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A Territory Labor Government will be defined by our commitment to the children of the Northern Territory.

From Day 1, Term 1 in Year 1, all children need to be school ready.

I believe that every child has the right to be raised in an environment that promotes their physical, emotional and social development.

Every child should be educated so that he or she develops their own personality, talents and abilities in full.

All children deserve to and must be protected from harm.

Caring for, nurturing and protecting the youngest members of our community is the hallmark of a fair and decent society. Investing in our children and their families to support their healthy development is the hallmark of a smart society.

The evidence is unequivocal. We now know that the physical and social environment children are exposed to in their earliest months and years of life has an enormous impact on their future health, education and employment prospects.

We know that effective early childhood programs are beneficial to a child’s growth and development, beneficial to a community’s economic activity and development, and beneficial to a harmonious and coherent society when a healthy child matures to adulthood.

A long-term and strategic approach to planning and resourcing is essential. Every dollar spent on the development of our youngest Territorians is worthwhile. It’s the key to overcoming the disadvantage experienced by so many Territorians.
Labor will listen to families, communities and service providers as we design and implement policies to give our kids the best start in life.

We will find better and smarter ways for Governments, children and their families, the non-government sector, experts and workers to partner and collaborate.

Children, families and the whole community will have ownership over these goals and the plans to achieve them.

The Territory needs a Government that understands the urgency of these needs.

This is the Government I want to lead. I look forward to continuing to hear from Territorians as we develop our plans over the coming months.

Michael Gunner

LABOR LEADER
The case for investing in early childhood development is overwhelming.

Research on the effectiveness of universal and targeted health and education interventions undertaken by the Menzies School of Health Research in 2011\(^1\) demonstrates the need for a strong network of those services, particularly for vulnerable children and families.

The Board of Inquiry Report into Child Protection in 2010\(^2\) also reflected this. It recommended that the key areas for reform for the Northern Territory were the establishment of enhanced family support and therapeutic services, greater integration of services with the NGO sector, the establishment of place based wellbeing officers in remote areas, the expansion of children and family centres in remote areas, and greater collaboration with other agencies.

Essentially both of these reports recommend investment in early intervention and prevention approaches and the redesign of services that support population-wide preventive activity. This research is backed by statistical evidence.

The Australian Early Development Census measures five areas or 'domains' of early childhood development. These are:

- Physical health and wellbeing: (physical readiness for school day, physical independence, gross motor skills)
- Social competence: (overall social competence, respect and responsibility, approaches to learning, readiness to explore new things)
- Emotional maturity domain: (pro-social and helping behaviour, anxious and fearful behaviour, aggressive behaviour, hyperactivity and inattention)
- Language and cognitive skills domain: (basic literacy, interest in literacy / numeracy and memory, advanced literacy, basic numeracy)
- Communication skills and general knowledge
The Northern Territory records the highest percentage of children vulnerable on one or more domains (35.5%) and highest number of kids vulnerable on two or more (20.9%)

The Board of Inquiry and the latest Mothers and Babies report released by the NT Department of Health shows:

- Teenage births in the Territory are significantly higher than the Australian average.
- Indigenous mothers were more likely to have insufficient antenatal care compared with non-Indigenous mothers.
- The rates of infants born with low birth weight in the Northern Territory are higher than in the rest of the country.

The Department of Education’s 2013/14 Annual Report tells us that:

- 80% of Non-Indigenous and 30% of Indigenous children enrolled in preschool are attending 80 per cent of the time.
- 89% of non-Indigenous children and 42% of Indigenous children are attending primary school 80 per cent of the time.
- The proportion of Indigenous students meeting the minimum standards for reading writing and numeracy as measured by Year 3 NAPLAN testing is (54%, 49%, and 53% respectively)

This research and this evidence make the case for change clear and urgent.
LABOR’S 10 POINT ACTION PLAN

IN GOVERNMENT LABOR WILL:

1. Establish the architecture of government that focusses on children. We will ensure that the wellbeing of children is at the core of government action.

2. Ensure that strong advisory mechanisms are established to keep government properly informed on appropriate policies and actions.

3. Engage the Australian Government in this focus. The Australian Government because of the responsibilities it holds needs to be a full partner in focussing on Territory children.

4. Intertwine the government and non-government sectors. The non-government sector has a long and important history in their work with Territory children. The government and non-government sectors need to act together for this approach to work.

