



MINISTER FOR TERRITORY FAMILIES

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Ms Colleen Gwynne
Children's Commissioner of the Northern Territory
Level 5 NT House
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DARWIN NT 0800

Dear Commissioner

In November 2017, the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory released its final report and recommendations. Following this, the Northern Territory Government immediately committed to implementing a number of recommendations from the report, including the closure of the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre and reporting to you by 17 February 2018 regarding a program to do so.

I am pleased to provide you with details on our plans for replacing Don Dale Youth Detention Centre with a new, fit-for-purpose, Youth Justice Training Centre. This Government has allocated \$70 million for new facilities in Darwin and Alice Springs. I have attached planning details for this work and a Darwin site map for your information.

In Darwin, the current site at Berrimah has been selected as the site of the new Youth Justice Training Centre in Darwin. This site provides easy access to services and transport and has been identified by young people as a preferred site for these reasons. A process for designing the new facility together with our non-government and Aboriginal partners, design specialists and the community will commence in March.

I remain committed to ensuring consultation with a range of stakeholders including yourself, to inform design choices that enable the strongest programs to be implemented to support young people within the youth justice system to make informed life choices and achieve better life outcomes.

This milestone represents an important step in the Northern Territory Government's comprehensive overhaul of the youth justice and child protection systems. The new Youth Justice Training Centre in Darwin will help to realise our vision for safer, fairer and stronger communities. It will do this by enabling evidence-based, restorative, culturally and age appropriate programs that are aimed at reducing recidivism, while ensuring community safety through secure and fit-for-purpose design.

The experience of other jurisdictions tells us that this approach will improve outcomes for young people and their families and reduce the overall level of youth crime.

In addition, preliminary discussions are underway with Desert Knowledge Australia about the potential for a partnership with them for new facility considerations in Alice Springs. This would represent a new way of working with aboriginal people in delivering our services with a focus on culture and connectedness to family and community.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your contribution to supporting young Territorians and I look forward to working with you on the detailed design of the Northern Territory's new Youth Justice Training Centres.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Dale Wakefield', written in a cursive style.

DALE WAKEFIELD