

A safer Territory

Fact sheet

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Budget 2023 invests \$1.1 billion in public order and safety and a record \$721 million in social protection to deliver a range of initiatives to build safer, fairer and more resilient communities.

Investing in frontline public safety resources and infrastructure

Budget 2023 supports frontline staff by providing more resources, including a record police budget, and better facilities, including:

- \$19 million to construct a police complex in Peppimenarti
- \$8.1 million, in addition to \$3.4 million already committed under the Barkly Regional Deal, to construct a new police watch house in Tennant Creek
- \$13.7 million in 2023-24 for repairs and maintenance to improve Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services (NTPFES) facilities across the Territory
- \$5 million ongoing to recruit additional firefighters and implement a relief roster
- \$4.6 million over two years from 2023-24 and \$4.7 million ongoing from 2025-26 to support a modern Police Air Wing service with four aircraft
- \$3 million ongoing to support the wellbeing of NTPFES workers and their families



- \$2.3 million to convert the old Palmerston Fire Station into a training centre.

The Territory Government has also committed to purchase two new 35-metre firefighting appliances for the Darwin and Alice Springs emergency response areas, at an estimated cost of \$4.2 million.

Budget 2023 also includes significant investment to address antisocial behaviour including:

- \$7.7 million to coordinate and deliver services around Darwin and Palmerston, including private security patrols, additional transit safety officers and security personnel on selected bus routes
- \$4.8 million to support the Office of the Central Australian Regional Controller (OCARC) as part of a joint Commonwealth and Territory effort to address crime and antisocial behaviour in Alice Springs. OCARC will play a key role in the management of the Commonwealth's \$298 million commitment to Central Australia to improve community safety, tackle alcohol-related harm and provide more opportunities for young people.

Preventing domestic, family and sexual violence

The Territory Government continues its commitment to deliver generational change and safer communities for women and children by investing an additional \$20 million over two years from 2023-24 to reduce domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV).

The additional investment supports initiatives aimed at preventing DFSV, including reforms in health, justice and policing, in addition to behavioural change support for people who use violence, as well as initiatives to reduce the impacts of violence on victim survivors, including children.

The reforms build on government's existing DFSV investment of around \$71 million since 2017-18.

Implementing the Aboriginal Justice Agreement

The Territory Government is committed to improving justice outcomes for Aboriginal Territorians through the Aboriginal Justice Agreement. Budget 2023 continues to provide funding of \$13 million over four years to support implementation of the agreement, and provides an extra \$38.8 million over three years from 2023-24 including:

- \$23.7 million to support mandatory sentencing reforms, including the design and delivery of new programs to break the cycle of offending
- \$15.1 million to expand alternative to custody facilities in Alice Springs and Groote Eylandt, and establish community courts and law and justice groups in six communities over two years.

Resourcing correctional services

Budget 2023 continues to ensure the Territory's correctional facilities are equipped to deliver safe, secure and humane custodial services, including:

- \$95 million additional funding over four years to strengthen the corrections budget
- \$17 million for rapid modular cell accommodation at the Alice Springs Correctional Centre and design of new modular options for Darwin Correctional Centre

Reducing prisoner remand numbers

Budget 2023 continues to support measures to reduce the remand prisoner population, including funding of \$13.9 million over four years from 2022-23 to continue supported bail accommodation trials in Darwin and Alice Springs. The trials provide safe and secure accommodation services for people who experience issues with housing or homelessness as an alternative to being remanded in custody. The funding also includes additional probation and parole officers in courts to improve bail assessment processing times.

Addressing demand pressures

The Territory Government is providing an additional \$12.3 million over four years to meet increased demand for justice services, including:

- \$5 million for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
- \$3.8 million for the NT Legal Aid Commission
- \$2 million for an additional local court judge and support staff
- \$1.5 million to support the Parole Board.

Youth detention

The Territory Government is providing funding to implement a new model of care for youth detention, supporting young people to receive the specialised care and services they need to build confidence and capability to make safe, responsible decisions that reduce the likelihood of reoffending and lead to successful adult lives.

Budget 2023 provides \$24.2 million over three years from 2022-23 and \$10 million ongoing from 2025-26 to implement the new model and to support youth justice reform, including funding for:

- youth justice officers
- trauma-informed, rehabilitative care for young people in detention
- additional clinical staff and enhanced youth detention programs
- interim youth detention arrangements while refurbishments to the Alice Springs Youth Justice Centre are finalised.