

COMMUNIQUE

FROM MEETING 11 JULY 2024

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY PREVENTION ALLIANCE (NTPA) HELD OUR TENTH MEETING AT DARWIN'S MOTOR SPORTS HOUSE, HIDDEN VALLEY RACEWAY

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 the impact of social media, and collaborative programs that divert young people away from the criminal justice system.

**Tracy Adams, CEO yourtown
(powering Kids Helpline)**

presented on

**[yourtown's submission](#) to the independent
statutory review of the Online Safety Act 2021**

Key takeaways:

- Social media and online interaction can support positive connections between young people
- Need to hear from children and young people about what they want in the digital world - including social media - and what keeps them safe (their perspectives have been missing from discussions)
- Need better regulations and Safety By Design initiatives for social media platforms and online interactive environments
- Digital literacy programs are needed in schools and communities - for children, young people, caregivers and community members
- We need to think about a broader definition of what 'media' is in the contemporary world



- Questions around whether bans or age restrictions are effective in protecting children and young people from online harm, including sexploitation.

For more on [Safety By Design](#) visit the [eSafety Commissioner website](#).

Keep the fire burning! Blak, loud and proud

The NTPA acknowledges NAIDOC Week and this year's theme which entreats us to aspire to build a community where Indigenous voices are heard, conversations are had and more and more truths are known.



Thanks to Joshua Morris for providing tech support and an overview of the insightful feedback from NAPCAN's youth advisory group (NYSO) that has informed updates to the message guides.

[Kids Helpline for Primary and Secondary Schools](#)



Kids Helpline has free classroom resources and online learning sessions with qualified KHL counsellors on a range of topics.

[Think U KNOW](#)

Resources and training about online safety for children, young people, parents, carers and educators.



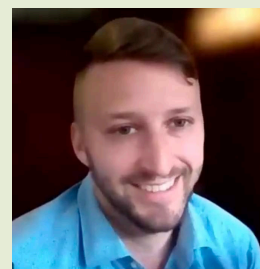
Angus Woodward, Lead Criminal Law Counsel with **WEstjustice**,
presented on

Victoria's Youth Crime Prevention & Early Intervention Project (YCPEIP)

The partnership project has been operating since 2021 and important data is emerging.

Features of the program

- Genuine collaboration between partners (police, youth services and lawyers)
- Revised caution/diversion framework, including fast-tracked diversion
- Referral capacity to services such as mental health, AOD, housing, legal aid
- Victim support
- Backbone support by Youth Sergeant (oversight and advocacy) and Youth Support Coordinator
- Training to police on the project, cultural awareness and support for at-risk young people
- Legal education sessions for young people, families and community.



Outcomes to date

- Increase in cautions/warnings from 34% to 77%
- Decrease in remand from 44% to around 3%
- Emerging trend - decrease in reoffending from 54.7% to 30.5%.

Key challenges

- Making it as easy as possible for everyone to play their part
- Supporting people to manage the system
- Assessing and applying doli incapax.

NTPA MEMBERS AGREED TO:

- Engage with the **NT Justice review process** and Panel with a focus on prevention and early intervention
- Review and reissue the **NTPA Terms of Reference** for member comment
- Continue to build **NTPA resources**
- Continue to **share positive stories** about young people and effective programs that support them (i.e. what works)
- Develop a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the **impact of social media and online interactions** on young people, from their perspective
- Support the **launch of the media and message guides** later this year.

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.