

# Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment 2024-25 – Child and Family

FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT – AFFORDABLE HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND OTHER

<b>Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule</b>	
Parties	Commonwealth Northern Territory of Australia
Duration	This Schedule is expected to expire on 30 June 2025
Purpose	<p><b>Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment 2024-25</b></p> <p>This schedule forms part of the continued investment in Northern Territory remote communities for the Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment 2024-25. The aim of the investment is to ensure Aboriginal people living in remote communities have equitable access to mainstream services in a way that is relevant to their context.</p> <p>The parties recognise that continued investment in service delivery that benefits Aboriginal people in remote areas of the Northern Territory is essential to achieving the socio-economic targets under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.</p> <p>This Schedule will build on investments made under the National Partnership on Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment and replaces that Agreement.</p> <p>The reporting milestones and activities under this Schedule will inform an evaluation approach to identify agreed priorities. The evaluation will be governed by the Joint Steering Committee. The evaluation framework will be aligned with principles of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.</p> <p>Key data to be included in the evaluation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• employment data</li> <li>• client and community experience</li> <li>• data to support achievement of Closing the Gap Priority Reforms and targets</li> <li>• data to support related social outcomes framework(s)</li> </ul>

## **Child and Family**

This Schedule aims to support Aboriginal families, woman and young people in the Northern Territory to remain safe in remote communities, strengthening the frontline services that support the safety and wellbeing of individuals, children and families.

The project elements are:

- family support activities and casework services (casework services)
- domestic, family and sexual violence crisis response (crisis response services)
- place-based planning.

The casework services will involve a family focused, child-centred approach to improve the safety and well-being of children in communities across the Northern Territory. The services aim to reduce the need for children to enter or re-enter the out-of-home care system by providing culturally responsive, tailored, holistic and coordinated casework services.

Place-based planning will involve regular meetings with a community and family support coordination group or safety group. Membership will include government and non-government services related to child safety, education and well-being, and domestic and family violence services. Place-based planning will:

- drive a collaborative and integrated approach to family support and safety
- enable collaboration to address concerns about individual children and families collectively
- provide a platform to share best practice and culturally appropriate implementation across the core membership
- plan targeted family support responses and if necessary, referrals for vulnerable families to support services in the local community.

The crisis response services involve short-term crisis accommodation (women's safe houses) for women and their children who are experiencing or may be escaping domestic, family and sexual violence. Women's safe houses will be available seven days a week on a 24-hour basis. The service will interact with the broader community safety network including police, local night patrol, child protection workers, community health centres, legal and other community service providers. The service will involve safety planning for clients including referrals to community-based services, outreach prevention and education to promote safety and protective behaviours.

<p>Estimated financial contributions</p>	<p>The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to the Northern Territory of \$10,342,230 in respect of this Schedule.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Table 1</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>(\$ million)</th> <th>2024-25</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Estimated total budget</b></td> <td><b>10.34223</b></td> <td><b>10.34223</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Less estimated National Partnership Payments</i></td> <td>10.34223</td> <td>10.34223</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	(\$ million)	2024-25	Total	<b>Estimated total budget</b>	<b>10.34223</b>	<b>10.34223</b>	<i>Less estimated National Partnership Payments</i>	10.34223	10.34223	Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	0.0	0.0
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<p>Additional terms</p>	<p><b>Role of the Northern Territory</b></p> <p>In addition to Clause 20 of the Funding Federation Agreement (Role of the States and Territories), the Northern Territory will be responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maximising opportunities for local businesses and employees to be involved in the delivery of the projects</li> <li>• ensuring that Aboriginal Australians realise employment and business opportunities by incorporating appropriate First Nations employment and, where relevant, First Nations supplier-requirements.</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, the Northern Territory agrees to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• liaise with the Joint Steering Committee prior to the release of any media statements relating to the Schedule.</li> </ul> <p><b>Shared Roles and Responsibilities</b></p> <p>The Commonwealth, the Northern Territory and the Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory will form a Joint Steering Committee that will guide the implementation of this Schedule and related Schedules under the Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment 2024-25, ensuring shared-decision making, transparency and collaboration with Parties to the agreements.</p> <p>With regards to the Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment 2024-25, The Joint Steering committee will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• oversee and monitor remote service delivery under this and related Schedules</li> <li>• meet at a minimum bi-annually</li> <li>• support the development of Aboriginal community-controlled</li> </ul>												

