Northern Territory must meet the milestones in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Milestones

Milestones	Reporting Periods	Report Due Date	Percentage of Annual Funding for each Element
1 July 2012 to 31 December 2013			
Provision of services over the six months for the Safe and Sober program.	1 July to 31 December	1 March 2013	100%
1 January 2013 to 30 June 2016			
Provision of services and programs for relevant project elements in each respective six month period.	1 January to 30 June	1 September 2013-2016	50%
	1 July to 31 December	1 March 2014-2016	50%

Performance benchmarks

23. There are no performance benchmarks tied to payment for this Implementation Plan.

Reporting

24. The Northern Territory will report against milestones every six months under this Implementation Plan. Reports are expected by 1 March (covering 1 July to 31 December) and 1 September (covering 1 January to 30 June) each year.

25. The following information will be included in the Northern Territory’s six monthly reports, and will be used by the Commonwealth to monitor progress in meeting the milestones in Table 5:

- (a) details of collaborative and integrated service delivery models used;
- (b) number of Aboriginal people accessing programs and services in each of the program elements;
- (c) number of Aboriginal people engaging in programs and services in each of the program elements;
- (d) number and types of service interventions provided to Aboriginal families and children;
- (e) the number and types of referrals to other services provided to Aboriginal clients; and
- (f) the percentage of people employed in each program element who are Aboriginal.


26. Circumstances may give rise to additional reporting being sought from jurisdictions. Such requests should be kept to the minimum necessary for the effective assessment of the project or reform. Requests should not place an undue reporting burden on jurisdictions and portfolio agencies.

Review and Evaluation

27. This Implementation Plan will be reviewed in line with the review of the NP and evaluated in 2016-17 at the conclusion of the Implementation Plan with regard to progress made by the Parties in respect of achieving the agreed outcomes.

Sign off

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

Signature  Date 01 MAR 2013
[By Northern Territory Minister] DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER ROBYN LAMBLEY

Signature  Date 13.3.13
[By Commonwealth Minister]