



**Chief Minister's  
Round Table of Young Territorians**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2014**

Prepared by Chair Nathan Fanning  
and Vice Chair David Ridley



[www.youth.nt.gov.au](http://www.youth.nt.gov.au)

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## Chair and Vice Chair Overview

As the Chair and Vice Chair of the 2014 Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians (Round Table), we were so lucky to have the most amazing team of young Territorians as members. This year's Round Table members were so incredibly hard working and capable representatives of their respective areas and we would both like to thank and congratulate them on their efforts this year.



We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Chief Minister for being very generous with his time and resources throughout the year and also thank the staff from Office of Youth Affairs. Without the support of Prue Jezierski, Larnie Batten and Gemma Benn the Round Table wouldn't have been as effective in getting involved, representing young Territorians and our communities this year.

Throughout 2014 we met four times face to face for full weekend meetings and we also connected through monthly teleconferences. In between we kept in regular contact on social media and met with young people, youth organisations and our government leaders. These meetings gave members the opportunity to network with other like-minded young people who are making a difference in their communities and get involved in additional community activities. The 2014 Round Table also produced excellent community based projects about issues including cyberbullying, adolescent ward at the hospital, youth peer court, mental health awareness, safe houses in remote communities, impacts of family breakdown, climate change, youth engagement and participation and youth joblessness.

This year has been an amazing insight into the powerful positive change all Territorians can make to their community. We encourage the young Territorians of the future to get involved in their communities and in opportunities such as Round Table, as anyone can make a huge difference. We wish the 2015 Round Table all the best for next year and we hope everyone will enjoy this annual report.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Fanning'.

**Nathan Fanning**

Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Ridley'.

**David Ridley**

Vice Chair



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## Introduction

The Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians (Round Table), is a direct communication avenue between young Territorians and the Northern Territory Government. The Round Table consists of 16 members, who are aged 15-25 years. Members are representative of the geographic, cultural and ethnic diversity in the Northern Territory.

The Round Table provides an opportunity for young people to get involved and have their views about issues that interest or affect them heard by the Chief Minister and other members of Parliament.

Over 250 members since 1997 have been involved in numerous activities, committees and projects.

Achievements of Round Table members include:

- providing advice to the NT Government
- being selected as members of executive judging panels
- being committee members on both State/Territory and National committees
- acting as representatives on a range of youth groups
- assisting in the research of many projects and programs
- attending and participating at schools, youth groups, conferences, seminars and the youth network
- implement a community-based project and/or initiative.

Each year Round Table members meet four times to discuss important youth issues with peers, youth groups, service providers, and government representatives. Outside of the four meetings, members are approached for the feedback or input into a wide variety of policies and initiatives.

Not only do the young people provide advice to the Northern Territory Government, but they also receive training in media, public speaking, developing research and report writing skills. Each year members are provided with an opportunity to identify what they would like to get out of their time as a Round Table member.

Round Table members conduct research and consultation on a variety of topics and issues throughout their term. Each member is asked to conduct a community-based project where they research their project topic, consult with community members and stakeholders, and formulate their findings and recommendations into a project report.

The culmination of the Round Table is a presentation at Parliament House to a range of invited guests, including Ministers, government departments, community groups and other organisations. This is the final opportunity for members to present their year's work, including their community-based projects and discuss youth issues they are passionate about.



*Pictured above: 2015 Round Table Members at a meeting with Chief Minister Adam Giles MLA, and Minister for Young Territorians the Peter Styles MLA*

## 2014 Members

\*Please note biographies were created at the first meeting in February 2014.

### **Nathan Fanning, Chair**

Hi my name is Nathan Fanning, I am 23 years old and currently live in Darwin but I am moving to Woodroffe, Palmerston. In the community I am a Rotarian with the Rotary Club of Darwin North and have previously been involved in Indigenous mentoring, Charles Darwin University Student Association, University Residential Leader and sailing programs for youth at risk. I joined the Round Table to be a mentor for youth in the community and to help young Territorians reach their full potential. I am passionate about helping young Territorians get involved in their communities.



### **David Ridley, Vice Chair**

Hi there! My name is David Ridley; I'm 25 and live in Darwin with my wife and 6 month old son. I am passionate about equipping and empowering young people today, so that society will be better for it in the future. As a youth worker, I am confronted with the issues that are impacting today's young people. I believe that the Round Table is a fantastic opportunity to communicate these issues to the government as well as provide practical suggestions.



### **Christine Gardiner**

Hi, I'm 18 years old and starting my first year of Uni at CDU. I currently live in the Palmerston Region with my dad, and I am also part of a group called Youth Inspiring Palmerston, or YIP for short. YIP is a youth advisory group that aims to give the young people of Palmerston a voice in their community. The reason that I joined Round Table is to further my own involvement in the community, and to encourage others to do the same.



### **Jermaine Campbell**

Hello my name is Jermaine Burarrwanga Campbell, I'm 21 years old and come from Galiwin'ku. I am employed as an Indigenous Assistant Teacher at the school Shepherdson College. I joined the Round Table because I am very passionate about young Territorians and how I can be of assistance to them.



Growing up in a community with little interests for young people which contributes to their problems. It struck me to my core that because of our cultural background the most youths that are targeted by many remote communities across the Top End can be discriminated against for their differences. I would love to see a safe house in many of the remote communities where help, comfort and resources are provided to those in need of help.

I love listening and making a difference for youths with all needs. I hope Galiwin'ku will have a safe house to make lives better for youths who live in a community with less love or friendships with people who understand who she/he is.

### **Jeremy Gillen**

Hey, I'm Jeremy and I'm 16 years old. I live in Alice Springs, and am in Year 11 at St Philips College. I love rock climbing, and believe that the Northern Territory can and should be a more sustainable place. I joined the round table to try and make a difference in the NT, and work with the government to increase the sustainability of the NT to create a better world for future young Territorians.



