John Elferink
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

Helping to divert youth away from trouble

17 March 2015

The Northern Territory Youth Diversion Grants Program is now open for applications in a competitive grant round.

Attorney-General John Elferink said more than $5 million will be available over the next two years for interested organisations to provide youth diversion programs throughout the Territory.

“This early intervention approach is part of a wider response to improve on services within the youth justice sector,” Mr Elferink said.

“Current agreements are due to cease on 30 June and I would encourage those in the sector to get their applications in by 7 April.

“These grants are part of the Territory Government’s commitment to make life simpler, safer and easier for Territorians.”

Past recipients of the grant agreements have included the YWCA of Darwin which delivers a youth diversion program across the greater Darwin region.

The program is based on a restorative model, where young offenders are encouraged to recognise their actions, take responsibility and repair the harm they have caused within the community, their families and to themselves.

“The YWCA of Darwin enjoys working in close collaboration with the Department of Correctional Services and the Northern Territory Police to reduce the recidivism of young offenders,” YWCA of Darwin Executive Director Jillian Ritherdon said.

“The Youth Diversion Program has enabled the YWCA of Darwin to assist young people to re-engage in their communities and to volunteer their time to support community organizations.”

The agreements provide funding for youth pre-court diversion, reintegration services and other youth diversionary programs.
A new funding model has been adopted in order to expand services into areas not currently serviced by youth diversion programs as well as streamlining services in currently funded regions.

Further details about the grants and grant process can be found on the Northern Territory Department of Correctional Services’ website: http://www.correctionalservices.nt.gov.au

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