5. Establish clear principles underlying our policies. While the evidence for change is overwhelming Labor acknowledges that there are no silver bullets or single solutions. The development of children is complex and is dependent on a broad range of circumstances.

6. Labor will establish a Territory wide Early Childhood Development Strategic Plan (see below for details.) This plan will be the overall Territory plan.

THE PRINCIPLES THAT WILL UNDERPIN OUR POLICY APPROACH WILL BE:

- Broad based
- Place based
- Focussed on building community capacity.
7. With an overarching plan established the Government will then work with communities to ensure that there are clear, local, community driven community plans interlocked with the overarching Strategic Plan.

8. We will invest for the long term. In a social policy area as important as this, we will not focus on political cycles and votes, instead we will be focussed, patient and seek results in the long term.

9. Labor expects that much of the investment and work that will be done in the Changing Our Future plan will take a decade or more to demonstrate its value. We will establish our services and supporting structures and policies through our strategic planning processes and we will stick to it.

10. We will not change effective programs for the sake of it. Labor does not believe in 180 degree politics. Labor will support any existing effective policies they will not be changed for partisan politics.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Do you agree with this 10 point approach?

Are the principles underpinning this approach the right ones?

The evidence points to services that should be broad based (universal), place based (local differentiation) and focussed upon community capacity building (community to be involved in decision making, ownership of solutions and implementation). Do you think this is achievable when focussing upon complex social challenges?

What are your views on the planning cycle for developing and delivering on service reforms in Early Childhood Development? Should we develop a 10 year plan for example?

What sort of review mechanism should be in place?
Respect children, parents and communities to know what they need and what works best for them by following a collaborative impact approach as much as possible.

Ensure there is a solid evidence base for everything we do and evaluate our policies in a meaningful way, measuring outcomes not outputs.

Appropriately resource our investment in early childhood development. Too often good policy approaches are let down by poor resourcing. This must end.

Our services will be universal, targeted and accessible.
There is a plethora of evidence-based programs that have proven over time to work to promote early childhood development. Some of these initiatives are already being implemented in the Northern Territory.

Labor is seeking an historic shift in the way Government has traditionally approached the design, delivery and collaboration required to meet the challenges in this particular policy and service area.

This approach requires that we review our current spending in this area, evaluate whether it is working and we are obtaining value for money, look for improvements in existing programs and invest more funding on remaining gaps that will yield these gains.
As part of our planning process, Labor will develop an *Early Childhood Strategic Plan* that will map the road to reform in early childhood development.

The road map and the plan will take into account our unique geography and demographics, that local context is paramount and that there is no one solution to the challenge we have set ourselves. We have a good bank of evidence about what works in this area that will guide our strategic planning. Broadly speaking, we know that:

- Programs that are high quality, that are holistic, that provide early support when a problem is identified and programs that are education focussed do work
- In the area of education, supported playgroups and school transition programs are effective in promoting change.
- The involvement of local community in the planning, development and implementation of programs and are responsive to the local context, priorities, needs, strengths and culture are effective.
- Services delivered in a culturally competent and safe way, supporting Indigenous employment, investing in our workforce and building trust with individuals and the community are effective.
- Stable, long term programs that provide continuity of service from pre-birth onwards, preferably in one location in a friendly, accessible setting.

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK**

Over what period of time should Labor develop its Strategic Plan?

How far should this be a plan developed by experts in early childhood (policy, research and academia, service providers). How do we balance with a community driven process? Or should it be both? How do we strike the right balance?

Do you have any other suggestions about what programs work in this policy area?
LABOR’S OPTIONS FOR INVESTMENT

A Labor Government will review existing programs and consider new initiatives to inform our strategic planning and policy development for implementation.

Some options being considered are outlined below. These options are not exhaustive, we are open to discussing policies, programs, and models that could be implemented in the Northern Territory in a beneficial way. We are particularly interested in talking to individuals and organisations about improving health outcomes for our Indigenous Territorians. We are seeking your feedback.

1. Antenatal and Maternity Services

We know that the total number of antenatal visits, timing of visits and quality of care play a role in maternal and infant outcomes⁶. A Labor Government will work with communities, community health clinics, NGO providers and Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Organisations to consider investing in:

- Combining traditional antenatal services with outreach services to improve utilisation of services before birth.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Do you think current antenatal services would benefit from an outreach component?