**Emma Cooper**

Hi, I'm Emma Cooper. I'm 24 years old and work as a Middle School teacher and also Cub Scout leader in Katherine. I moved up from Tasmania in 2012 and love the Territory, so I'm really passionate about youth and assisting others to reach their full potential which is why I joined the round table.

**Joshua Jackson**

Hi guys, my name is Joshua Jackson, I'm 21 years old and I'm from a small town in the Northern Territory called Elliott. Elliott is in the Barkly Region of the Northern Territory. I joined the Round Table so I could speak on behalf of school leavers in remote towns and communities and have little to no employment opportunities.

**Jess Sullivan**

Hi I'm Jess Sullivan, I'm nearly 19 and work as an AFLNT Development Coordinator for the Darwin Rural Area and the host of Talking Women's Footy on ABC TV. I grew up on Cave Creek (cattle) Station, 10km from Mataranka, which I still call home, but I went to boarding school in Alice Springs and am currently living in Darwin for my work. I'm a returning member on the Round Table – last year I completed a report and submitted recommendations for possible solutions to the mental and sexual health crisis for youth in remote NT communities. This year I am looking further into one of my recommendations, which was related to linking at-risk youth with positive role models from their communities. I am really passionate and excited about seeing young people, especially in remote areas of the NT grow confidence, belief and hope in themselves and their future.

**Ned Hall**

My name is Ned Hall, I am 15 years old and from Darwin. I am currently in year 10 at Casuarina Senior College. I joined the Round Table because I thought it would be a great opportunity to bring forth issues I believe youth today face. I can't wait to see what this year holds and what I can do to help.

**Janet Truong**

My name is Janet Truong. I am 20 years old. I am one of the returning members to this year's Round Table. My project last year focused on the link between students' stress levels and use of available support services. This year one of my aims is to proceed with one of my project recommendations which is to deliver workshops in schools in collaboration with headspace Top End. My other aim is to initiate a new project that delves into youth justice reform. I seek to establish a Youth Court in the Northern Territory where young Territorians are given the opportunity to serve as judges, jurors and legal representatives. In addition, I hope to deliver of restorative justice through Youth Courts to young offenders who have committed low-level offences. I hope that my project is a means of addressing a possible addition to the current NT youth justice system. Looking forward to another exciting year!

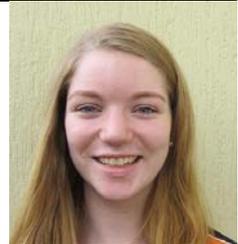


**Rangga Daranindra**

My name is Rangga and I am 22 years old. I am from the Darwin region and have been in Australia for almost 4 years. I am currently doing my Masters in Business Administration (MBA) at the Charles Darwin University. As a young Territorian, I feel that I am responsible to contribute more in building the future of the Territory. Together with other members of the Chief Minister's Round Table, I feel the we can work together to make the Northern Territory a better and safer place to live in.

**Lily Reid**

Hi, my name is Lily Reid I am 17 years old from Palmerston and I recently just graduated from year 12 at Darwin High School in 2013. I am originally from Townsville in QLD but since the age of 3 I have called Darwin my home. I love Darwin and the rest of the Territory. I am passionate about the health and wellbeing of young Territorians and hope to be able to make a difference in the coming year. ☺

**Aidan Sears**

My names Aidan Sears and I live in the Darwin Rural area, I'm 19 years old and finishing year 12 at Good Shepard College. I found the Round Table on Facebook and thought it could be my next step from the projects that I was involved in last year. At that moment from applying to getting onto the shortlist I didn't know exactly what I would like to pursue for youth issue project. I started to research problems in the NT until I found the statistics and stories about youth suicide. I also wanted to tie this in with the positive effect that alternative music can have on depression and suicide. If I could grow the music scene and get more Australian and International bands to the NT then it would solve two problems. I just hope I can do these issues justice.

**Erin Keeley**

My name is Erin Keeley, I am 17 and from East Arnhem Land – Nhulunbuy. I am basing my community project around awareness for Mental Health, with a main interest into Depression and I will be holding a community event which will be called the "Run and Rave" (which is similar to a colour run) around my town followed by a concert to promote Mental Health awareness

**Aimee Mullins**

My name is Aimee Mullins, I am 24 years old and I represent the Darwin rural region. I am currently finishing my bachelor of commerce degree majoring in marketing and will continue into honors focusing on documentary and film marketing. I am also employed as a marketing assistant at Top End Training. I joined the Chief Minister's Round table to promote youth engagement in the Territory. This is a great opportunity to collaborate with other like-minded people who are working towards positively impacting our community. \* Due to unforeseen circumstances Aimee resigned from the Round Table.

**Katherine Reynolds**

Hi I'm Kate (Kathryn) Reynolds, I recently turned 20 and I live in Darwin. I currently work for one of the Bush MLA's and I constantly see issues that arise for young Territorians in my electorate. I joined the Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians as I want to be a voice and advocate for the youth of Darwin; I also want to see changes made to legislation which will reflect changing times in the Territory and the online world. I'm passionate about making a difference for youth and hope to achieve as much as I can this year. \* Due to unforeseen circumstances Katherine Reynolds resigned from the Round Table.



