Adam Giles  
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

Peter Styles  
Minister for Young Territorians

**Multi-million dollar boost to youth services**

4 February 2015

The Giles Government is set to invest an additional $4.2 million to support youth services across the Territory.

“Young people are the Territory’s future and the Government is investing in services and activities that young Territorians need, particularly in our regions,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

As part of this new funding announcement, the Territory Government’s Regional Coordination Committees will receive $3.85 million to allocate to local youth programs over the next four years.

“This regional approach to youth issues will focus on early intervention and prevention initiatives such as mental health and wellbeing,” Mr Giles said.

“The Government believes that a localised approach will generate the best results for each region. Funds will be made available for the Alice Springs ($1.225m), Tennant Creek ($525,000), Katherine ($525,000), Nhulunbuy ($175,000) and Darwin/Palmerston regions ($1.4m).”

Minister for Young Territorians Peter Styles said the need for additional funding was raised by members of the Chief Minister’s Round Table of Young Territorians in their recommendations to government late last year.

“The Government is listening to young people, and the community more generally, about the need for better access to more comprehensive services,” Mr Styles said.

“Young Territorians in our regions often face particular challenges. That’s why we wanted to distribute this money on a regional basis, supporting local projects and addressing local needs.”

Another $350,000 has been awarded to Red Dust Role Models in Alice Springs for the next three years to commence their Young Women’s Healthy Living Program in Central Australia.

The Young Women’s Healthy Living Program aims to provide gender-specific health promotion to young women aged 12-18 years in remote communities.
“This is a critical new program which addresses lifestyle and substance abuse issues with young women in a critical age group and the Government is proud to be supporting their work with a $350,000 grant over three years,” Mr Giles said.

CEO Darren Smith said Red Dust is delighted to partner with the Government in this important area of community health.

“Red Dust has been working with remote communities in the NT for nearly 20 years and this program has been based on the learning and relationships we have formed over that time,” he said.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the regional youth funding package should call the Office of Youth Affairs on (08) 8999 2552 or via email at oya@nt.gov.au or visit www.youth.nt.gov.au

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