

Report on the Second Tennant Creek Youth Roundtable

April 16 2025

‘Putting young people at the centre’



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Barkly Regional Deal

Youth Case Study and the Youth Roundtables

We created this model to remind us all that we are here to support our young people to be strong. It shows our **young people at the centre** and the different groups and types of knowledge that are connected with them.

- At the top you can see a young person sitting and just being, and people listening deeply
- Top right corner are all the past reports and existing research about young people in Tennant Creek
- Below that are the government agencies working with young people
- Bottom right corner is a firepit and young and older people sitting around it yarning and truthtelling
- Bottom centre is the old knowledge from Elders and community members
- Centre left are the youth programs

The string connects everyone together. The strongest parts are the old knowledge, deep listening and truthtelling, as they are always here in the community. The Government and youth programs change a lot and come and go.



Summary of the Youth Roundtable

Who attended:

- **25 young people:** Average age 14.3, 74% Indigenous, supported by four orgs: High School, Corrections, Catholic Care, Stars Foundation
- 34 adults: 35% Indigenous, representatives from 19 stakeholders including community members, youth programs and govt depts

Purpose:

- To provide a voice for youth and celebrate youth week
- To hear what young people want more of in Tennant Creek
- To map who is doing what to support youth priorities in Tennant Creek
- To workshop how to spend the \$3 million Crisis Youth Funding



Summary (continued)

Outcomes:

- Young people engaged in activities and had a voice
- Mapping of youth programs identified there is a lack of services for young people at night and only a few structured/continuous sports programs
- 27 people voted for a 'Hub' model and 13 for a 'Shelter' model for the \$3 million Crisis Youth Funding
- Strong views that the facility needs to be easily accessed and be open overnight for children/youth from as young as 6-10
- Young People voted for Sports or Learning opportunities to be the topic of the next Youth Roundtable



Youth Icebreaker and preparation session

The first hour was for young people and their mentors only. Mentors and the Backbone Community Researchers facilitated icebreakers and helped prepare everyone for the formal Roundtable.



Youth Voice Panel

Four young people talked about living in Tennant Creek and experiences that have given them a voice like the NT Youth Parliament and the NT Youth Roundtable



Youth Survey (co-created with youth and services) 51 respondents so far)



Tennant Creek Youth Survey

This survey is collecting the voices of young people in the Barkly. This information will be shared with community leaders, youth programs and government services to help them understand your experiences and ideas about how we could help make things better for you.

Program data from Youth services (9)

MORIARTY
Foundation



CatholicCareNT

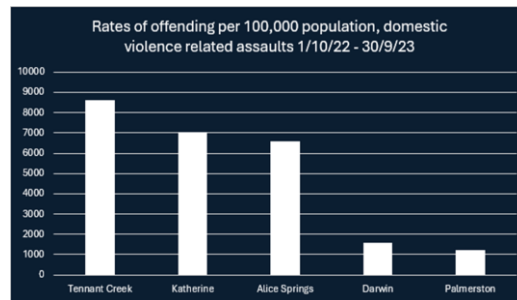


We showed how we have collected a lot of information and stories

Impact Yarns with young people:
Youth meeting (23) and Youth Roundtable (17)