## Representing the Round Table

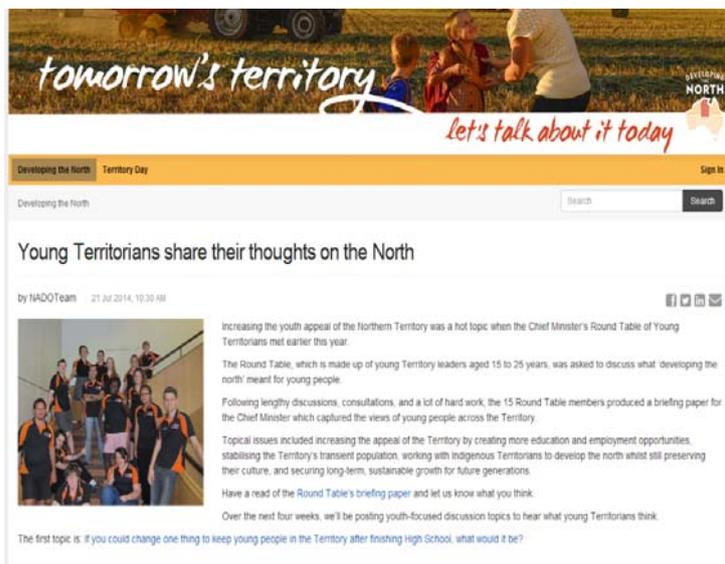
Throughout the year Round Table members participated in a number of activities, attended many events, and promoted young Territorians interests. This gave members the opportunity to network with other like-minded young people who are making a difference in their communities, and get involved in additional community activities.

Members of the Round Table take on the responsibility in a voluntary capacity, in addition to their existing commitments. On top of work, education, sport, hobbies, children, many members of the 2014 Round Table also found time to be involved in the community in other ways, separate to their involvement in a Round Table capacity.

Some of the community engagement and involvement Round Table members have been a part of over the last 12 months include the following:

Input into Government Policy Services and Programs

- Proposed changes to the Northern Territory Education Act
- Neighbourhood Activity Centres
- Developing the North (4 week consultation, engaged over 50 people online)



*Pictured left: Round Table members featured in a news story on the Developing the North website.*

- The Round Table produced a topic briefing for the Chief Minister in consultation with the Northern Australia Development Office (NADO). The briefing has been published on the Developing the North website (<http://haveyoursay.nt.gov.au/developing-the-north>) and encourages discussion amongst young Territorians.
- The NADO have taken this consultation opportunity to produce a sequence of three discussion topics on their website based on the Round Table briefing. The online consultation commenced on 21 July, with a new topic being released each week over a three-week period. Discussion topics thus far have included:
  - Week 1: 'If you could change one thing to keep young people in the Territory after finishing High School, what would it be?'
  - Week 2: 'What programs would you implement to ensure more young Indigenous Territorians benefit from the development of the North, while also preserving their connection to traditional culture and language?'
  - Week 3: 'What new or improved infrastructure would young Territorians benefit from in the Northern Territory?'



Participation in committees, meetings and forums:

- Erin Keeley, member from Nhulunbuy attended the ceremonies for Their Royal Highnesses, The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge at the Chief Minister's official reception at Uluru.
- 2014 Australian Youth Ambassador to the UN meet and greet and input into her submission to the UN in New York.
- Duke of Edinburgh National Youth Week panel members.
- Brunchfest panel members.
- Collaboration with Youth Inspire Palmerston and Darwin City Council's youth advisory groups.
- National Student Leadership Forum 2014 held at Parliament House. Jess Sullivan, City of Darwin delegate.
- FYA Unleashed conference – Emma and Rangga.

Community Involvement

- National Youth Week Office of Youth Affairs stall at Casuarina
- National Youth Week – Holiday Program at Galiwinku
- Coomalie Kidz Pool Party during NYW (football activities)
- Peer Court Demonstrations

Recognition and award recipients for 2014

- Winner of the NT Young Achiever Awards Sommerville Community Services Award (Christine Gardiner)
- Finalist in the NT Young Achiever Awards for Career Kickstart Award (Nathan Fanning)
- Young Australian of the Year Finalist 2015 (Nathan Fanning)



*Nathan Fanning receiving his finalist certificate at the Young Achiever Awards*



*Pictured above: Christine Gardiner receiving her Young Achiever Award*





*Pictured above: Rangga Daranindra, Emma Cooper, Christine Gardiner, Aidan Sears and Janet Truong at the 2014 Young Achiever Awards in Darwin*



*Pictured above: Meeting 2 - Team building activity at Zone 3*



*Pictured above: Meeting 2 – Tour of Parliament House*



*Pictured above: Round Table member Erin Keely meets with the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge*



## Consultation with Young People

One of the main functions of the Round Table is to liaise and engage with young people in the community and report back to the NT Government. The issues raised are discussed within the Round Table and appropriate action taken, with the Minister regularly updated on what topics the Round Table work on.

This year Round Table members met quarterly to discuss important youth issues with peers, youth groups, service providers, and government representatives. Outside of the four meetings, members participated in a number of activities, attended many events, and promoted young Territorians interests. This gave members the opportunity to network with other like-minded young people who are making a difference in their communities and get involved in additional community activities.

Actions included:

- further consultation with young Territorians, including focus groups and surveys
- taking the concern to a particular group or individual
- speaking to the media regarding certain topics
- inviting an expert in the area to a meeting to have further discussion about the issue.

In addition, focus groups, email correspondence and interviews were conducted on different issues that affected our community. A major component of this was the Youth Issues Survey completed at the start of the year. Prior to first meeting the 2014 Round Table was tasked with encouraging as many young people as possible to complete a Youth Issues Survey. The purpose was to find out what young Territorians consider the most important issues to their regions. We had over 250 surveys completed with the top four issues being:

The key issues highlighted in the survey included:

1. Drugs and Alcohol
2. Lack of things to do/not enough sporting facilities
3. Cyber bullying
4. Lack of jobs and training opportunities and career pathways for young Territorians.

The Round Table's initial youth issues survey template is attached at **Appendix A**.



