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CABINET DECISION

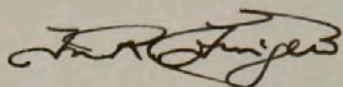
NO. 565

Submission No.: 491

Title: ESTABLISH A YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR
THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Cabinet approved

- (a) the establishment of a Northern Territory Youth Advisory Council;
- (b) the formation of the Youth Advisory Council by organising a number of independent Regional Youth Advisory Councils and allowing them to elect their representatives onto an executive of the Council;
- (c) the Youth Advisory Council to be established with the existing staff for the Office of Youth, Sport and Recreation in the Department of Community Development. The matter of staffing is to be kept under review.



(M.R. FINGER),
Secretary to Cabinet.

19 January 1979

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THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

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Copy No. 1

FOR CABINET

SUBMISSION No. 491

Title:	Establish a Youth Advisory Council for the Northern Territory.												
Cabinet Member	Youth, Sport and Recreation.												
Purpose:	To provide the Minister and the Department with advice on Youth Affairs in the Northern Territory.												
Relation to existing policy:	This compliments existing policy of involving the community.												
Timing/ legislative priority:	The proposals will be introduced following cabinet approval.												
Announcement of decision, tabling, etc.:	Draft Press Release is at attachment B.												
Action required before announcement:	None.												
Staffing implications, numbers and costs, etc.:	<p>An increase of one staff member at A8 level. No compensatory savings can be offered.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Salary</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">17,739</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overheads</td> <td style="text-align: right;">8,869</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">26,608</td> </tr> </table>	Salary	17,739	Overheads	8,869		26,608						
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Total cost:	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;"><u>Meeting Expenses</u></td> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Air Fares</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Accommodation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Incidentals</td> <td style="text-align: right;">500</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 3px double black;">\$ 31,608</td> </tr> </table>	<u>Meeting Expenses</u>		Air Fares	3,000	Accommodation	1,500	Incidentals	500		5,000		\$ 31,608
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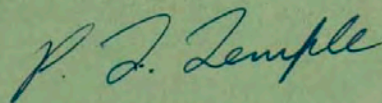
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Comment by
Under Treasurer:

ESTABLISH A YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE
NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Youth Advisory Council is a normal state type activity and this, together with the relatively low cost, suggest the proposal should be accepted for inclusion in the 1979/80 Budget, pending priorities once the level of funding for 1979/80 is known.



P.F. TEMPLE
DEPUTY UNDER TREASURER

Approved/Not Approved

11 January, 1979

Signed:

Date:

Comment by
Public Service
Commissioner:

Approved/Not Approved

Signed:

Date:

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YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Comment by
Director of
Finance :

Approved/Not Approved

Signed :

Date :

Comment by
Public Service
Commissioner :

No objections to the introduction of a N.T. Youth
Advisory Council.

Level of support position (A7) ~~is~~ appears reasonable.

Department advises that of 11 positions at the A7 level
only 3 are currently staffed. Under the circumstances
would consider Department could immediately re-deploy
a position without any need for establishment variation.

~~Approved/Not Approved~~

G. Gaskill

G. Gaskill for Public Service Commissioner.

Signed :

Date :

12-1-79

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1. THE ISSUE

To establish a Northern Territory Youth Advisory Council to provide the Minister of Youth, Sport and Recreation and the Department of Community Development with advice on Youth Affairs in the Northern Territory.

2. BACKGROUND

The appointment of the Minister of Youth, Sport and Recreation and the creation of the Office of Youth, Sport and Recreation in the Department of Community Development has provided the Northern Territory Government with the means to come to grips with the long neglected area of the Northern Territory - its Youth.

3. CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUES

The immediate possibility for the Government is the establishment of a Youth Council to advise the Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation and the Department of Community Development on Youth Affairs in the Northern Territory through:-

- (a) On-going participation and consultation of young people.
- (b) Direct participation of young people in the decisions and policies of Government.
- (c) Consideration of specific youth issues as referred to the Youth Council by the Minister, the Department of Community Development or Members of the Council.

4. METHODS

A Youth Council can be formed in three ways.

- (1) By making ministerial appointments of select representatives of existing youth organisations to form the councils.

This method has the advantage of obtaining the most mature judgement on youth affairs and brings together a wide range of expertise of people working in the youth field. It usually brings together the executives of the major youth organisations. This structure fails to tap the grass roots opinion of young people in the community.

This is similar to the structure of the Youth Council of Victoria, although Victorian delegates are not appointed by the Minister.

- (2) Inviting representatives of existing youth organisations to nominate their own representatives to a Youth Council.