At present, information about nutrition and risk factors is provided in written format (such as flyers and pamphlets) at antenatal visits. This may not be the most suitable format, especially for some mothers who do not attend all antenatal visits. How can the information received about good health be improved in the current system?

What supports are available to support young mothers stay involved in formal education. How can they be improved?
TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Do you think a sustained home visiting program should be a universal or a targeted service for vulnerable individuals?

Do you think there is a requirement for such a service in the Northern Territory and what would be the best way of implementing the service?

Is this a service that the Government should deliver through child and maternal health services or through partnerships with maybe NGO’s or Aboriginal Community Controlled Health services?

Do you think these models need to be contextualised for the Northern Territory, for example, have joint home visits with an Aboriginal Health Worker in remote communities?

- Improve education and knowledge of risk factors such as smoking, alcohol and substance use, mental health and wellbeing and family violence
- Parenting and nutrition education, particularly for first time mothers
- Putting in place supports to assist young mothers to stay involved in formal education

2. Nurse Led Home Visiting Program

Already, the Northern Territory Government provides a nurse home visit service within 10 days of the child’s birth.

Option 1 - Nurse Family Partnership Program

One of the most effective programs reviewed by the literature is the Nurse Family Partnership Program. This is a sustained home visiting and parental support service delivered by qualified child health nurses. The service provides about 50 home visits from pregnancy, infancy and into toddlerhood. The strengths based program provides information and education to mothers to assist in their confidence, knowledge and parental decision making.

The Nurse Family Partnership program is
already being delivered through the Central Australia Aboriginal Congress. A Labor Government will review the effectiveness of this program in the Northern Territory with a view to expanding this service in a targeted way for vulnerable individuals and families.

**Option 2 – Sustained Home Visiting Program**

In NSW the sustained home visiting program is targeted towards vulnerable families. The home visits are undertaken by either a specialist nurse or through the universal home visiting scheme. 20 home visits are undertaken primarily by the same child health nurse over a 2 year period, starting from one antenatal visit, weekly visits for the first 6 weeks, fortnightly until 12 weeks, monthly until 15 months and then bi-monthly until the child is two years. The nurse also provides a coordinating role for other community or specialist services that may include joint visits. The program is similarly a strengths based program to guide confidence, support coping and problem solving, and foster parental skills.

**3. Intensive Parenting Support**

In NSW, there are two referral based parenting support services, a model that could be adapted to suit the needs and requirements of parents in the Northern Territory, accessible to all and targeted to parents in need.

**Karitane**

Karitane provides support and services to parents with children under 5 years, who are experiencing parenting difficulties. Karitane also provides support to foster, kinship and relative carers across NSW. Services include:

- A 4 day residential service that guides parents through difficult parenting issues with the support of qualified child and family health nurses, paediatricians, psychiatrists and social workers. The age range for child admission to a residential unit is up 4 years at and available to all families across NSW with children under 4 years of age.

- Day services are provided to families, including
- parenting centres (including group services, home visits and centre based visits)
- peri-natal mental health services (to support parents who may be diagnosed or at risk of developing a mood disorder or anxiety associated with pregnancy or birth of their child), and
- toddler clinics (parents and carers who need help with their toddler’s behaviour can be referred for support)

- Outreach services – including programs targeted at young parents and supporting them continue education, a hotline for foster and kinship carers, a 4 week ‘becoming parents’ program for new parents.

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK**

Do you think such a referral based parenting support service should be delivered by Community Health Services or should this be an NGO provided service?

Does such a service fill some of the current gaps in family support interventions in the Territory?

**Tresillian**

Tresillian is also a referral based services that teaches new parents about routines in breastfeeding, sleep, settling and nutrition. The services on offer are for parents with children aged up to 36 months, include:

- A five day residential services, in which a team of child and family health nurses, psychologists, social workers, paediatricians and psychiatrists work in partnership parents to increase confidence; resolve concerns; and provide guidance and information on issues such as, adjustment to parenting, breast or formula feeding, sleep and settling strategies, diet and nutrition, multiple babies, toddler behaviour, and anxiety and postnatal depression

- A day service, providing individualised support from the team of specialists.

- Up to three outreach visits for parents
Parenting groups, including ‘Circle of Security’ a 2 hours per 8 week evidence based program supporting parental bonding for vulnerable families, a similar 8 week strengths based program to support parents with anxiety and depression, a support group for parents and carers of children with disability, developmental delay or a chronic medical condition, and sleep and settling classes for parents.

