

Specialised and trauma-informed legal services for victim-survivors of sexual assault

FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT – AFFORDABLE HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND OTHER

Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule	
Parties	Commonwealth Northern Territory
Duration	This Schedule is expected to expire on 30 June 2028 or on completion of final reporting.
Purpose	<p>This Schedule will pilot the delivery of legal and non-legal services to victims and survivors of sexual violence to support their safe and informed participation in the justice system, guided by their own goals in their journey of recovery (the pilot).</p> <p>Through the pilot, the Northern Territory will test a coordinated legal and non-legal service delivery model that is trauma-informed, victim- and survivor-centric, culturally safe, accessible and integrated with existing services. This includes trialling a Justice System Navigator function and supporting access to restorative justice pathways, as agreed in this Schedule at Attachment A.</p> <p>The pilot will also contribute towards the development of an evidence base about the use and impact of coordinated legal and non-legal services for victims and survivors to support future policy development and service delivery, and build sector capacity.</p>
Interpretation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Justice System Navigator supports victims and survivors of sexual violence to access their chosen justice pathway; and for those who choose to pursue a criminal justice pathway, a justice system navigator is a trained support person who can advocate and provide support in initial and ongoing interactions with police, prosecutors, the court and related systems as the victim and survivor engages with the justice system. 2. Restorative justice is an alternative to traditional criminal justice responses that enables people who have been affected by a crime, including the person responsible, to communicate about the damage that has been caused and work together to repair it.
Estimated financial contributions	The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to the Northern Territory of \$2.353 m in respect of this Schedule.

	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5" style="text-align: left;">Table 1</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">(\$ million)</th> <th style="text-align: center;">2025- 26</th> <th style="text-align: center;">2026-27</th> <th style="text-align: center;">2027-28</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Estimated total budget</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.575</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.177</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.601</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2.353</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Less estimated National Partnership Payments</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.575</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.177</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.601</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2.353</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Northern Territory</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.575</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.177</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.601</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2.353</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance of non-Commonwealth</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Table 1					(\$ million)	2025- 26	2026-27	2027-28	Total	Estimated total budget	0.575	1.177	0.601	2.353	<i>Less estimated National Partnership Payments</i>	0.575	1.177	0.601	2.353	- Northern Territory	0.575	1.177	0.601	2.353	Balance of non-Commonwealth	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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<p>Additional terms</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Northern Territory will ensure legal assistance service data is collected and reported consistent with the <i>National Legal Assistance Data Standards Manual</i>. 2. The Commonwealth, the Northern Territory and relevant legal assistance and non-legal service providers will participate in monitoring and evaluation activities. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Northern Territory will provide regular performance reports in accordance with Table 2 and Attachment B. b. The Commonwealth will conduct, and the Northern Territory and relevant legal assistance and non-legal service providers will participate, in an evaluation of the pilot over the course of its duration concluding in 2027-28. Participation will include supporting engagement between service recipients and evaluators and provision of service data. c. The Commonwealth will establish an evaluation steering committee, comprising representatives from each State and Territory, to oversee monitoring and evaluation activities. 3. The Parties note that legal and non-legal services delivered through funding provided under this Schedule may extend beyond the expiration of this Schedule. 																														

Table 2: Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary

Output	Performance milestones	Report due	Payment
Finalise the legal service delivery model	Commonwealth acceptance of a project plan outlining the legal service delivery model and its implementation	24 April 2026	\$0.575 m
Delivery of legal and non-legal services to victims and survivors of sexual violence	Commonwealth acceptance of a performance report against the items listed at Attachment B for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026	30 September 2026	\$1.177 m
	Commonwealth acceptance of a performance report against the items listed at Attachment B for the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027	30 September 2027	\$0.601 m
	Commonwealth acceptance of a performance report against the items listed at Attachment B for the period 1 July 2027 to 31 December 2027	31 March 2028	Nil

Notes: The Commonwealth may provide templates for the states and territories to use for the project plan and performance reports required in Table 2 of this Schedule. If provided, the project plan and performance reports are to be completed in accordance with these templates.

Performance reports should be provided on the report due date or the next business day.

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

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



The Honourable Michelle Rowland MP
Attorney-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

2 March 2026

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



The Honourable Marie-Claire Boothby MLA
Attorney-General of the State of Northern Territory

[Day] [Month] [Year] 30 MAR 2026

Attachment A –Service delivery models

The Northern Territory will pilot a coordinated legal and non-legal service delivery model that is trauma-informed, victim- and survivor-centric, culturally safe, accessible and integrated with existing services. This includes trialing a Justice System Navigator function and supporting access to restorative justice pathways, as outlined below.

State	Service providers	Service delivery models
Northern Territory	Top End Women's Legal Service Ruby Gaea Darwin Centre Against Sexual Violence Aboriginal Resource and Development Services	To provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated legal services to women and child victims and survivors of sexual assault with fully integrated, wrap-around support, with a focus on advice on legal options and support through critical stages of the justice process. • Justice system navigation services to support increased access to information at the early stages of recovery. • Restorative justice services through a Yolŋu-led language mediation and peacemaking restorative justice practice on Country for Yolŋu clients in the Top Ends and East Arnhem Regions

Attachment B – Minimum performance reporting requirements

The reporting requirements in this attachment are the minimum performance reporting requirements. Changes may be made by agreement between the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Senior Officials (for example, the inclusion of jurisdiction-specific reporting requirements).

Information to be provided for each reporting period

General service delivery information

A statement about the operation of the service delivery model, including:

- the general utilisation, impact and effectiveness of the service
- the operation of the justice system navigation component of services
- the operation of the restorative justice pathways component
- how the service is operating in a trauma-informed, victim- and survivor-centric, culturally safe, and accessible manner (including for staff, clients and the community)
- collaborative arrangements with legal and non-legal support service providers, and
- referrals made (and to what type of organisations).

A minimum of three deidentified case studies, which should include at least one example each of:

- core legal service delivery
- justice system navigation
- services in relation to access to restorative justice pathways (where applicable).

Legal assistance and non-legal service and client data

The number and percentage of legal assistance and non-legal services delivered, disaggregated by service type, primary law type (or law type) (where applicable), and problem type (where collected).

The total number of clients who received assistance broken down into the following groups:

- women
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- children and young people (up to 24 years)
- older people (aged over 65 years or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged over 50 years)
- people with disability
- people who are culturally and linguistically diverse¹
- people residing in rural or remote areas
- people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual or with other diverse identities (LGBTQIA+) (where recorded)
- people in custody (where 'in custody status' is recorded), and
- people who are employed in sex work (where recorded).

Financial information

Breakdown of funding allocated to:

- the service providers to deliver services
- The Northern Territory for program administration.

¹ Defined in the National Legal Assistance Data Standards Manual as "Those whose main language spoken at home is not English or require an interpreter/translator. It does not include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as this is collected in a separate data category."