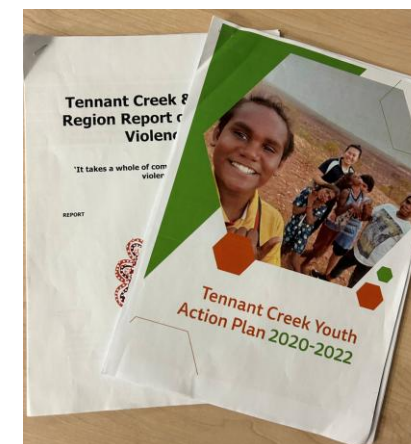
National and Territory data



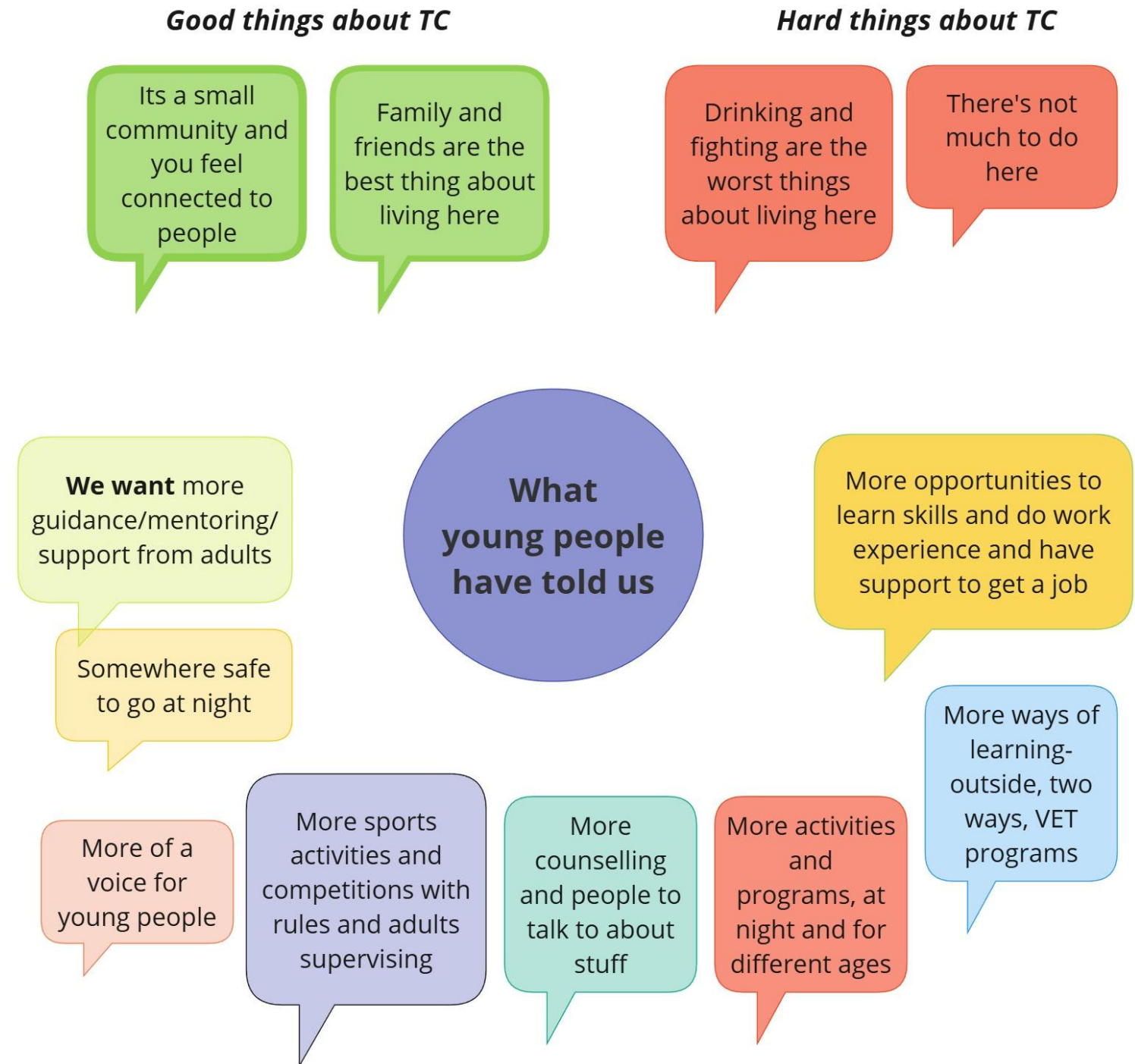
Impact Yarns with 34 community members and services



Past Reports and meetings with young people (12)