4. Community Health Services

Community health clinics provide critical infrastructure and support to communities throughout the Territory. There has been success in ensuring our young Territorians are immunised and their development monitored through Initiatives such as Healthy Under 5s and Healthy School Kids child health checks.

Given the Northern Territory’s national leading electronic health record implementation, Labor will consider the implementation of an e-version of NSW’s Blue Book, which charts a child’s growth, development and behaviour from Birth through to 4 years of age. Delivered by Community Health Clinics and Aboriginal run clinics, developmental checks and immunisations occur in a structured and consistent way at Birth, 4 weeks, 6 weeks, 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, 2 years, 3 years and 4 years. Importantly, if a child is not meeting their milestones, follow up can occur. Particularly important is the vision, hearing and dental checks that occur at 4 years of age before they start school.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Do you think community health clinics have the capacity to provide a greater array of services? What sort of services?

What are the barriers to service provision in your view?

Do you think implementing universal health checks for 2-4 year olds is essential? Should the blue book be a hard copy of an e-version?

Could sustained home visiting and health promotion activities be delivered from the health centres?
A Labor Government will work with community health clinics and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations to determine the most appropriate resourcing models to provide high quality health promotion activities, targeting nutrition, personal health and growth.

Access to specialist services is always a challenge for Territorians, particularly in remote areas. Labor will work with service agencies to ensure that specialist services can be accessed in a reasonable timeframe and improve the integration of services between community health and the hospital system. Early health interventions for problems identified is critical in order to improve life outcomes for young children and supporting families, whatever challenges are presented.

### 5. Integrated Child and Family Centres

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK**

Are child and family centres delivering against their stated aims in a localised way?

Five integrated child and family centres have been established in partnership with the Australian Government in the Northern Territory. These centres are proposed to bring together a range of early learning, health, child care, parenting and family support services to improve the overall development and wellbeing of young children and provide family support.
A Labor Government will review the effectiveness of these centres to provide locally supported and well utilised services that are meeting the outcomes stated with a view to expanding these services.

6. Families as First Teachers (FaFT)

The Department of Education delivers the FaFT program in conjunction with the Australian Government in 35 communities, supporting early childhood learning and role modelling through the Abecedarian approach. The Abecedarian approach focuses upon language development through enhanced caregiving, learning games and conversational reading.

Labor looks forward to current evaluations of the approach in FaFT in preparing children for preschool being undertaken by the University of Melbourne with a view to investing in service improvement and reviewing any geographical areas of need for expansion.

7. Supporting Vulnerable Families

We know that more than 50 per cent of 16,500 child protection notifications do not proceed to investigation. We also know that more than 70 per cent of referrals are from Police, Health and Education professionals exercising their

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Is the program meeting the needs of your community? Do you think that the FaFT program is well integrated with your local school?

FaFT is primarily a program implemented in remote areas, is there a need for a similar type of assisted and early learning playgroup program in urban areas and regional centres?

Given the extensive rollout out in remote communities, could FaFT broaden its role to include providing education to parents on budgeting, young mums and young dads programs, child development, behaviour management, nutrition and hygiene?
mandatory responsibilities and that these referrals largely relate to 0-4 year olds make. These children and families are vulnerable.

Labor accepts that the primary responsibility for the protection of children is with the parents of those children. There is no question that parents who abuse or mistreat their children need to face the law.

Labor does not want to replace the role of parents in being responsible for their family’s health, welfare and wellbeing. Labor wants parents to behave as society expects- as loving supportive carers of their children who have the responsibility to support those children in all circumstances.

However, for the sake of those vulnerable children we cannot ignore that there are service gaps in early intervention services that could well help vulnerable families and individuals when they need it.

Labor will work with the Department of Children and Families, its partner service and NGO agencies about the best responses required for these notifications with a view to investing in early intervention and family support strategies that are complimentary to universal and targeted services outlined.

The Board of Inquiry recommended a dual pathways approach whereby those notifications not screened for investigation are referred to an NGO provider for support. The barrier to implementing this recommending is having the support services available. The Commission made recommendations to increase family support, therapeutic services, broaden the role of

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Do you think some of the gaps identified above could be addressed through initiatives identified above, including sustained home visiting, intensive parenting support, health promotion and antenatal and maternal education?