## Chair and Vice Chair Meeting Summaries

### MEETING 1: 15-16 February 2014

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Hi everyone and welcome to the first edition of Round About the NT for 2014! What do you get when you put 16 highly motivated young leaders from all over the Northern Territory in a room for 2 days? On the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of February, at the 2014 Chief Ministers Round Table of Young Territorians - we found out.

The 16 Round Table members aged from 15 to 25 congregated at Rydges Airport Hotel each representing different geographic regions as well as the diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds in the Territory. Every member came to the Round Table with their own story, passions and insights from their area of influence. We each felt honoured to be selected to represent our peers at the Round Table and work together for a brighter future.

On Saturday we had plenty of opportunity to connect relationally with other Round Table members. A team from Multicultural Youth NT (MyNT) led us in fun team building games and activities that had us walking like zombies and solving complex problems together!

Before we knew it, lunch was served and it was time for the Chief Minister's session. "Put your shoulders back and be confident in who you are. You have things to offer." This was the opening advice Chief Minister Adam Giles gave to us in his address. It is amazing what happens in the heart of a young person when they are given a voice, an opportunity and belief that they can make a difference. We were honoured that Chief Minister Adam Giles, as well as Minister Peter Styles (Minister for Young Territorians), Mr Gary Barnes (CEO Department of the Chief Minister), Ms Janet Buhagiar (Executive Director of the Social Policy Division), plus many others took two hours out of their busy schedule to hear our thoughts and perspectives relating to current youth issues in the Territory. This was a real highlight of the weekend.

On Sunday we commenced working on our Community Based Projects, which we will present to Parliament in December. This is a fantastic opportunity to research a topic relating to the youth of the Territory and communicate our findings to Parliament along with suggestions and ideas for the future. It was very inspiring seeing the diverse passions of each of the Round Table members combined with the deep sense of unity as we all desire to see positive changes in our communities.

We would like to thank Prue Brockhaus and Gemma Benn from the Office of Youth Affairs for facilitating the weekend and making it possible!

Together we can make a difference!

***Nathan Fanning (Chair) and David Ridley (Vice Chair)***



## **MEETING TWO: 17-18 May 2014**

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Welcome to the second edition of Round About the NT for 2014! The highly motivated 2014 Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians congregated for their 2nd meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of May at the NT Parliament House. This was a great opportunity to reflect on how our community based projects were progressing, provide contribution into team member's projects and work towards a brighter future for young Territorians.

On the Saturday we jumped straight into a full agenda, including a tour of Parliament House where we learnt about the history of the Northern Territory. We then held a discussion with the Administrator of the Northern Territory, Her Honour the Honourable Sally Thomas AC. Members shared their projects and experiences as young Territorians. It was an honour to be involved in this, and spend time learning from the Administrator.

We gained some project and time management skills with EASA. We were enriched by Team Management Services who provided us with our career and personal profiles. It was entertaining to see heads nodding in agreement when profiles were read. Throughout the day we were sharing and motivating each other about our community based projects. It was very inspirational to see everyone making huge positive changes to our community.

On the Sunday we were excited to have a past Round Table member, Daniel Bouchier, from SKY News share his wisdom with working with the media and he presented us with some tips and tricks of the trade. We also spent Sunday morning brainstorming 'Developing the North' and what this would mean for young Territorians. We all agreed that 'Developing the North' means investing in young Territorians' future and providing opportunities for us to thrive while maintaining the unique culture and lifestyle of the Northern Territory.

Our Minister's session was after lunch and we were lucky enough to have a session with Peter Styles (Minister for Young Territorians), Janet Buhagiar (Executive Director, Social Policy Division), Siobhan Okely (Manager, Community Engagement) and Nathan Winn (Advisor to the Minister for Young Territorians). We shared our community based project updates with the Minister and discussed our thoughts on 'Developing the North' Australia Policy and how it would affect us. We all felt it was really encouraging to be given a voice on such an important topic.

We would like to thank all our presenters for facilitating engaging sessions and giving up part of their weekend to help shape the leaders of tomorrow. Our 2nd meeting was very productive and enjoyable and we look forward to the next meeting in August. Please make sure you keep an eye on our Facebook page and Office of Youth Affairs website to stay current with youth matters.

***Nathan Fanning (Chair) and David Ridley (Vice Chair)***



## **MEETING THREE: 23-24 August 2014**

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Welcome to the third edition of Round About the NT for 2014! The passion and momentum among young leaders from across the Territory continued at the third gathering of the Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians. The agenda was full for the two days of meetings at the Travelodge Mirambeena Resort on the 23rd and 24th of August.

A key aspect of the weekend was working on our Community-Based Projects. Three months had passed since our previous meeting, so there was much to share and collaborate. There was a growing sense of excitement and awareness that we will be presenting our projects and recommendations to Parliament in December. We all enjoyed having an opportunity to present our current project findings to our Round Table colleagues in a similar format to our presentation to Parliament.

We all appreciated the opportunity to be further equipped in our public speaking skills with Felicity Gerry QC. Felicity stressed the importance of thorough preparation and the need to tailor your speaking style to your audience. It was a pleasure having Amy Hetherington run a session on the importance of finding your inner core and keeping positive. Amy taught us how to live out of our 'core', which is defined as the why behind all the things that we do - the drive that gives us energy. Amy explained that when we know what inspires us and fuels our passion, we can make life decisions that line up with our inner core. A young entrepreneur named Rojina McDonald inspired us to follow the dreams in our heart, no matter what the cost. Rojina shared on the importance of having a vision for your life along with a strong sense of determination to achieve your goals.

The highlight of our day on Sunday was our session with Chief Minister, the Honourable Adam Giles and Minister for Young Territorians, the Honourable Peter Styles MLA. We were able to provide them with updates on our Community- Based Projects and our involvement in the community. We were also able to review the briefing the Round Table wrote for the Chief Minister regarding how Developing the North will impact young Territorians. Chief Minister Adam Giles and Minister Peter Styles explained some of the exciting prospects associated with Developing the North in the years ahead and the great opportunities for young Territorians, who will largely be the recipients of these developments.