An age limit can be placed on these nominees thus ensuring young people are nominated. However this method would only attract the young people who are already involved in organisations in the Territory. It raises the difficulty of defining a Youth Organisation so that eligibility can be determined. The cost of all representatives would have to fall on the nominating organisation otherwise costs to the Government would be astronomical, this would place some representatives at a disadvantage to others.

This is similar to the structures of the National Youth Council of Australia.

- (3) By organising a number of independent Regional Youth Advisory Councils and allowing them to elect their representatives onto an executive of the Council. This method will provide our best chance of achieving maximum participation of youth. Schematic diagram is at attachment A.

The regional councils can be included as part of the Northern Territory Youth Council with their elected representatives forming the executive of the Northern Territory Youth Council.

The regional councils can comprise representatives of youth and sporting organisations, individual young people, representatives of secondary schools, etc. The size of these councils can remain flexible and in theory could range from six to sixty depending on the size of the centre and the interest generated. All members should be under 25 years of age and some preference should be given to making sure that the secondary school age group is adequately represented.

Each regional advisory council would need to have a convenor or facilitator who has some experience or qualification in youth work. It is likely that this person could be recruited from the community as a volunteer leader. It would be the responsibility of the Regional Officer for Youth, Sport and Recreation or the Regional Officer of the Department of Community Development with the help of the office of Youth, Sport and Recreation, to recruit the facilitator in each area.

It may also be an advantage in most areas to form a group of volunteer experts who will be prepared to offer their services as a resource pool to the youth councils as required.

This method will be the most difficult one to introduce, but it will provide a consultative network of young people throughout the Territory. It may well recruit young people into Regional Youth Councils not otherwise involved in youth affairs. This is the preferred method.

5. BENEFIT TO THE NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

The preferred method will provide the Government with:-

- (i) Advice from young people at the grass roots level and from a wide geographic area.
- (ii) Regional priorities in Youth Affairs set by the young people themselves.

- (iii) A Northern Territory Youth Council comprising young people active in Youth Affairs.
- (iv) Specific local recommendations which may be acted upon at the local level.

6. BENEFIT TO THE NORTHERN TERRITORY YOUTH

It will provide young people with the opportunity for:-

- (a) Training in the conduct of meetings and democratic processes.
- (b) Educational development in community affairs.
- (c) Feelings of self worth as they wrestle with real problems of a community.
- (d) Feeling of belonging as they take part in the development of the Northern Territory.

7. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

Regional councils could meet monthly or at the convenience of the young people concerned.

The Executive of the Northern Territory Youth Council would meet twice per year. At different major centres as deemed appropriate.

8. COSTS

It is expected that the costs of regional councils would be very low, e.g. light refreshments on occasions. Administrative back-up and secretarial service would be provided by the Department.

The Executive Meetings of the council would involve air fares and accommodation of the representatives and of the organising officer from the office of Youth, Sport and Recreation. Estimated cost \$5000 per annum.

9. STAFFING

The work-load in organising, developing and servicing this comprehensive Youth Council is likely to involve an officer of the Office of Youth, Sport and Recreation full time.

In view of the nature of the duties and the experience required of the occupant it is considered that the classification of the position should be Administrative Class A8.

This is a new initiative which cannot be met from the present resources of the Department. No compensatory savings can be offered.

10. CONSIDERATION OF OTHER ISSUES

Youth Councils in other States of Australia have often met with a lack of real response from youth because of three factors.

1. A feature of present day youth is that they do not wish to become part of bureaucratic institutions. They are frequently 'non joiners'.
2. The structure of the Youth Council has prevented grass roots involvement.
3. By giving them broad charters requiring the solving of complex problems without sufficient back-up resources.

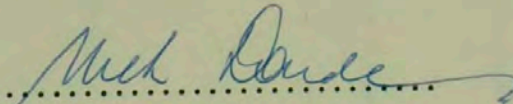
11. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Cabinet:-