	<p>organisations to deliver services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• agree key priorities in remote Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory for future investments</li><li>• develop and maintain an evaluation framework to measure the impact and outcomes of priorities delivered under future investments</li><li>• establish an appropriate partnership or tripartite agreement to inform future investments, that implements the Priority Reforms under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.</li></ul>
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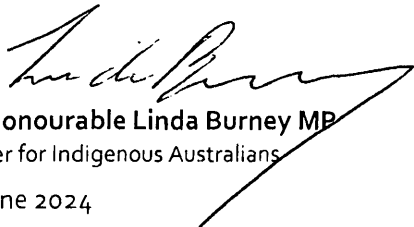
**Table 2: Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary**

Output	Performance milestones Reporting period: 1 January - 31 December 2024	Report due	Payment
<b>Remote Family Support Services</b>			
Casework service delivery	Deliver casework services in at least 23 communities that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• culturally responsive, tailored, holistic, coordinated casework services</li> <li>• referrals to other appropriate services</li> <li>• family case plans developed with agreed goals.</li> </ul> To demonstrate achievement, report must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A list of communities where services were delivered.</li> <li>• Where applicable, data from the Reporting section below.</li> </ul>	1 May 2025	\$3,557,727
Training and professional development	Ensure 100 per cent of staff in casework services participate in training and professional development in the reporting period.                     To demonstrate achievement, report must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of people employed under the casework services for Northern Territory Government run services, broken down by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal.</li> <li>• The number of staff who have undertaken training and professional development</li> <li>• An outline of training and professional development undertaken by staff, including any Certificate or Diploma courses commenced and/or completed.</li> <li>• Where applicable, data from the Reporting section below.</li> </ul>	1 May 2025	\$889,432
<b>Crisis Response Services (Women's Safe Houses)</b>			
Crisis response service delivery	Ensure women's safe houses are operating in at least 19 remote communities and are accessible 24x7, 365 days a year, including access to safe houses in Darwin and Alice Springs for women and children travelling from remote communities, and encourage clients to develop safety plans.                     To demonstrate achievement, report must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The total number of remote safe houses that are accessible 24x7, 365 days a year, by location.</li> <li>• The number of attendances and bed nights over the reporting period.</li> <li>• The number of safety plans commenced or updated in the reporting period.</li> <li>• The number of clients who did not commence or update a safety plan, the reasons why safety plans were not commenced or updated and the total numbers against the reasons.</li> <li>• Where applicable, data from the Reporting section below.</li> </ul>	1 May 2025	\$4,715,427

Aboriginal employment	<p>Ensure 100 per cent of staff who are employed on an ongoing basis in women's safe houses in remote communities run by the NT Government are local Aboriginal community members.</p> <p>To demonstrate achievement, report must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The total number of staff employed, broken down by role (i.e. women's safe house or casework services), employment status (i.e. ongoing/non-ongoing) and Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal for the 12 NT Government-run services.</li> <li>• Where applicable, data from the Reporting section below.</li> </ul>	1 May 2025	\$589,822
Training and professional development	<p>Ensure 100 per cent of staff in crisis response services participate in training and professional development in the last reporting period.</p> <p>To demonstrate achievement, report must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of people employed under crisis response services for NT Government run services, broken down by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal</li> <li>• The number of staff who have undertaken training and professional development</li> <li>• An outline of training and professional development undertaken by staff, including any Certificate or Diploma courses commenced and/or completed.</li> <li>• Where applicable, data from the Reporting section below.</li> </ul>	1 May 2025	\$589,822
Place-based planning	<p>Ensure multi-agency community and child safety groups or existing family wellbeing and safety groups are operating in at least 23 communities.</p> <p>To demonstrate achievement, report must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of multi-agency community and child safety meetings convened in each of the communities.</li> <li>• The number of families discussed at multi-agency community and child safety meetings</li> <li>• The number of other family wellbeing and safety related coordination meetings convened every month in each of the communities.</li> </ul>	1 May 2025	nil
Reporting	<p>Provide data to the Commonwealth on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number and percentage of children reunified with their families at the NT level and regional breakdown.</li> <li>• The number and percentage of foster and kinship care placements in the remote community.</li> <li>• The number of family support services provided and the number of children who are the recipients of family support services.</li> <li>• The number of referrals to other services at an NT level.</li> </ul> <p><b>Women's safe houses that are managed by non-government organisations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A breakdown of the number of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal staff employed in the safe houses run by non-government organisations.</li> <li>• The number of staff who have undertaken training and professional development</li> <li>• An outline of training and professional development undertaken by staff, including any Certificate or Diploma courses commenced and/or completed.</li> </ul>	1 May 2025	nil

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

**Signed** for and on behalf of the Commonwealth  
of Australia by



The Honourable Linda Burney MP  
Minister for Indigenous Australians  
26 June 2024

**Signed** for and on behalf of the  
Northern Territory by



The Honourable Eva Lawler MLA  
Chief Minister  
28 June 2024