All in all the third Chief Minister's Round Table meeting was a fruitful weekend for all those involved. The Round Table members are now working hard to finish their Community-Based Projects before our presentation to Parliament during our next meeting in December.

**Nathan Fanning (Chair) and David Ridley (Vice-Chair)**



## **MEETING 4: 6-7 December 2014**

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Welcome everyone to our last edition of the Round About the NT for 2014! We met for the final time on the 6-7<sup>th</sup> December 2014, with the first day dedicated to preparing for our presentation to the Chief Minister and other special guests on the Sunday. It was amazing to sit back on Saturday and recognise how much everyone had accomplished throughout the year.

On the Sunday we all gathered at Parliament House, ready to impress the special guests with our community based projects that we had been working on all year. We were lucky enough to have had the following guests:

- The Honourable Adam Giles MLA - Chief Minister
- The Honourable Peter Chandler MLA - Deputy Chief Minister
- The Honourable Peter Styles MLA - Minister of Young Territorians
- Mr Andrew Cowan - A/Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Department of Chief Minister
- Ms Bronwyn Thompson – Director, Department of Health
- Ms Claire Gardiner Barnes - Chief Executive, Department of Transport
- Mr Greg Shanahan- Chief Executive, Department of Attorney General and Justice
- Mr Hugo Leschen- Chief Executive, Department of Arts and Museums
- Ms Janet Hanigan - Executive Director, Department of Chief Minister
- Mr Jim Bamber - Chief Executive, Department of Housing
- Ms Kathleen Robinson - Chief Executive, Department of Corporate and Information Services
- Mr Ken Davies - Chief Executive, Department of Education
- Mr Michael Murphy - Assistant Police Commissioner
- Mr Michael Tenant - Chief Executive, Department of Business
- Mr Mike Chiodo - Chief Executive, Department of Community Services

Everyone's presentations went so well and the NT Government has now accepted our projects for consideration. The projects have also be publicly released on the OYA website.

After the presentations the Chief Minister hosted a luncheon for the Round Table members and their invited guests. This was an opportunity for the Round Table to celebrate their successes of year with their loved ones and also for the Chief Minister to thank all the members for their hard work and commitment throughout the year.

We would also like to thank all the members, individuals, businesses, organisations, schools and services that have assisted us in the successful completion of our projects and throughout the year. To the 2015 Round Table, good luck and make the most of the incredible opportunities that lie ahead.

**Nathan Fanning (Chair) and David Ridley (Vice-Chair)**



## Community-Based Projects

All Round Table members are asked to undertake a community based project of their choice. Members are asked to research their topic, trial a possible solution, and present their findings and recommendations to the Chief Minister at their final meeting. This year there were a variety of excellent projects that were delivered. The 2014 Community Based Projects are available for download at [www.youth.nt.gov.au](http://www.youth.nt.gov.au)

### Mental Health Support Services in Katherine – Emma Cooper

[Read Emma's Community Based Project](#)

Emma Cooper presents detailed research coupled with personal experiences and observations with mental health and wellbeing in the Katherine Region. Findings of this briefing were informed by community consultation and collaboration with Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and service providers in the Katherine Region and interstate. Over 70 surveys were completed by young people aged between 12 – 25 years in the Katherine Region.

This study highlighted a gap not in the services which already exist within Katherine, but in the knowledge of how to access these services and which are the most effective. Emma identifies that there is no blanket organisation which individuals can go to in order to receive assistance. Therefore, members of the Katherine community are not getting access to the level of assistance they require.

Research and analysis of data and reports undertaken within the Territory and nationally were utilised in formulating the following recommendations:

- Establish a peak organisation such as Headspace more permanently within the Katherine Region.
- Establish a service that promotes greater awareness of pre-existing organisations and how to access these services.
- Allocate more funding and resources to early intervention services.

### Increasing Mental Health Support Awareness and Services in East Arnhem Land – Erin Keely

[Read Erin's Community Based Project](#)

Erin's project focuses on expanding mental health awareness and investigating the effect of the reduced quantity of accessible services in remote and rural towns. Erin aims to find new, creative ways to expand and make mental health services more accessible in remote and rural towns in the Northern Territory. Erin believes that by raising awareness for these hidden illnesses the quality of life for many Territorians can be improved.

Erin's research explores why remote communities have a significantly higher rate of suicide than populated towns around Australia. Nhulunbuy alone has witnessed the sad and sudden suicides of far too many individuals of various ages and from all different cultural backgrounds.

Erin's report puts forward the following recommendations:

- Establish a headspace office in Nhulunbuy to increase mental health awareness and outcomes.
- Improve awareness and accessibility to mental health services in East Arnhem Land.
- Include a more comprehensive mental health education component within middle and high school health topics.

### Climate Change: Impacts and Solutions – Jeremy Gillen

[Read Jeremy's Community Based Project](#)

*Climate Change: Impacts and Solutions* Jeremy presents detailed research and discusses the impacts of climate change in the NT throughout the next century and beyond. Jeremy feels it is important that the NT Government commences the process of reducing the pollution that is produced in order to increase the quality of life of future Territorians, particularly young Territorians.



“Reducing the NT’s greenhouse gas emissions will contribute to the mitigation of climate change, but it is also recommended that the Government commission research into how the NT may adapt to climate change. This is also important if worldwide action on emissions reduction is too slow.”

