



**Palmerston
Youth Action Plan
2019-2020
Community Plan**

Foreword

Palmerston is one of the fastest growing communities in the Northern Territory characterised by the opportunities it can offer for young people and families.

The Palmerston Youth – Local Action Group recognises the importance of developing local solutions to local challenges and values working together with young people, families and their communities to improve outcomes for young people and ensure communities are inclusive and safe for everyone to grow.

It is our great pleasure to introduce the Palmerston Youth Action Plan developed by the Palmerston Youth - Local Action Group who have worked with young people to identify ways to support positive changes in the region. This group, made up of key stakeholders from the local community, non-government organisations and government agencies, coordinated a comprehensive

consultation with young people that identified strengths of the Palmerston community and actions for improvement.

The Palmerston Youth Action Plan will guide the work to be undertaken over the next two years and will strengthen collaboration and partnerships to deliver the actions outlined in this plan. This work is facilitated through the Regional Youth Services Program that supports coordinated events, services and planning across government and community stakeholders to engage with young people aged 8-17 years.

Community support of, and contribution towards, the key action areas of this plan will ensure its success and the continued collaborative partnerships within the Palmerston community.

Palmerston Youth - Local Action Group

Introduction

Palmerston is the fastest growing region in the Northern Territory, with a large population of young people and families being the key foundation of the community. It is an exciting time in the growth of the Palmerston community with services working together to improve outcomes and opportunities for the community to lead this work and be involved in directing the actions that need to be delivered.

The Palmerston Youth Action Plan has been created to strengthen our commitment to young people and to value their contribution to the region. This plan has involved young people and key stakeholders through the Palmerston Youth – Local Action Group.

The purpose of the Palmerston Youth Action Plan is to guide local decision-making, local responses and actions, and to build partnerships to improve the wellbeing of young people in Palmerston. The Palmerston Youth Action Plan outlines goals and actions that have been identified by young people, the community and key stakeholders through the Palmerston Youth - Local Action Group.

The Palmerston Youth - Local Action Group recognises and values the contribution Palmerston young people make to the community and is committed to listening to their views and supporting their participation.

Vision

All young people in Palmerston are safe, engaged, healthy, educated, valued and contributing members of the community.

(Palmerston Youth – Local Action Group 2018)

Scope

The Palmerston Youth Action Plan is for children and young people aged 8 - 17 living, working, studying or playing in the Palmerston region.

This is the community plan and a more detailed plan can be found on the NT Government's Office of Youth Affairs Website at www.youth.nt.gov.au. The Youth Action Plan is for two years and will be reviewed after 12 months.

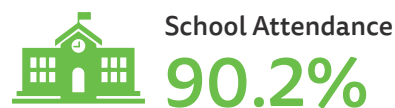
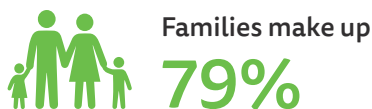
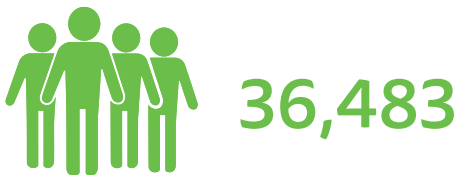
Palmerston... did you know?

Palmerston is a young city with 42% of Palmerston's population aged under 25. Half of Palmerston's population is aged 29 or under, compared to Australia as a whole where half the population is under 37.

Palmerston is a growing city with 22% population growth over 5 years, three times Darwin's growth. Families make up 79% of all households.

Palmerston is comprised of people from diverse backgrounds, ethnicity and cultures. One in eight identify as either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, almost one in 10 speak a language other than English at home and one in 11 were born in a non-English speaking country.

Total population:



Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2016); City of Palmerston Community Plan (2018); Grow Well Live Well State of the Children Report (2016); Department of Education (2018); Department of Tourism, Sport and Culture (2018)

What Young People Told Us

The Palmerston Youth – Local Action Group asked young people in Palmerston for their ideas about how to improve the Palmerston community. This consultation happened over a six-month period and some key things were learnt from this:

- Young people want to be part of the solution and have some great ideas
- It is important to develop ways that young people from diverse backgrounds can be heard and can contribute to the changes outlined in this plan
- Young people valued having support and encouragement from a trusted adult or mentor.

Based on the above, the Palmerston Youth - Local Action Group will continue to ensure there are opportunities for young people to be involved in the actions outlined in this plan.

“We want to be involved. We want to help run things in Palmerston.

Come and talk to us.

We have ideas. Connect with us on social media through schools and services.”

(Youth consultation Palmerston July/August 2018)

A key strength of the Palmerston community is a commitment to working together and building partnerships with others to improve outcomes for the community as a whole.