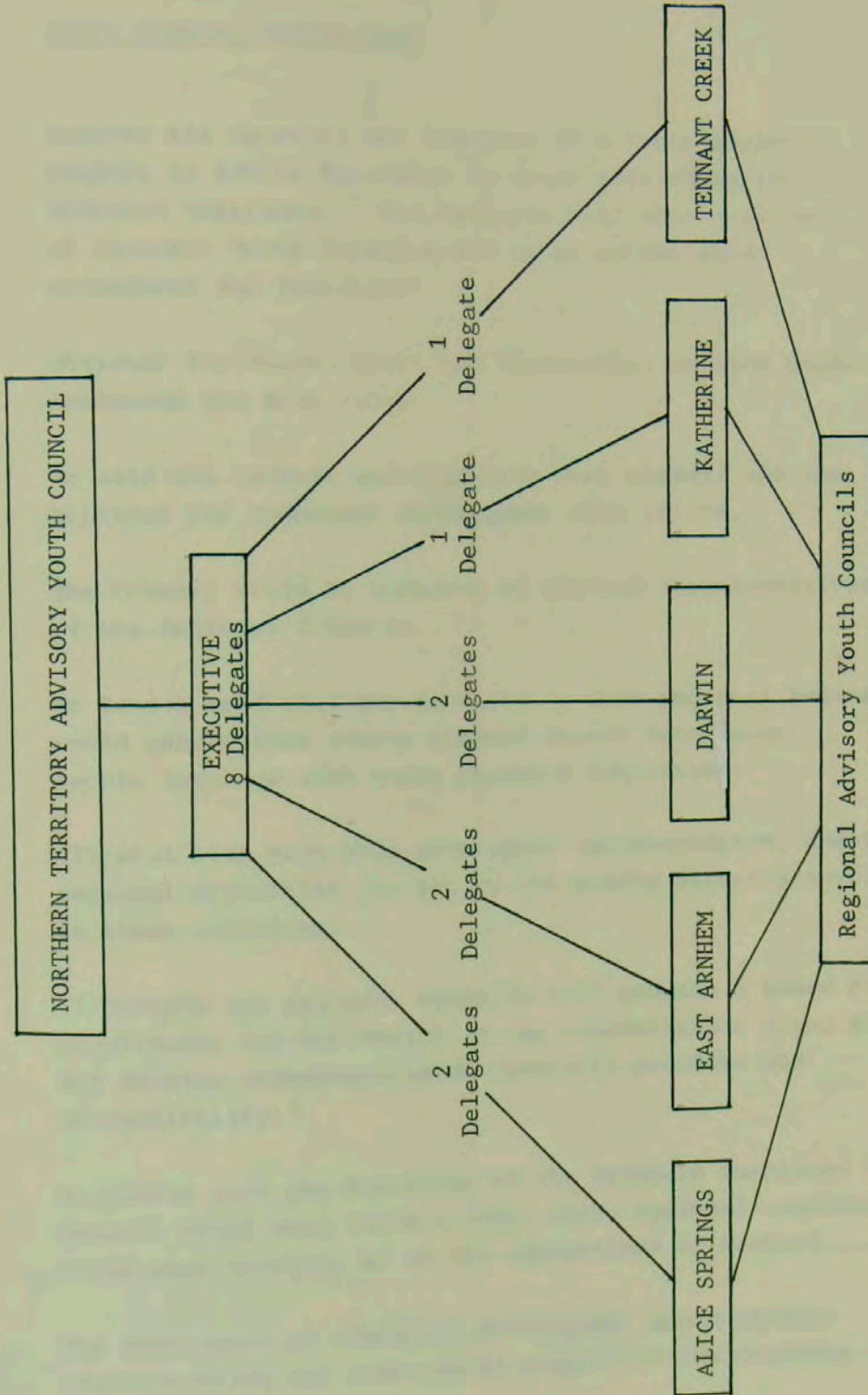
1. Approve the establishment of a Northern Territory Youth Advisory Council.
2. Approve the formation of the Youth Advisory Council by organising a number of independent Regional Youth Advisory Councils and allowing them to elect their representatives onto an executive of the Council. (Method 3)
3. Approve the creation of a new position of Administrative Class A8 in the Office of Youth, Sport and Recreation, Department of Community Development, without offering compensatory savings.

15.1.79

.....
Date

.....


NICK DONDAS



NEWS RELEASE

YOUTH COUNCIL ESTABLISHED

Cabinet has approved the creation of a Youth Advisory Council to advise Ministers on youth affairs in the Northern Territory. The decision will mean a series of Regional Youth Councils are to be established throughout the Territory.

Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation, Mr Nick Dondas, announced the move today.

He said the Council would provide both himself and the Minister for Community Development with advice.

The Council would be composed of elected representatives of the Regional Councils.

Mr Dondas said that the decision to form regional bodies would ensure that advice stemmed direct from young people involved with young people's activities.

"It will also mean wide geographic representation, and that regional priorities are set by the people directly involved in these activities.

"I believe the regional councils will provide a sense of involvement and motivation in the community for young people, and develop understanding of community problems and responsibility."

Mr Dondas said the Executive of the Northern Territory Youth Council would meet twice a year, while regional councils would meet monthly, or at the convenience of members.

The Department of Community Development would provide administrative and secretarial support to the councils.

A full time appointment to the Office of Youth, Sport and Recreation would be made to enable organisation of the Council and its regional bodies.