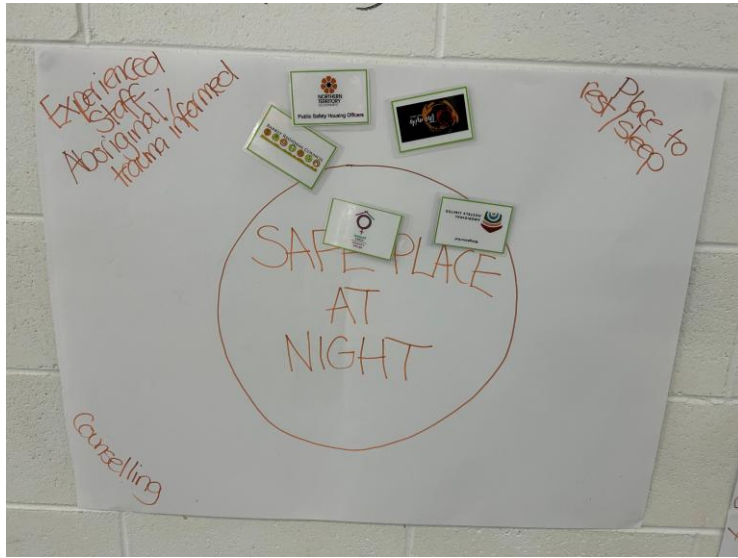
We gave a summary of what young people in Tennant Creek said/want (across all the youth data sources)



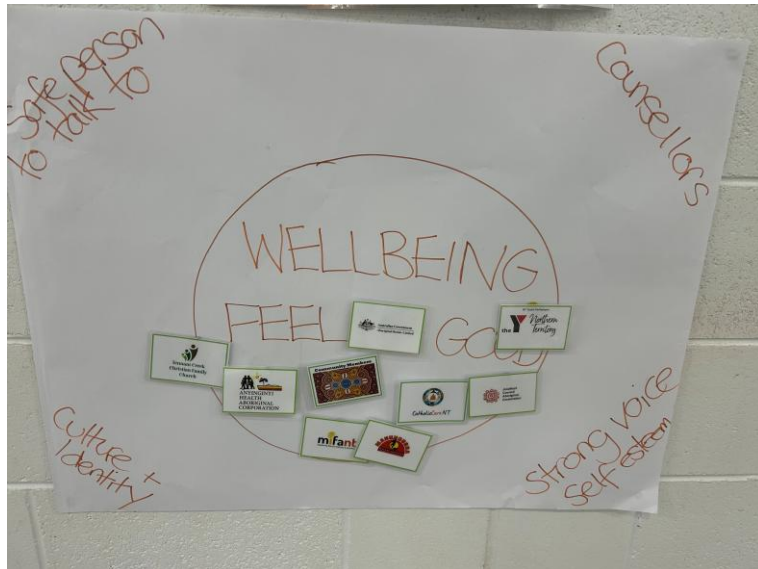
We focused in on the five main themes young people in Tennant Creek want/need more of



'Everyone working together'



Everyone mapped who does what to support the things young people want more of



**We
created an
image of
that
mapping**

Safe place at night

Place to rest and get a feed, get away from drinking and fighting, experienced staff, counselling, outreach, after hours supports

Families and community members
The Mob
TCYC
Youth Patrol
Territory Families
The Police
Public Housing Safety Officer
Youth Justice facility
Barkly Student Boarding House

Strong Adults

Role models, supervision, mentoring, parents more engaged

Families and community members
Churches
Territory Families
School Engagement Team
Saltbush, BRADAAG, Women's
Refuge
Stronger Families, Yellow Shirts
FAFT, Child and Family Centre
Connected Beginnings
Mediation Initiative

Learning

Different ways of learning- two ways-culture, outdoors, VET, work experience, trips to other places, trainees, mentoring

Families and community members
Schools
Clontarf, Stars
Juno
The Mob, Saltbush
RISE-ISEP-Adam Drake
Barkly Arts Music Program
Youth Linx, Youth Centre,
The Library, Karguru Nursery
Army cadets, Girl Guides
Local businesses, TBAR
Dept Education and Training

Wellbeing/feeling good

Counsellors, and youth workers to talk through stuff and get support, strong youth voice, identity, self belief

Families and Community Members
Saltbush, MIFANT mental health
YORET, Territory Families,
School Counsellors,
Mental Health Unit, SARC,
Catholic Care Youth Program
JudyKaye Knox-Anyinginyi
Barkly Arts
TC Youth Roundtable, NT Youth
Roundtable
NT Youth Parliament

