

## FROM MEETING JUNE 2023

**THE NORTHERN TERRITORY PREVENTION ALLIANCE (NTPA) HELD OUR SEVENTH MEETING AT THE REMOTE HEATH PRECINCT IN ALICE SPRINGS, ON 16 JUNE 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 effects of media reporting on young people in the Mparntwe/Alice Springs region.

**We heard from local organisations undertaking critical work with young people and families.**

They told us about: issues of interest and concern reported by young people; impacts of media reporting; projects and initiatives; and key messages to share.

Members acknowledged the **complexity** of the issues facing children and young people, including when young people come from remote areas to regional centres like Alice Springs. This can be for many reasons - including health care, visiting family, **seeking opportunities** to gain work, training, and education.

However they sometimes **lack the skills readiness** to gain employment, and face **barriers** such as **racism** and **discrimination**.



**Thank you to the NT Primary Health Network (NT PHN) for hosting this meeting which enabled candid, safe communication across different sectors, with opportunities to re-energise old partnerships and forge new ones.**

The Alliance recognised:

- the negative **impact of racism** on the wellbeing of children, young people and families
- the need to support initiatives to **build resilience** and challenge mainstream institutions and businesses to **combat racism**
- the importance of exploring opportunities to match young people's **desire for work** with **skills shortages**.

## THE ALLIANCE CALLED FOR:

- Sustained, holistic resourcing for youth-serving organisations
- Support for backbone initiatives such as grant development, and communications processes and networks that promote positive messaging
- Systems and strategies that put young people at the centre.

The Alliance continued to discuss their individual and collective roles in combating the negative impacts of social and other media, and in ensuring the voices, hopes and aspirations of children and young people are heard and acted on.



## THE NTPA AGREED TO:

- Continue to develop the **Media Messaging Guides** (Youth Justice; Our Children and Young People; and Child Abuse and Neglect) and **NT Media Guide: Treating every child and young person fairly** by seeking input from young people and community leaders, and engaging and building relationships with media
- Explore additional opportunities for young people to have a say about issues affecting them
- Continue to support, share and showcase good news stories about young people and youth-led, cultural and youth-voice initiatives.

**Thank you to our guests :**  
 NPY Women's Council,  
 Tangentyere Council, Justice  
 Reform Initiative, Mac Youth,  
 Department of the Chief  
 Minister and Cabinet.

**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.**