Jeremy makes the following recommendations in his report:

- Implement a strategy to increase public science literacy on climate change.
- Seek the advice of scientists and economists on the most efficient and appropriate ways to reduce the pollution produced and emitted by the NT.
- Legislate a simple and long term plan for dealing with climate change both in the short and long term.
- Encourage businesses and corporations to increase their energy efficiency and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

## **The Impact of Family Breakdown on the Territory's Youth – David Ridley**

[Read David's Community Based Project](#)

David researches the correlation between young people who experience family breakdown and young people who fall short of their full potential. This project explores programs and initiatives specifically aimed at positively re-engaging troubled young people to become valuable members of society and thrive in life.

David provides the following recommendations to the Northern Territory Government:

- Support organisations such as Relationships Australia that specifically provide resources and champions parental relationships and the family unit.
- Implement relationship education within primary and secondary schools.
- Develop effective media and marketing campaigns to increase public awareness of services available to support family relationship and breakdown the social stigma associated with seeking relationship help.

## **Safe House in Galiwin'ku - Draft - Jermaine Campbell**

[Read Jermaine's Project Brief](#)

This briefing recommends that a safe house be established in Galiwin'ku. A Safe House is a place like a 'home environment' that members of the community can access. Jermaine would like to see a variety of services such as counselling, social workers and education programs made available. Most importantly Jermaine feels it needs to be a safe place where young people can feel a sense of belonging. A Safe House would offer support to the community when they need a place to seek help and recover.

A Safe House in Galiwin'ku Draft recommendations include:

- Establish a Safe House in Galiwin'ku for young people aged 12 – 25 years.
- Encourage service providers to provide access to and information on mental health, safety and counselling services at the Safe House.
- Pilot the Safe House and programs in Galiwin'ku to be rolled out in other remote communities.
- Fund headspace and other youth service providers to spend more time in remote communities and provide services to the Safe House.



## **Base Camp Believe: Mentoring Camp for disengaged and at risk young people – Jessica Sullivan**

### [Read Jessica Sullivan's Community Based Project](#)

Jessica aims to develop an evidence-base for the use of camps that provide mentoring and engagement for young people who are identified as disadvantaged, disengaged or at risk of being disengaged. The viability and practicalities of such a program in the NT were investigated as well as the effectiveness of such programs in other parts of Australia.

Jessica's Community Based Project makes the following recommendations to the Northern Territory (NT) Government:

- Tender seed funding to existing government and non-government organisations to manage a school holiday camp program, train staff to provide outdoor educational activities and gain access to outdoor education equipment.
- further support the tendered organisation/s to provide a mentor training program in conjunction local high schools, universities and youth organisations to empower 18-25 year olds to act as role models for participants on camps such as Base Camp Believe
- establish a partnership with existing outdoor education facilities to provide free or subsidised accommodation for such a program, particularly as existing facilities are often empty during part of school holidays
- assist the organisation/s to provide opportunities for further contact between mentors and participants, whether through a buddy system of periodic meetings, online forum or group follow-up activities.

## **Youth Joblessness in the Barkly Region and Remote Communities across the NT - Joshua Jackson**

### [Read Joshua's Community Based Project](#)

Joshua is passionate about improving employment opportunities for youth in the Barkly Region. Joshua feels more should be done to facilitate employment opportunities for young people, as teenagers have little to no job opportunities in their communities once they leave school. Of the small amount of jobs available in communities, many are already taken by older people who have more experience and knowledge.

The target group of this community based project was young people aged between 15 -25 in small NT communities. Joshua's report combines research and personal reflections to explore why so many people in this age group are unemployed and relying on family, friends and welfare money. After school many young people get into an unhealthy lifestyle that is hard to break.

Joshua hopes that the NT Government will consider this project and its recommendations when looking at youth joblessness in remote communities and to create better pathways to fulltime jobs for stronger futures in remote communities of the NT, including Elliott. Joshua's report presents the following recommendations to the Northern Territory Government

- create opportunities for young people in small communities in the NT workforce
- create Ranger programs to look after communities and land management in the Barkly region
- establish an education facility such as a Batchelor College in the Barkly region

## **Youth Engagement through Art Workshops – Christine Gardiner**

### [Read Christine's Community Based Project](#)

Christine's Community Based Project aims to explore creative ways to keep youth engaged in school. Research was conducted into the effectiveness of workshop platforms to deliver information and engage young people. With this in mind, Christine held three separate workshops: Aerosol Art, Visual Art, and Music Workshop. These three workshops formulated the final Youth Art Exhibition which was designed to showcase the work of young people throughout the Palmerston and Darwin regions.



Christine's Community Based Project demonstrates that using workshops can be an effective method for engaging young people and teaching them new skills.

Christine put forward the following recommendations:

- Utilise the workshop platform outside of schools with strong school engagement to create a program that will encourage students to attend school and/or other work or training through awards recognition.
- Promote youth engagement in schools through workshops similar to the eARTh Art Project.

## **Adolescent Ward at Royal Darwin Hospital – Lilly Reid**

### [Read Lilly's Community Based Project](#)

This topic briefing is focused on the establishment of a safe and secure adolescent environment at the Royal Darwin Hospital. This area would be for young people between the ages of 13 and 18 years, to ensure they receive care catered to their specific needs and health requirements.

Through personal experiences and research, Lilly's report presents the benefits of having an adolescent ward. "Young Territorians will have a place they can recover, where staff will be suited for their specific needs as well as a safe and secure place around people their own age. This will make it easier for them to socialise and connect with each person going through the same developmental phases and or social experiences. For a faster recovery, a sense of normality is key, meaning that the patient is surrounded by a day to day routine including education whether that be while in bed if they are not able to attend the hospital school, socialising with people their own age and being able to communicate with family members. An adolescent ward would help to shorten the recuperation period and lower the risk for young people developing mental health issues which will later impact their lives in turn leading them back into the hospital system".

