

RESTORING TRUST

Territorians deserve a government they can trust. Smart Governments are open, transparent and accountable. Good governments deliver on their commitments and support the independent oversight of their decisions and actions to protect the public interest.

Anti-corruption watch dog

Restoring trust and integrity is a key commitment of government. The establishment of an Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) provides an important body to protect the public interest.

ICAC will have extensive powers to search, seize, and compel evidence. It can:

- inspect financial records of banks and other financial institutions without a warrant
- require a person to attend at a location, answer questions, and to produce documents or other things
- enter and search public premises without a warrant
- enter and search private premises if a warrant is granted
- seize and retain evidence located during searches
- issue directions to public bodies to do or refrain from doing something in order to avoid obstructing an investigation, or to protect a whistleblower.

The ICAC will also work to prevent corruption by educating individuals, organisations and public bodies on proper process, particularly on strong new whistleblower protections

Budget 2018 provides \$3 million for the establishment and operation of the ICAC.

Independent Electoral Commission

Delivering independent electoral services that are transparent and fair for voters and candidates is key for achieving a more open and accountable government.

The Budget 2018 invests an additional \$350 000 to support the operations of the Northern Territory Electoral Commission to run elections, bringing total funding for the independent commission to \$2.51 million in 2018-19.

The Ombudsman

The Ombudsman's Office plays a key role in ensuring government remains accountable for administrative actions and conduct.

Budget 2018 provides \$2.29 million to support the Ombudsman's Office to investigate and resolve complaints about Northern Territory Government agencies, local government councils and police conduct.

Health Complaints Commission

Territorians deserve quality health services that meet their needs.

Budget 2018 invests \$1.12 million for the Health and Community Services Complaints Commission to provide a commission to protect people as they move through the health system.

The independent commission provides assistance to the users and providers of health services, and enables Territorians to make complaints and recommendations for improvements in health, disability and aged care services.

Inquiry into political donations

The Political Donations Inquiry, established by government in December 2016, delivers an open approach to political donations and critical transparency for the Territory.

Fact Sheet

Budget 2018 provides funding to support the Territory Government's inquiry which will report on options for reforms of political funding and donations in the Territory and restore Territorians' confidence in government.

Auditor-General

Budget 2018 provides \$5.17 million for the operations of the Auditor general and her Office.

The Auditor General provides information to the Parliament to assist its review of the performance of the Executive Government and the public sector entities which administer its financial management and performance management directives.

Responding to the royal commission

The government's response to the findings and recommendations of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory supports a coordinated effort to make effective, meaningful and generational change to our youth justice and child protection systems.

The Budget 2018 provides \$229.6 million over five years to reform the Territory's child protection and youth justice system in response to the Royal Commission.

Open data policy

The Territory Government will maintain transparency and restore trust and integrity in government by improving access to data.

Non-sensitive information and data gathered and held by government is a valuable resource for the public, business and research sectors. Open access to this data has the potential to generate opportunities for innovation and economic development.

The Territory Government supports the development of an open data policy and is working to improve digital innovation and promote transparency by making government data more accessible.

Protecting the environment

The Territory's unique environment makes the Territory a great place to live and visit, and should be protected for future generations to enjoy. Budget 2018 provides:

- \$1.87 million to support water reform, allowing for a more sustainable and accountable allocation system as well as allowing water licences to be processed in a timely and transparent manner
- \$250 000 for the second year for the Arid Lands Environment Centre, Environmental Defenders Office and Environment Centre of the Northern Territory to employ policy officers to proactively engage with government policy committees, community liaison, development and innovation.

Budget 2018 will provide \$1 million ongoing to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to expand its environmental assessment and approval teams to advise on environmental impact assessments, authorisations and regulation of Major Projects in the Northern Territory.

Local decision making

We are determined to ensure local communities are supported and empowered to drive their own solutions for government service delivery. In turn this will deliver improved health and wellbeing, economic and cultural outcomes. As part of Budget 2018 we will:

- \$28.75 million to continue supporting local government bodies to deliver services through the Northern Territory operational subsidy
- \$3 million to deliver the Local Decision Making agenda across the Territory, establishing a senior, direct dialogue with stakeholders and Aboriginal communities, and providing high-level coordination in support of community aspirations
- \$1 million to establish a grant fund to develop the capacity of community-controlled Aboriginal organisations to share in the delivery of government services.