



## DRAFT REPORT ON EXPENDITURE ON CHILDREN IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### Draft Report



**We have released our draft report and are now seeking feedback.**

The report looks at how the safety and wellbeing of children in the Northern Territory can be improved. The focus is on how the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments can work better together to fund services.

### What we have found

**To help prevent harm to children in the Northern Territory the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments collectively spent ...**



**About  
\$538  
million**



**Through  
9 funding  
agencies**



**More than  
700 grants**



**To more than  
500 service  
providers**



Despite these significant resources, governments are making short term funding decisions in relative isolation without a good understanding of:

- **the needs and priorities of communities**
- **existing services funded by other government agencies**

- There is significant goodwill, positive reforms and pockets of good practice decision making
- But the system of children and family services is highly fragmented
- There are overlaps, duplication and gaps in expenditure effort between and within governments
- Services are poorly targeted and failing to best address the needs of children and families



# What does our draft report propose?

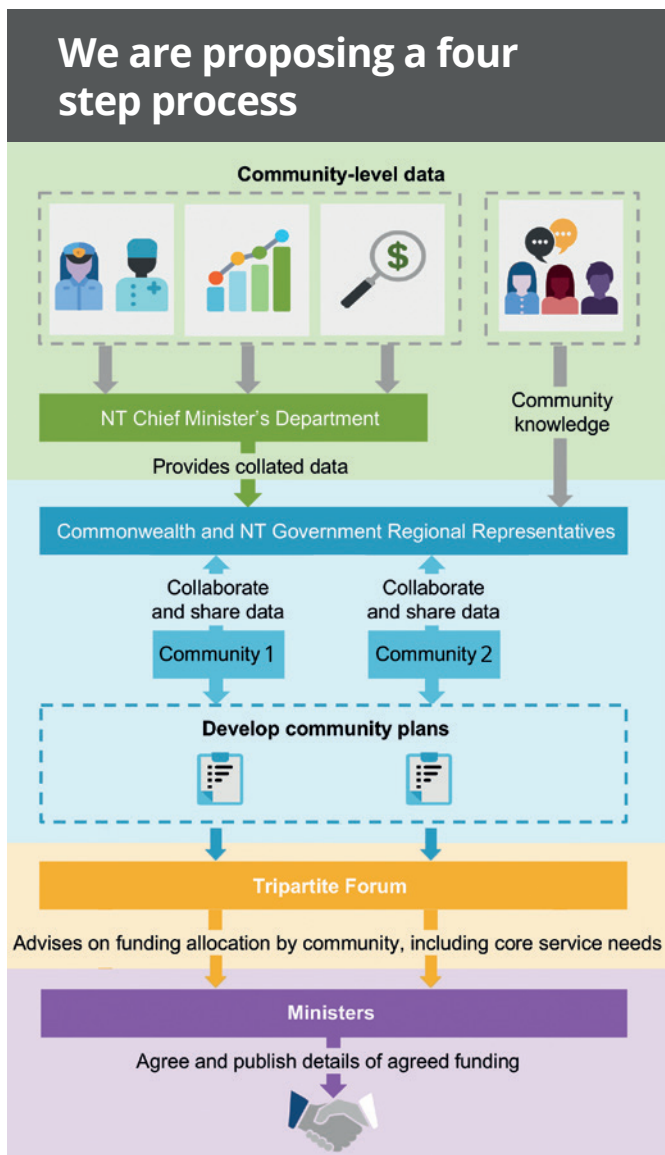
A new approach to funding children and family services in the Northern Territory

## Reform area 1

Governments determine funding by working *with* communities to develop community plans.

The Commonwealth and NT Governments should establish a formal coordination process in which they:

- agree on what types of services they will each fund and in which locations
- agree to pool funds in specific policy areas or locations



## Reform area 2

Longer term, more collaborative contracting of service providers

- Transition to longer term funding (7+ years) with a relational approach to contracting that focuses on continuous improvement
- Ensure funding covers the full cost of service delivery
- Take into account providers' ability to provide physically accessible and culturally appropriate services to children and families

## Reform area 3

Better, more transparent data that is shared at the community level

- Improve data and reporting on child and family wellbeing outcomes at the community level
- Develop a public list of children and family services available in each community
- Adopt a continuous improvement approach to monitoring and evaluation

## Reform area 4

Stronger supporting institutions

- Strengthen the role of the Children and Families Tripartite Forum to provide advice to government on the funding allocation by community
- Support regional network staff to work with service providers to improve services and to work with communities to develop community plans
- Task the NT Children's Commissioner to publicly report on the progress of reforms

**We want to hear from you about our findings and recommendations**

Visit our website to read the draft report and to make a submission or brief comment by 20th December

**[pc.gov.au/nt-children](http://pc.gov.au/nt-children)  
or call 1800 020 083**