**Barkly
Young
people and the
things they
want more of**

**People, projects and
programs that are
working in those
areas**

Sports

A range of sports and ages, regular, structured competitions, trips, training and resources, run by adults

Families and Community members
AFL, Clontarf, Stars,
John Moriarty Foundation, Soccer
Cricket
YouthLinx, Youth Centre
Pool, Gym
Speedway, Rodeo Association
Softball comp,
TBall- Anyinginyi Healthy Lifestyles
Netball NT, Park Run
MetaFit, Yoga

We focused in on a 'Safe place at night' and what we've learned so far

- There are a lot of young people on the street, from aged 6, at night and for different reasons
- Young people, older people and many youth programs think a safe house is needed in Tennant Creek
- There are not many programs supporting young people at night
- \$3 million is not enough to run a safe house service for all of the ages who need one
- It is better to do something and help some young people, than to do nothing
- Safety means different things to different people. Services might say that young people are safe but that doesn't mean that young people FEEL safe
- We often focus on the things that are wrong in TC. We need to build on the strong things too



We summarised what people told us over the last five years about what a 'Safe place at night' needs

- The safe house needs to have Aboriginal staff, staff who are trained in counselling and know about trauma and how to work with young people
- The safe house needs to help young people connect with other things like doctors, school, family, work experience, jobs, sports, counselling
- There need to be more outreach workers at night engaging with young people when they are out on the street
- We don't want to take responsibility away from parents so there need to be supports and consequences for them if their children don't feel safe at home regularly



NT Shelter showed us models of crisis youth services that work elsewhere

Youth Foyer
Melbourne



CASY House
Darwin



The Choices Shelter
Canada



We learned that **tailored models** which provide **wrap around support** and are **trauma informed and culturally safe** work best

Kelly Hunter from the NTG Homelessness Team explained there are two main models under their funding guidelines that we could spend the \$3 million on

SHELTER

- age range 15 – 18 years
- full accommodation service for 20 young people each year (might only be 4-6 at any one time)
- house hours
- support workers
- average length of stay *6-12 weeks*

HUB

- age range open
- no beds but places to rest
- weekdays - late night (3pm-8am)
- weekends will also be open during the day
- 3-5 days per week (seasonal)
- support workers
- shelter respite and basic services

We asked each table to workshop these questions and they told us:

1. Who needs a safe place at night most? What age group and why?

From 10-17 and even younger and older groups because they are hanging out on the streets and don't feel safe at home

2. What times should it be open and why?

Through the night so they can go there when they need it and it's easy to access

3. Should it be more like a 'Hub' or 'Shelter' model?

27 people voted for a 'Hub' and 17 for a 'Shelter'



Next Steps:

- Kelly Hunter and the NTG Homelessness Team will summarise the views collected at the Youth Roundtable and create a draft proposal for our feedback
- Young people voted on which of the key themes they want to focus on at the next Youth Roundtable
 - Sports and Wellbeing/Feeling good were the most popular ones
- Four young people put their hands up to help organise the next Youth Roundtable



Evaluation: What worked, what did we learn and what can we do better next time?

- ✓ A more diverse range of young people attended this second YR including, two young people from the Youth Justice Facility and more non-Indigenous youth
- ✓ Throughout our preparations we collaborated well with other youth programs including staff at Corrections. Claire Keen from Saltbush was a big help and we had three planning meetings with her and Jordan Vickers from NTG
- ✓ We worked well with Kelly Hunter from NTG and Annie Taylor from NT Shelter to prepare clear and useful information and options for decision making
- ✓ We had a good range of adults from across all the stakeholder groups: community members, youth programs and government agencies
- ✗ Young people said they want more young people, than adults at the YRs. We need to better manage which adults attend and why, to make that happen
- ✗ Not all youth services have shared their data with us and some didn't engage in the Youth Roundtable. We know there are young people we haven't reached yet
- ✓ Young people have voted on what topic they want to focus on next and they will help organise the next one
- ? We are doing a short evaluation survey with young people who came to the YR to see if they felt they had a voice, if they felt safe and comfortable and what we can do better for the next one



Questions?

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