

## MORE PEOPLE

The Territory Government has a plan for boosting our population. More people mean more jobs, stronger growth and services for Territorians.

### Growing the Territory's population

Budget 2018 provides \$7.9 million over four years for the Territory Government's Population Strategy and to complement the Northern Territory EDF. Key components include:

- developing the Territory Alumni Strategy to engage with people who have left the Territory through news and marketing to encourage their return to the Territory, as well as communicating opportunities for their friends and relatives to travel here
- attracting and retaining early career workers as well as middle and late career workers, and retaining Territory retirees
- attracting international skilled migrants and students by marketing the Territory in key international markets, enhancing the skills recognition program and developing comprehensive welcome packages to assist their integration into our community
- targeting seasonal residents, short-term workers and visitors to become longer term Territory residents.

To better understand regional population dynamics and help make regional towns more attractive places to live, work and play, the Territory Government will also:

- support the Regional Australia Institute to assess drivers of regional population, economic development and transition in regional locations
- conduct ongoing research with Charles Darwin University (CDU) into the drivers and attitudes of population change, including what attracts and keeps people living in Darwin and regional locations

- establish a web portal and mobile application to market opportunities for professional networks, strengthening business connections and sharing information about employment opportunities.

### Local jobs first

We believe in encouraging Territory businesses to employ people who live here, rather than fly-in fly-out (FIFO) workers. We will:

- introduce a two-year payroll tax cut for Territory businesses that either:
  - employ a new employee who lives and works in the Territory, increasing the number of Territory employees, or
  - replace an existing employee who was not previously resident in the Territory with a person who becomes or is a Territory resident and works in the Territory
- provide a new royalty deduction for the cost of buying, renting or building accommodation in the Territory for employees who live in the Territory
- provide a new royalty deduction for the cost of building infrastructure that provides economic or social benefits to Territory communities near to and affected by a mine's operations
- stop a royalty deduction for FIFO-related travel and ancillary costs for employees who do not live in the Territory.

### The great lifestyle

Enhancing the Territory lifestyle is a major factor in attracting people to live here long term.

Budget 2018 includes lifestyle initiatives such as:

- \$4.5 million to maintain and enhance Territory parks to provide more positive experiences
- \$3 million over two years from 2017-18 for a Visitor Experience Enhancement Program to improve visitor experiences
- \$1.2 million over two years from 2017-18 to improve visitor experience and safety at Supercars and Red CentreNATS
- \$4 million over two years from 2017-18 for existing and new festivals and events
- \$2 million to establish a Festival Support Program
- \$1.8 million to support arts and cultural organisations to provide unique experiences
- \$1.9 million over two years from 2017-18 to enhance national sports events attraction
- \$11.5 million over five years from 2018-19 to bring two AFL premierships games each year to the Territory, one in Darwin and one in Alice Springs, and deliver programs that increase participation rates of women in AFL and provide grass-root football programs to remote areas.

### A sense of place for our cities and towns

The Territory Government is working to revitalise the Darwin and Alice Springs CBDs. Budget 2018 will help to revitalise our city centres by providing \$66 million, including:

- \$19.8 million to rejuvenate the Alice Springs town centre including an adventure splash park, heat mitigation initiatives and safety and security projects
- \$15.1 million to activate and renew the Darwin CBD through the redevelopment, greening and shading of significant pedestrian connections
- \$31.1 million to construct an underground carpark in State Square
- heat mitigation trials in Cavenagh Street, including a 55 metre vine-covered shade structure and surface treatments
- strategic activation of laneways and small streets, with Austin Lane to be developed first.

Over the next three years the government will:

- redevelop State Square including building a new fine art gallery, public gathering spaces and greening, and demolishing the Chan Building
- relocate the bus terminal
- refurbish the old Reserve Bank building.

Negotiations continue between the Australian Government, Territory Government, City of Darwin and Charles Darwin University for a Darwin City Deal, including a focus on establishing a city campus for Charles Darwin University.

# POPULATION ACTION PLAN 2018-19

