

FROM MEETING FEBRUARY 2023

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY PREVENTION ALLIANCE (NTPA) HELD OUR SIXTH MEETING AT MOTOR SPORTS HOUSE AT DARWIN'S HIDDEN VALLEY RACEWAY, ON 16 FEBRUARY 2023.

The Alliance brings together a diverse group of influential NT leaders committed to preventing harm to children and young people and promoting their welfare and wellbeing. A range of issues was explored at the meeting including recent media reporting in relation to young people in the NT.

We heard about the activities of the Northern Territory Government's Social Order Response Team

- a collaboration between government, NGOs and community sector groups to achieve targeted outcomes for children, families, businesses and the wider community in Alice Springs and Darwin's Northern Suburbs.



We also heard from Children's Ground about their collaborative approach to working with children, families and communities in the Top End and Central Australia.

Members acknowledged the **complexity** of the issues facing children and young people in the NT, including homelessness, drug and alcohol use, domestic and family violence, and the opportunities facilitated through social media in elevating community divisiveness and racism, and for children to gain negative attention.

The Alliance also considered:

- Draft **message guides** to support organisations in talking to the media about: *Youth Justice; Our Children and Young People; and Child Abuse and Neglect*, and
- the **NT Media Guide: Treating every child and young person fairly**, developed by the
- Alliance to assist the media in its reporting role.

THE ALLIANCE CALLED FOR:

- Strategies and approaches that are co-designed with communities and Aboriginal controlled organisations that are sustained over the long term
- A focus on PREVENTION and EARLY support so that families and young people can get the support they need as early as possible.

The Alliance also discussed their individual and collective roles in combatting the negative impacts of social media, and in ensuring the voices, hopes and aspirations of children and young people are heard.

THE NTPA AGREED TO:

- Support the completion and distribution of the Media Messaging Guides, and use them in interactions with media, and in conversations within their own organisations and sectors
- Endorse the NT Media Guide and take next steps to engage media
- Explore opportunities for young people to have a say about the issues affecting them
- Support, share and promote existing youth led, cultural and youth voice initiatives
- Continue to emphasise the importance of long-term, co-designed prevention and early intervention approaches
- Share positive stories about young people.

The NTPA aims to harness the collective impact of key NT agencies and businesses to raise awareness of the needs and experiences of children, young people and families, and focus on wellbeing and prevention.