

# Northern Territory Men's Places Policy and Program

# Background

The Northern Territory Gender Equality Action Plan 2022-25 (Action Plan) aims to support initiatives, processes and practices that drive equality for women, men and people with diverse gender identities, and to create an inclusive, safe and thriving Territory. A key focus of the Action Plan is to improve the lives of Territory men.

The Men's Places Policy and Program aims to provide guidance to program delivery in men's places and make available grants and networking opportunities with the end goal of enhancing life outcomes for Territory men.

## Purpose

The Men's Places Policy aims to:

- support the establishment and delivery of programs and activities through men's places including Men's Sheds, men's groups, men's healing programs, and similar entities in the Northern Territory
- support the establishment of a Men's Places Network (the Network) so that men's places and interested parties are able to connect through regular updates, sharing of information and ideas, successes, learnings and resources
- guide the delivery of a Men's Places Grants Program.

## Principles

The following principles will underpin the Northern Territory Men's Places Policy:

1. men's activities and programs are community-led and community developed and designed to meet the needs of the community
2. social connections, peer support, education and skills development and positive health and wellbeing will be supported through men's activities and programs
3. positive male role models and the positive contributions men can make to their community and for their families will be promoted through men's activities and programs.

## Scope

This Policy relates to any programs and activities undertaken at men's places in the Northern Territory that support the five key focus areas of the Northern Territory Gender Equality Action Plan 2022-2025: community engagement; health and wellbeing; safety; economic security; and leadership and participation.

Programs and activities may include information sessions, skills development, health and wellbeing programs, education and peer-to-peer support programs.

# Policy Statement

Men's places can play an important role in improving the lives of Territory men and creating a more inclusive, safer and thriving Territory.

Men's places can focus on delivering activities and programs that provide a holistic approach to supporting men across the five focus areas of the Action Plan: community engagement; health and wellbeing; safety; economic security; and leadership and participation. To do this, Men's places may focus on delivering some of the activities outlined below and may connect with local and visiting services.

## Community Engagement

Men's places can support culturally appropriate engagement of men through:

- encouragement of participation and the involvement of men in men's places in the Northern Territory

- contributing to an evidence-base on how to improve the lives of Northern Territory men
- creating opportunities for social connections for men in their communities
- providing a place of non-judgement, for men's business and for men to access services.

## Health and Wellbeing

Men's places may support the health and wellbeing of men by:

- providing access to health and wellbeing information and encouraging health seeking and positive self-care
- creating opportunities for greater social connection and positive mental health outcomes
- promoting active and healthy lifestyle role models and activities.

## Safety

Men's places may support the safety of communities by:

- promoting respectful relationships and challenging gender behaviours that can cause harm
- promoting positive male role models, positive fathering and grandfathering, and celebrating the positive impact that men can have on their families and communities
- promoting violence prevention messaging and activities in programs.

## Economic Security

Men's places may support improved economic security by:

- providing men with the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge, financial literacy and resilience
- promoting more equal sharing of unpaid and caring responsibilities between genders.

## Leadership and Participation

Men's places may support leadership and participation in local communities by:

- encouraging civic engagement, volunteering and participation in community activities
- valuing the diversity that each man brings and encourage leadership development and opportunity.



# Men's Places Network

The Office of Gender Equity and Diversity within the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities, will work with men's places to establish a Men's Places Network. This will assist in connecting men's places across the Northern Territory to share resources, exchange knowledge and provide opportunities for partnering and collaboration.

The Network will hold quarterly online meetings and produce a quarterly e-newsletter that will provide an overview of the Network meeting, grant opportunities, relevant research and programs of interest. The Office of Gender Equity and Diversity will coordinate and administer these activities.

## Men's Places Grants Program

A Men's Places Grants Program will support the delivery of programs and activities at men's places that align with the key focus areas of the Action Plan.

Grants will be available for activities such as information sessions, skills development, health and wellbeing programs, education and peer-to-peer support programs. Funding will also be available to support repairs and maintenance of existing facilities and to purchase tools, equipment and supplies needed by men's places.

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