Do you think that there needs to be greater coordination and referral between existing health, education and child and family services and with NGO services such as Communities for Children?

Do you think Children and Families needs to provide increased family support interventions as part of its suite of services? What could these interventions look like?
integrated child and family centres, establishing child safety wellbeing teams within community and establishing child wellbeing officers in schools. These are all very sound and relevant proposals that could go some way towards supporting vulnerable children.

8. Supporting High Quality Services

The evidence shows that stability, continuity and trust is crucial in the delivery of high quality programs.

Labor will consider the following initiatives to support the delivery of high quality and sustainable services:

- Labor will undertake strategic workforce planning to determine the extent of gaps in our local workforce and develop strategies to boost on the ground staff in areas of need. This will be particularly for the areas of childcare, enrolled and registered nursing, teachers and teaching aides, Aboriginal health workers, Aboriginal community workers and social workers.

- Strategies to support recruitment and retention of staff could include:
  - Scholarships to gain qualifications in the areas identified above, either through tertiary institutions or through vocational education through the workplace.
  - Making cultural competency part of mandatory training for all frontline service providing agencies.
  - Investing in professional development and retention strategies to reduce the turnover of staff, particularly in remote areas. Labor will work with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment to ensure that the Northern Territory

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Do place based incentives work to attract staff to work in and stay in a locality?

Are scholarships attractive to staff to increase the qualifications?
CHANGING OUR FUTURE

public sector workforce is able to adapt and thrive in sometimes challenging conditions.

Labor recognises the particular problems facing the child care industry- both those operating for profit and the not for profit sector.

Labor proposes that:

1. Discussions will be held with the Teachers Registration Board to examine issues relating to the registration for teachers in the "prior to school" years.

2. Work with the Australian Government to ensure that resources designed to improve the salaries and conditions of workers in the child care field are equitable and reflect the important responsibilities they undertake.

3. Work with industry to establish means to improve conditions for workers that can be made at the Territory level while ensuring child care costs are not impacted.
STRUCTURING GOVERNMENT TO FOCUS ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
PROPOSAL

Labor will redesign Government to place children at the centre of Government attention and action.

An *Early Childhood Strategic Plan* will be put in place and we will report annually to Parliament on our progress.

There will be a Minister for Children.

Cabinet submissions will have an Early Childhood Impact Assessment component.
Labor will put Territory children at the centre of Government. We will ask how everything Government does impacts on the well-being of children.

An Early Childhood Strategic Plan will be established. No current plan exists.

Each Cabinet submission will have a commentary on its impact on children.

Labor believes that to make change to the way Government addresses the issue of early childhood we must first work to change the government and public sector structures handling children’s issues. Currently services and action for children is spread amongst a number of agencies and suffers from a lack of coordination against any consistent goals.

Labor needs to fix the uncoordinated gap between birth and the commencement of the universal compulsory school system.

Labor also believes in making the non-government sector full partners in this program to advance Territory children.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Do you think the establishment of a Minister for Children will progress the Government’s agenda in this area?

Do you think that reporting to the Parliament annually is the best and most transparent and accountable way of measuring progress?

Will a Child Impact Assessment be effective in ensuring that all Cabinet decisions consider the impact of policies upon Early Childhood Development?
Minister responsible for Children

We will establish a Minister responsible for Children. That Minister will be the Deputy Chief Minister.

The Deputy Chief Minister will coordinate the Government’s efforts in Early Childhood Policy and program implementation. The Deputy Chief Minister will be responsible for hosting the initial consultations by Government. They will also be responsible for establishing the Strategic coordinating efforts to deliver on that plan. This will extend to responsibility for reporting to Parliament on the plan, progressing on the plan and achieving our goals.

Options for Improving Government’s Investment and Commitment

Public Sector Redesign

The aim of the Labor Government will be to create a whole of Government response to the issues facing the Territory’s children. This response will be enunciated through the Early Childhood Development Strategic Plan.

The Deputy Chief Minister will be supported in their role by the Department of Chief Minister (DCM). The Department will coordinate the public sector’s efforts in a whole of government way. The Minister will be responsible for coordinating the combined efforts of primarily, but not exclusively, the Education Department, Health Department and Department of Children and Families and NGO service provision in this key policy area. We know for example that good health and wellbeing outcomes are dependent upon an individual’s surroundings, including housing, their environment and household income.
The Department of Chief Minister is our key central agency that has a broad public policy purview, and is the lead agency for negotiating with the Commonwealth on National Partnerships and on COAG. It is appropriate that DCM lead the public sector in improving our respective efforts in what would be a Labor policy priority in Government. DCM will be responsible for coordinating the development of the plan, the key performance indicators and the reporting structures. This may include establishing coordinating positions in key communities to link up agency efforts at the service level.