“Palmerston is well supported with a range of services and programs. The foundations are there: family, support, educational and organisation’s focused on meeting the needs of children and young people.”

(GWLW State of the Children Report 2016)

“A place people want to come; a better reputation.”

“Change adults’ perspectives on youth.”

“Clean public spaces; no bad suburbs; all suburbs safe and strong.”

(Youth consultation Palmerston July/August 2018)



GOAL 1:

Young people are supported to be leaders in their community and have a say in their future

Key actions

- Create a model of youth participation for young people in Palmerston so that:
 - » A range of opportunities for young people with diverse life experiences are created to ensure their voices are heard and they can participate in actions for change.
 - » Forums are delivered where young people, community, services and business can make connections and create partnerships to work together on projects.
- Host a “Youth Participation – Skills and Strategies Forum” for organisations, service providers and businesses to increase their skills to engage young people in meaningful ways.
- Partner with young people and key stakeholders to improve communication platforms and opportunities for consultation and participation in decisions that affect them.

GOAL 2:

Create a safe, inclusive youth space for young people in Palmerston. Provide a range of opportunities for young people to join in activities that are fun and engaging.

Key actions

- Establish a new youth drop in space that delivers activities after school hours and on weekends. This space will also provide overnight emergency accommodation for young people if needed with help to access a range of youth and family support.
- Provide activities during school holidays that are coordinated and funded to engage a diverse range of young people in the Palmerston community.
- Ensure activities available are accessible and are promoted to young people and their families.
- Deliver the Palmerston Youth Festival, that will engage young people in the planning of and delivery of a range of youth activities and family friendly events during the 2019 July school holidays.
- Give opportunities for young people to give feedback about activities and events provided in Palmerston and help shape future activities.
- Provide resources for youth services to support all young people to participate.

Safe places and services for young people to go to get help.”

Make a range of events and activities available to Palmerston Youth that are fun, engaging and enjoyable!

(Youth consultation Palmerston July/August 2018)



GOAL 3:

Develop a 'Palmerston Youth Resource Map' for young people and their families so they know where to get help and access support

Key actions

- Create a services and community map for the Palmerston area that shows what is available for young people in the Palmerston community.
- Involve young people in the promotion of this information to ensure it is easy to access for young people in the Palmerston region. Involve youth representative groups such as Student Voice Positive Choice to lead the development of this resource.

"Safe places and services for young people to go to get help."

(Youth consultation Palmerston July/August 2018)

GOAL 4:

Improve community awareness of trauma and its impact on young people

- Increase community awareness about understanding, identifying and responding to young people and families that have been impacted by trauma.
- Deliver information about training opportunities available to learn about trauma-aware methods of working and supporting young people and families
- Work with young people to develop ways to share information to service providers and community members about support that is helpful to them or their peers who have been impacted by trauma.

GOAL 5:

Improve cultural connectedness throughout the community

- Consult with young people, local Elders, Aboriginal organisations and multicultural groups working in Palmerston about ways to improve the connections to culture in Palmerston.
- Provide opportunities for young people to be creative through a range of platforms ie street art, music, sport and art to share their culture with the community,
- Utilise a range of Palmerston events and celebrations to increase the sharing of local cultures within the community.

"Educate adults about what some young people have to go through"

"Safety for women and girls."

"Adults we can trust."

"Safety at the bus interchange."

"More housing options away from violence."

(Youth consultation Palmerston July/August 2018)



GOAL 6:

Support young people to remain in school and stay engaged in education and training

- Work in partnership to support the new Youth Skills Centre to increase education and training opportunities for young people in Palmerston.
- Identify and advocate for the removal of potential barriers to young people staying engaged in education and training.
- Support initiatives that are working with students to keep them engaged in education, including, Clontarf, Girls Academy, Student Voice, Positive Choice and Connect and Dream with the Bakewell Mob.

GOAL 7:

Promote the good things that young people are doing in Palmerston

- Promote young people and the positive contributions they are making to the Palmerston community
- Give young people the opportunity to share their own stories with adults, the media and through social media platforms.
- Support initiatives like Student Voice Positive Choice to empower students at Palmerston schools to make positive choices, have a strong voice in the community and work together to ensure all young people feel safe, connected and valued.





Acknowledgements

- Northern Territory Government
- City of Palmerston
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- Larrakia Nation
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- Grow Well Live Well
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Get Involved

If you work with young people and can support them in contributing to their community and implementing parts of this plan, contact the Office of Youth Affairs by emailing TF.OYA@nt.gov.au



TERRITORY FAMILIES
territoryfamilies.nt.gov.au