



YOUTHWORX NT 2024 ELECTION ASKS:

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A
NORTHERN TERRITORY YOUTH EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY
PARTNER WITH YOUTH SPECIALIST ORGANISATIONS
TO BUILD 'EDUCATION FIRST' YOUTH FOYERS IN THE NT

TO ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING:

YOUTH CRIME IN 2022-2023

306 YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 10 AND OVER WERE UNDER YOUTH JUSTICE SUPERVISION; 282 WERE INDIGENOUS

EACH YOUTH DETAINED IN THE NT IN 2021-22 COST TAXPAYERS \$2464 PER DAY, WITH THE TOTAL COST REACHING MORE THAN \$47M A YEAR

THE NT RATE OF SUPERVISION (DETENTION/ COMMUNITY) WAS 79 PER 10,000 YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 10-17.

COMPARE THIS FIGURE TO:
QUEENSLAND: 21 PER 10,000
VICTORIA: 4.7 PER 10,000

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

16.5% OF ALL TERRITORIANS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS



THE RATE OF YOUNG PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY IS 11.74 TIMES MORE THAN THE AUSTRALIAN AVERAGE

ON ANY GIVEN DAY IN THE NT HOMELESSNESS SERVICES SUPPORT OVER 2,600 CLIENTS. 320 ARE YOUNG PEOPLE PRESENTING ALONE. THIS IS 2 PLANeloads OF YOUNG PEOPLE...EVERY DAY

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

IN THE NT LESS YOUNG PEOPLE ARE PART OF THE WORKFORCE NOW COMPARED TO 10 YEARS AGO. THEIR SHARE HAS DROPPED FROM 16.5% TO 14.2%. THIS CHANGE SHOWS THAT THE POPULATION IS GETTING OLDER, AND FEWER YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK



IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY, YOUTH PARTICIPATE IN THE WORKFORCE LESS THAN OTHER JURISDICTIONS WITH A RATE OF 63.8%, COMPARED TO THE OVERALL RATE OF 72.7%.

NT YOUTH STRATEGY 2023-2033:

DOMAIN 2

FINANCIALLY SECURE AND HAVE MATERIAL BASICS & FOCUS ON PARTICIPATION, JOB AND TRAINING PATHWAYS

DOMAIN 3

YOUTH ARE ABLE TO LEARN, CONTRIBUTE & ACHIEVE, ACCESS LEARNING AND DEVELOP SKILLS FOR LIFE

DOMAIN 6

ENSURE APPROPRIATE AND SECURE HOUSING - INDEPENDENT LIVING, MANAGE HOUSING COSTS AND HAVE HOUSING NEEDS MET

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YouthWorX NT has mechanisms in place to support these election asks. We are the lead partner for the Greater Darwin Community Investment Committee (CIC), a passionate group of employers, industry, community organisations, government agencies and young people.

We collaborate to identify, develop and advocate pathways for all young people to have opportunity to gain meaningful and sustainable employment, whilst supporting business and industry to access a thriving workforce.

One of our overarching actions has been to develop and implement a Youth Employer Toolkit, funded to date by YouthWorX NT. This online toolkit exists for employers to be able to find information, tips and tools to help onboard and retain young people in the workplace.

YouthWorX NT has extensive experience in supporting young people aged 15-24 to engage in education, training and meaningful employment opportunities. Our expertise aligns with research demonstrating the positive impact of training and employment programs on the outcomes for young people.

Training and employment programs, distinct from traditional schooling, have shown significant benefits in promoting positive outcomes for young people, especially those at risk of criminal behaviour or socio-economic disadvantage. These programs offer practical skills, work experience, and pathways to stable employment, contributing to personal development and societal well-being.

Higher levels of education correlate with better employment prospects, which can further reduce criminal behaviour. Employment provides financial stability, purpose, and a structured routine, all of which are deterrents to crime. Studies indicate that increased educational attainment leads to higher wages and more stable employment, which in turn lowers the likelihood of criminal activity by raising the opportunity costs associated with crime.

Integrating efforts across child protection, youth justice, and homelessness services can lead to better outcomes for at-risk youth and reduce overall costs to the government. We know that young people involved in the justice system often have complex needs, including histories of trauma, abuse, and unstable housing. Providing comprehensive support, including education and stable housing, can mitigate these factors and reduce recidivism. This approach not only helps the individuals but also lowers long-term government expenditures on justice and welfare systems.



YouthWORX NT 2024 ELECTION PRIORITIES

Creating a youth employment strategy is a critical initiative for government and community. It's essential for economic growth and development, crime reduction and social stability and cost savings, through reduction in government expenditure and a preventative, proactive approach.

A youth employment strategy should address the unique challenges faced by young people in our regions and leverage local opportunities to ensure effective and sustainable employment outcomes.

To ensure success, this strategy must be accompanied by appropriate funding and resource allocation, ensuring that resources are distributed efficiently to areas of greatest need and potential impact, with a focus on long-term sustainability.

To complement a Northern Territory youth employment strategy, government should consider investing in a Youth Foyer model.

The Youth Foyer model is a holistic approach designed to support young people, aged 16-24, who are at risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness. Foyers are integrated learning and accommodation settings for young people that aim to:

- ✓ Reduce the number of young people cycling through the housing and homelessness system,
- ✓ Increase the number of young people completing education qualifications, and
- ✓ Increase the number of young people productively employed.

The current lifetime cost of a young person in the Specialist Homelessness Support system is \$371,7839. According to the Foyer Foundation's Under One Roof Report, Accenture Economic Insights found that Youth Foyer programs produce \$178,200 in government savings per person. This saving can be attributed to reductions in housing, health, welfare, and justice costs throughout a young person's life.

These figures capture the fiscal benefits only. The figures don't reflect the value to society and the young person when their life outcomes are improved as a result of living in a Foyer. In short, the total benefits are higher than those captured in fiscal figures alone.

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