The Non-Government Sector as Full Partners

Labor is determined to significantly change the current relationship between non-government organisations and government. This will be the subject of a separate paper.

Labor views non-government organisations as full partners and an integral part of delivering change for children.

To ensure that this goes beyond words and sentiments Labor will establish mechanisms that bind the non-government and government sectors closely together and behind the Early Childhood Development Strategic Plan.

Labor will establish an advisory group made up of members of non-government organisations, specialists and academia who, combined with the Department of Chief Minister will draft the Early Childhood Development Strategic Plan, implementation plan and reporting plan.
This advisory body will then become an ongoing body which will continue to provide advice to Government on progress on the Plan.

This advisory group will contain community experts and will be closely linked to the tertiary research institutions.

The aim is to align government and NGO services, community needs, with research and best practice evidence for service delivery. The aim is to make progress.

Options for the structure of this advisory group can be found in Victoria and Tasmania.

**Option 1 - Advisory Board Model – Victoria**

The Victorian Children’s Council was established by the Victorian government under the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005. The Council supports the Premier and the Minister for Families and Children with expert independent advice relating to policies and services that enhance the health, wellbeing, development and safety of children.

Council members are recognised experts in children’s policies and services. They have been selected as individuals and not as representatives of their organisations or interest groups.

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**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK**

Do you think that the establishment of an external body to support policy development and planning is a good idea?

Should this entity be involved in the drafting and then ongoing monitoring of the Strategic Plan? Or should there be different mechanisms for these roles?
The Council’s mandate is to be forward-looking, acting as an adviser to the Government on how to meet key challenges facing Victorian families and improve outcomes for children.

The Council is particularly focussed upon the problems faced by children who are vulnerable and at risk of poor outcomes.

The Council actively engages with the Victorian government in planning to help families give their children the best start in life and to support young people in the transition to adulthood. The Council is involved in assisting Victorian departments to build a stronger evidence base and understanding of how to improve child outcomes and opportunities.

For example of the work being done: In May 2013, the government released the Victoria’s Vulnerable Children: Our Shared Responsibility strategy, which announced that the Council would support a stronger whole-of-government response to vulnerable children and their families as part of the government’s reform agenda (http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/structure/pages/childrencouncil.aspx)

In 2014 the Victorian government released their Early Years Strategic Plan (http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/news/archive/Pages/eystratplan.aspx)

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK**

Is a formal structure to coordinate activities across the community a good idea?

Is there a role for the private sector in Early Childhood Development in partnership with Government?

Does the Northern Territory need an external body’s assistance to make gains in this area?

What sort of model do you think might work in the Territory if we did have an external body to assist in planning, and monitoring and implementation? A board, a foundation, both or another model altogether?

How can we ensure this structure takes into account the Territory’s circumstances?
Option 2 - Foundation Model – Tasmania

The Foundation operates under the Tasmanian Early Years Foundation Act 2005 as a non-profit organisation to support and promote the wellbeing, development and learning of Tasmanian children up to the age of 6 years.

The Foundation builds on core government recurrent funding by seeking public support, forming partnerships with businesses and community organisations, and seeking philanthropic funds to increase resources available for early childhood initiatives. (From http://www.earlyyears.org.au/about)

The Tasmanian Government recently announced plans to transition the Foundation from a Statutory Authority to a Philanthropic Organisation. (http://www.premier.tas.gov.au/releases/early_years_foundati)
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

This discussion paper is a part of an ongoing discussion which has already involved meeting many parents, children, professionals, workers and organisation right across the Territory. We have also held three public forums to date with more planned.

*We want to hear from you regarding the plans outlined in this paper and any other questions or suggestions you have.*

Tell us what you think about the ideas in this document.

You can let us know your thoughts by emailing opposition.leader@nt.gov.au or by calling 08 8928 6668.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts and continuing our discussion in this crucial policy area for the Territory’s future.
FOOTNOTES


vi Australian Medical Association, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Report Card 2012-13, The Health Early Years – Getting the Right Start in Life