

BRIGHTER FUTURE

Budget 2018 invests for a brighter future, providing Territorians with the best possible opportunities in life. Through significant investments in early childhood, education, health and housing, together with Local Decision Making in communities, we can support long-term economic and social change – for all Territorians.

Early childhood development

We are placing children at the heart of government by strengthening families, building vibrant resilient communities and improving the health, wellbeing and educational outcomes of children and young people.

The government's 10-year Early Childhood Development Plan provides a \$35.6 million investment over four years, starting with \$5.6 million in 2018-19 increasing to \$10 million from 2019-20. The plan includes:

- expanding the Healthy Under 5 Kids Partnering with Families Program, a child and family health program, to Tennant Creek, Katherine, Nhulunbuy and Central Australian remote clinics
- establishing four additional Hearing Health Partnership locations integrated with Families as First Teachers sites to promote good ear health hygiene, language and learning behaviours
- expanding the Families as First Teachers initiative to deliver a daily early childhood development, learning and family support program for children aged zero to four and their families in seven new sites in 2018-19, expanding to 14 sites in 2019-20
- promoting accountable leadership by establishing an independent Ministerial Advisory Council for Children and Young People, with Aboriginal membership of at least 50 per cent
- establishing a network of 17 child and family centres by 2022-23, including 11 new centres over the next five years

- delivering targeted early childhood services through the child and family centres.

Fixing the broken youth justice system

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.

Education and training

Investing in children and their education creates a better future for all Territorians. The government is investing \$1.23 billion in education and training across the Territory including:

- \$506 million to deliver the best possible education for our students by ensuring schools are properly resourced
- \$50.5 million to improve the outcomes of Aboriginal students through the Indigenous Education Strategy, aimed at delivering clear and effective programs that are proven to make a difference for Aboriginal students
- \$39.15 million over four years to implement a new school resourcing model that provides schools with fairer and clearer funding and increased support, in response to the recommendations from the independent review of global school budgets

Fact Sheet

- \$8 million continue early intervention to tackle challenging behaviours, and support students with additional needs and mental health issues to maximise their development and learning
- \$7 million to provide nationally accredited vocational education and training (VET) and support for employment pathways in schools to provide skills and knowledge for future career paths
- \$14.1 million Building Better Schools initiative providing a further 45 schools \$300 000 each to refurbish and upgrade their facilities under round 2 of the government's program
- \$2.1 million to continue to improve educational services for young people in detention to enhance their prospects for engagement and rehabilitation.
- \$15.5 million to provide assessment, withdrawal and specialised alcohol treatment services to assist people with alcohol misuse issues and dependence, associated with the reintroduction of the Banned Drinker Register
- \$1.2 million to expand the range of maternity services (excluding birthing) from the commencement of Palmerston Regional Hospital, to enable effective and clinically safe responses to complications associated with birthing
- \$2 million to support the delivery of the Sustained Nurse Home Visiting for Vulnerable Families program to create safe and supportive environments for children.

Healthy Territorians

Effective and accessible health services are important for all Territorians. The Territory Government will invest a total of \$1.56 billion in 2018 to continue to provide safe, high quality and sustainable health services to meet Territorians' current and projected future needs through:

- \$22.8 million to deliver the new Palmerston Regional Hospital to provide a modern and contemporary health facility with range of specialised health care services
- \$35.32 million over five years from 2018-19 to expand access to cancer services by establishing the Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scanner service, cyclotron and radiopharmacy facility, and expanded chemotherapy and related services

Childcare subsidy

Budget 2018 also continues the early childhood services subsidy for long day care, three-year old kindergarten and family day care services to assist parents and families with child care costs (\$6 million).

The early childhood services subsidy is paid directly to child care providers to help with the cost of providing a service and reduce the cost of child care for parents.

The subsidy has two flat rates:

- \$30 per equivalent full-time place, per week for children under two years of age
- \$22 per equivalent full-time place, per week for children two to five years of age.

The following regulated services are eligible to receive the subsidy:

- long day care
- family day care
- three-year-old kindergarten.