This report presents the followings recommendations to the Northern Territory (NT) Government:

- Establish an adolescent ward at the Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH).
- Establish a recreational area for adolescent patients at the RDH.

## **Engaging Young Territorians in Volunteering – Nathan Fanning**

### [Read Nathans Community Based Project](#)

The Engaging Young Territorians in Volunteering community-based project (CBP) aims to investigate how to get more young Territorians involved in their community through the Northern Territory (NT) secondary education system and to determine if minimum community service hours/programs could achieve this goal. The project was also about supporting young Territorians by helping them recognise the importance of volunteering in their community and to foster personal development skills such as building confidence and self-esteem.

This community-based project was based on Nathans experiences abroad in Canada, personal experiences volunteering in the NT community and from the 2014 Round Table Youth Issues Survey.

Nathans community based project 'Engaging Young Territorians in Volunteering' makes the following recommendations:

- Consider implementing a minimum of 20 hours community service to be completed by NT high schools students to graduate with NTCET.
  - This model would be in line with the WA system with activities which could be included in the hours to remain the same as current activities in NT CL classes.
  - A CSP coordinator would need to be established at schools to work with community organisations to match up students with appropriate organisations for CDPs.
  - Would need to look at governance structures in place with WA system, regarding rules and regulations, logbooks and so forth.
- As alternative to Recommendation one, consider making the optional Community Learning class that already exists a compulsory class worth 10 credit points towards NTCET. This would make the class equally weighted with the compulsory Year 10 class Personal Learning



Plan. All that would be required is to expand the system already in place as optional to all students.

- Also recommend that a clearer and simpler version of what activities can be included into the class be made while still keeping it broad to include as many activities as possible.
- Encourage NT volunteering organisations to promote volunteer opportunities to young Territorians via the Volunteering SANT website.
- Rewards for volunteering through recording the students community service hours completed on their NTCET certificate. Also encourage the benefits of volunteering through various means such as scholarships for further study or training.

## **Lack of Youth Participation in Sport – Jed Hall**

[Read Ned's community based project](#)

This study was conducted on the issue of young Territorians not participating in sports and aimed to investigate why there is such a lack of participation and to understand what contributes to young people not participating.

A survey was conducted amongst 12-25 year olds in the Northern Territory with the majority of responses were from young people in the 15 - 16 year age bracket. It was found that most of the respondents do participate in sports, but those that do not, have reasons to not participate including too much homework and work commitments. Respondents also listed lack motivation as well as not having enough parental and financial support.

Based on this, it is recommended that NT Government:

- Explore how young Territorians can have greater flexibility with the Sport Voucher Scheme such as, removing restrictions of having to participate through schools and creating greater flexibility in where they can be spent.
- Support inclusive 'come and try' sports days where clubs can participate together and encourage young Territorians to try and sign up for sports.
- Develop an initiative to encourage parents to support their children to participate in sports.

## **Delete Digital Drama: Creating Awareness – Rangga Daranindra**

[Read Rangga's community based project](#)

Bullying through technological means, which is also known as cyberbullying, has increased the issue of bullying and made it become harder to define and control. A comprehensive analysis on many different case studies, surveys, news articles and law cases has been conducted to create a better understanding on the issue of cyberbullying, as well as finding the most appropriate preventive measures to be undertaken. The aim of this paper is to provide a better understanding on the situation and its social implications.

The report presents the following preventive steps to stop cyberbullying:

- Provide technical assistance and training initiatives, including seminars for teachers, administrators, parents, students, and others in the community on how to recognise and respond to online misconduct and cyber-bullying.
- Fund research into the nature and magnitude of the bullying/cyber-bullying problem in the NT, specifically its impact on both the social and emotional health of students as well as the impact on their academic achievement.
- Provide resources for parents and adult family members to inform them on the possibility and occurrences of cases of bullying on social networking sites and through cell phone use.



## Youth Peer Panel in the Northern Territory – Janet Truong

### [Read Janet's Community Based Project](#)

This project considers the advantages of linking a juvenile justice diversionary program, known as Peer Panel to young offenders aged between 10 – 17 years old in the Northern Territory (NT). The goal of this project is to expand the avenue of restorative justice practices in the NT, as well as to increase awareness and understanding amongst young people of the legal system. The short-term and long-term goals are to establish a specialised Peer Panel and to reduce recidivism rates of young people in the NT, respectively.

As a result of the extensive research, consultation and evidence built from this project, Janet presents the following recommendations:

- Endorse the Peer Panel model by Department of Correctional Services, NT Police and Department of Attorney-General and Justice
- Establish a steering committee for Peer Panel consisting of representatives from relevant organisations as joint partnerships with North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) Correctional Services, Department of Education, NT Police, Charles Darwin University (CDU) School of Law and Office of Youth Affairs (OYA)
- Endorse a steering committee to work towards establishment of a community-based Peer Panel program in 2015/2016
- Support the 2015/2016 proposed Peer Panel pilot program



## Publications

### Youth Issues Survey (Appendix A)

Each member is asked to survey a range of young people in their community via a Youth Issues Survey to find out the main issue/s of concern to them. These results are collated by the OYA and provided to the Minister for Young Territorians and stakeholders for their information. The survey also offers members an opportunity to introduce themselves to their peers and provide information on their role on the Round Table.

The primary purpose of the survey is to increase the members' awareness of the issues young people face in their community and introduce them to a simple achievable example of community engagement prior to the first meeting. The identified issues form the basis of further action, investigation and consultation by the members during the year.



### YOUTH ISSUES SURVEY

Are you a young person (12-25 years of age) living in the Northern Territory? If so, we need your help! This is a quick survey to find out what young people consider are the 'most important' issues in their regions.

The Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians (Round Table) is a direct communication avenue between young Territorians and the Northern Territory Government. The Round Table consists of 16 members who are aged 15 to 25 years. This issue will be presented to the Chief Minister and may be chosen by members to work on throughout the year as a project.

Age	Suburb/Community/Town
Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Name of School or Work (if applicable)
What's the main language spoken at home?	Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

What do you think is the most important issue facing young people in your region?

.....

.....

Any ideas for a solution?

.....

.....

.....

If your issue is progressed would you like to be involved?  Yes  No  
If yes, please complete mailing list form attached.

Office of Youth Affairs  
Department of the Chief Minister  
GPO Box 4396  
DARWIN NT 0801

Email: [oya@nt.gov.au](mailto:oya@nt.gov.au)  
Fax: 8941 5291  
[www.youth.nt.gov.au](http://www.youth.nt.gov.au)

## **Newsletters (Appendix B)**

The Round Table feel that it is important to report back to the community on how they are advocating for young people and how they are involved in decision-making processes. More importantly, it is a chance for members to show young people who have raised issues and concerns with the Round Table that their views are conveyed to government.

One of the ways in which members undertake this communication is the newsletter 'Round About the NT', which is released subsequent to each meeting. The newsletter is emailed directly to over 2400 young people, youth organisations, schools and community organisations on the OYA mailing list. The newsletter is also uploaded to the Youth NT and NT Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians Facebook pages.



## **NT Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians Facebook Page**

Building on the successes of past Youth/Chief Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians Facebook page the social networking site is used by peers, as a highly utilised this tool of communication. The membership of the page at the end of 2014 stands at 393 'likes' and we are sure this number will increase as the 2015 Round Table take over and use the page to communicate with their stakeholders and supporters.

## Final word from the 2014 Round Table Members

### Jeremy Gillen



*"It was an incredible experience; I learnt heaps and met so many incredible people. My report was a lot of work, so it feels awesome to have it finished and presented to the Ministers."*

### Christine Gardiner



*"My year on the Round Table has been a great experience. I've learned great skills surrounding leadership and have gained skills in project management and leadership through conducting my report. This has been an excellent experience, one that I would recommend to anybody".*

### Joshua Jackson



*"My time on the Round Table has helped me grow in so many ways - people I met this year are amazing! To the 2014 Round Table, check your social media because you will be getting a friend request coming your way. Thanks for everything".*

### Nathan Fanning



*"This is a fantastic opportunity for young Territorians to share issues that affect them in their regions with the NT Government. It is a great opportunity to develop new skills, build confidence and most importantly have fun".*

### Ned Hall



*"Over the year I have learned so much about my youth issue and everyone else's. I also learned a lot about everyone on the Round Table. It was a lot of fun hanging with everyone and playing laser tag. Although intimidating, it felt great to do the final presentation, which would have been much harder without Prue and everyone at the OYA office, so thank you for all of your help. Overall this year has been great fun and everyone did an awesome job".*



Aidan Sears



*"I thank the Chief Minister and the NT Government for giving the youth of today an outlet and representatives to voice their concerns and issues. This has been an amazing experience and I am sure they feel confident in what they have achieved in the community. This is an excellent program for any inspiring or community minded young person to make an impact".*

Rangga Daranindra



*"I always believe that happiness is not having what you want, but wanting what you have. Being part of the Round Table I have a huge support and great company from all members of the 2014 Round Table. It has been a wonderful year for me to be part of the team and I hope that we can keep in touch and together we can build the Territory to be a super and better place for all young Territorians".*

Erin Keeley



*"It was such an amazing year! I have learnt so much and grown so much from this experience. It was great to know the information given during our presentations were taken on by the government and they are trying their best to make a change for the better. I am so grateful I was given this opportunity to make a difference for the future of the NT. Congratulations to everyone".*

Lily Reid



*"This experience was by far one of the most motivating experiences of my life and was a huge eye opener, especially when it comes to whole-of-NT issues".*

Emma Cooper



*"Well done to everyone on a fantastic year! It has been wonderful to get to know and work with such an amazing group of people. I have loved all of the opportunities I have had which have been made available to me through the Round Table. Can't wait to see what comes from everyone's hard work. It was awesome working with all of the participants"!*



Jess Sullivan



*"I'm so sad my two years on the Round Table have come to an end! it's been the most incredibly inspiring experience and has made me so much more confident in myself and the future of the NT. Thanks so much to the 2013 and 2014 staff and members, you've all made and I'm sure you will continue to make outstanding to make outstanding contributions to the NT".*

Janet Truong



*"Another year on the Round Table has surpassed us. My second term on the Round Table has officially ended. It was once again a pleasure to contribute to the Round Table as a member. I have got to admit, I did not vision that my project would receive such great interest from the community and evolve. My Peer Panel project is now like a part of me after all the hosting of demonstrations and consulting with professionals about the concept.*

*Round Table enables for the development of leadership, interpersonal skills and being a young person in general. I will miss checking in with the OYA on a daily basis. The Round Table is a great initiative and I hope the program will continue to allow young Territorians to opportunity to make a difference to the community".*

David Ridley

Not available

## Evaluation

The Round Table program is constantly evolving and adapting with the changing needs of young people to ensure it is accessible to all young Territorians. At the end of each face to face meeting the Chair and Vice Chair conduct a wrap up session consisting only of Round Table members. Feedback is then collated and given back, anonymously to the Coordinator of the Round Table. This feedback is then taken into consideration and acted upon as appropriate.

At the conclusion of the final meeting the Chair and Vice Chair meet to conduct an in depth evaluation of the year and provide this feedback to the OYA as a means of assessing what has worked well and what can be improved for the following year. The Chair and Vice Chair has passed this information on and would like to thank the entire 2014 Round Table and Office of Youth Affairs for such an amazing year and for putting in the effort to create real change to benefit all young Territorians.